

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

PRE-EMPLOYMENT INQUIRY GUIDE

SUBJECT	PERMISSIBLE INQUIRIES	INQUIRIES THAT MUST BE AVOIDED
Name	"Is any additional information relative to change of name, use of an assumed name or nickname necessary to enable a check on your work and education record?"	Inquiries about the name that would indicate applicant's lineage, ancestry, national origin or descent. Inquiry into previous name of applicant where it has been changed by court or otherwise. "Indicate: Miss, Mrs., Ms."
Marital/Family Status	Whether applicant can meet specified work schedules or has activities, commitments or responsibilities that may hinder the meeting of work attendance requirements. Inquiries, made to males and females alike, as to a duration of stay on job or anticipated absences.	Any inquiry indicating whether an applicant is married, single, divorced, engaged, etc. Any questions about sexual orientation or domestic partnership. Number and age of children. Information on child-care arrangements. Any questions concerning pregnancy. Any similar question that directly or indirectly results in limitation of job opportunity in any way.
Age	If a minor, inquiry as to whether the applicant meets the minimum age requirements as set by law and indication that, on hiring, proof of age must be submitted in the form of a birth certificate, work permit, or other forms of proof of age. If age is a legal requirement: "If hired, can you furnish proof of age?" or statement that hire is subject to verification of age. Inquiry as to whether an applicant is younger than the employer's regular retirement age.	Requirement that applicant state age or date of birth. Requirement that applicant produce proof of age in the form of a birth certificate or baptismal record. (The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 forbids discrimination against persons between the ages of 40 and 70).
Disabilities	Questions must be <u>directly</u> related to the job. All applicants can be asked whether they are able to carry out all necessary job assignments and perform them in a safe manner. Can you meet the requirements of our attendance policy? Can you show me how you would perform these functions of the job? Persons with disabilities are not required to tell you of their disabilities. Illinois State University employees are invited by the 504/ADA Coordinator, on a voluntary basis, to indicate confidentially whether they currently have a disability and if so if they need an accommodation.	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 forbids employers from asking job applicants general questions about whether they are disabled or asking them about the nature and severity of their disability. An employer must be prepared to prove that physical and mental requirements for a job are due to "business necessity" and the safe performance of the job. Except in cases where undue hardship can be proven, employers must make "reason-able accommodations" for the physical and mental limitations of an employee or applicant. "Reasonable accommodation" includes alteration of duties, alteration of physical setting and provision of aids.

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Sex	Inquiry as to sex or restriction of employment to one sex is permissible only where a bona fide occupational qualification exists. (This BFOQ exception is interpreted very narrowly by the courts and EEOC). The burden of proof rests on the employer to prove that the BFOQ does exist and that all members of the affected class are incapable of performing the job.	Sex of applicant. Any other inquiry that would indicate sex. Sex is not a BFOQ because a job involves physical labor (such as heavy lifting) beyond the capacity of some women, nor can employment be restricted just because the job is traditionally labeled "man's work" or "woman's work." Sex cannot be used as a factor for determining whether an applicant will be satisfied in a particular job. Avoid questions concerning applicant's height or weight unless you can prove they are necessary requirements for the job to be performed.
Physical Characteristics, Photographs	None. Indicate that a photograph may be required after hiring for identification.	Requirement that applicant affix a photograph to his or her application. Request that applicant, at his or her option, submit photograph. Requirement of photograph after interview but before hiring. Applicant's race. Color applicant's skin, eyes, hair or other questions directly or indirectly indicating race or color.
Address or Duration of Residence	Applicant's address. Inquiry into place and length of current and previous addresses, e.g., "How long a resident of this state or city?"	Specific inquiry into foreign addresses that would indicate national origin. Names or relationship of persons with whom applicant resides. Whether applicant owns or rents home.
Birthplace/ Citizenship	Before employment: "Are you legally authorized to work in the United States?" After employment (if employed by this institution): "Can you submit a birth certificate or other proof of U.S. citizenship?"	Birthplace of applicant. Birthplace of applicant's parents, spouse or other relatives. Requirement that applicant submit a birth certificate or naturalization or baptismal record before employment. Any other inquiry into national origin.
Religion	An applicant may be advised concerning normal hours and days of work required by the job to avoid possible conflict with religious or other personal convictions.	Applicant's religious denomination or affiliation, church, parish, pastor or religious holidays observed. Applicants may not be told that any particular religious groups are required to work to indicate or identify religious denomination or customs.

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Military Record	Type of education and experience in service as it relates to a particular job.	Type of discharge.
Ancestry or National Origin	Languages applicant reads, speaks or writes fluently. (If another language is necessary to perform the job.)	Inquiries into applicant's lineage, ancestry, national origin, descent, birthplace or mother tongue. National origin of applicant's parents or spouse.
Education	Applicant's academic, vocational or professional education and school attended. Inquiry into language skills such as reading, speaking and writing foreign languages if required for job.	Any inquiry asking specifically the nationality, racial affiliations or religious affiliation of a school. Inquiry as to how foreign language ability was acquired.
Experience	Applicant's work experience, including names and addresses of previous employers, dates of employment, reasons for leaving, salary history. Other countries visited.	
Conviction, Arrest & Court Record	Inquiry into actual convictions that relate reasonably to fitness to perform a particular job. (A conviction is a court ruling where the party is found guilty as charged. An arrest is merely the apprehending or detaining of the person to answer the alleged crime.)	Any inquiry relating to arrests. Ask or check into a person's arrest, court or conviction record if not substantially related to functions and responsibilities of the particular job in question.
Notice in case of Emergency	Names of applicant's relatives already employed by this company. Name and addresses of parents or guardian of minor applicant. Names and addresses of persons to be notified in case of accident or emergency.	Name or address of any relative of adult applicant, other than those employed by this company.
Organizations	Inquiry into the organizations of which an applicant is a member providing the name or character of the organization does not reveal the race, religion, color or ancestry of the membership. "List all professional organizations to which you belong. What offices are held?"	"List all organizations, clubs, societies and lodges to which you belong." The names of organizations to which the applicant belongs if such information would indicate through character or name the race, religion, color or ancestry of the membership.

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References	By whom were you referred for a position here? Names of persons willing to provide professional and/or character references for applicant.	Require the submission of a religious reference. Request reference from applicant's pastor.
Miscellaneous	Notice to applicants that any misstatements or omissions of material facts in the application may be cause for dismissal.	

ANY INQUIRY SHOULD BE AVOIDED THAT, ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED AMONG THE ABOVE, IS DESIGNED TO ELICIT INFORMATION AS TO RACE, COLOR, ANCESTRY, AGE, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION, DISABILITY OR ARREST AND COURT RECORD UNLESS BASED UPON A BONA FIDE OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION.

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