

Division of Convict Criminology (DCC)  
American Society of Criminology

**Division of Convict Criminology Executive Board's Statement on Banning the Box on  
College Admissions and Employment Applications**

Friday January 22, 2021

The Division of Convict Criminology Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology calls on all colleges and universities in the United States to Ban the Box on both admissions and employment applications. The felony question on college admissions and employment applications serves as a structural barrier that discriminates against individuals with criminal records. An estimated 71 million U.S. residents have a criminal record that can be used to exclude them from access to education and employment in higher education. These discriminatory practices disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who are more likely to be denied admission and employment than their white counterparts. By excluding individuals with criminal records from education and employment, academia is perpetuating their marginalization in society.

If universities and colleges are truly committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion as they have purported to be over the past year, they must remove the felony question on all applications. Removal of this structural barrier would increase access to higher education and employment for marginalized scholars. Research consistently indicates that education and employment are two of the most effective means for transforming the lives of all individuals including BIPOC, the formerly incarcerated, and justice-impacted individuals. Moreover, research has found that Banning the Box from college admissions applications does not pose a risk to public safety on college campuses.

The DCC Executive Board believes that if colleges and universities desire to live up to their diversity and inclusion claims, they must begin by addressing discrimination and bias within their own halls. Further, we call on all members of the American Society of Criminology to advocate for Banning the Box on applications at their universities, colleges, and other employers.

DCC Executive Board