What is covered in the background check?

The background check includes criminal background information. It does NOT include a credit check. University of Minnesota background checks are conducted by the McDowell Agency and all information gathered in the background check process is considered private and confidential.

The McDowell Agency screening includes five different checks:

- **Social Security Number Validation/Address Trace:** Often called simply a "SoC Trace," this check is NOT a credit check. It verifies that the SSN is valid and uncovers any aliases or addresses that an applicant might fail to disclose.
- **County Criminal Records Search:** This is considered to be the "gold standard" for background check searches. It includes information on case numbers, dates filed, charges, deposition dates, deposition and sentence. Most crimes are committed in the counties in which a criminal resides.
- **State BCA Database:** This database contains public data maintained by the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and will include offense, date, court of conviction, and sentencing information for offences outside of the applicant's county of residence and within their state of residence.
- **USA Criminal Index:** This is the most comprehensive national criminal index available and covers all of the United States. It includes information on convicted felons, individuals that have been or are under the supervision of a state department of corrections, andsome individuals convicted of misdemeanors. It is populated by information provided by each state (some are more thorough than others).
- **National Sex Offender Registry:** Queries to this registry contain information on convicted sex offenders and includes data from all 50 states.