

Improving Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

Education Services

May 2024



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS

5,269

5,269 individuals participated in education programs

219

219 GED® certificates awarded

351

351 high school diplomas awarded

602

602 postsecondary degrees and certificates awarded

732

732 students enrolled in college post-release

IMPACT

✚ Incarcerated people who participate in postsecondary education programs are **48 percent** less likely to recidivate than those who do not. (Vera Institute of Justice, 2019)

✚ **For every dollar invested in education in WA, up to \$19.80 is saved** from reduced recidivism. (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2018)

About

Washington is a national leader in delivering quality educational programming to a significant proportion of the Department of Corrections incarcerated population. DOC aims to provide basic academic skills, pre-apprenticeship, and postsecondary education programs designed to meet the individual's needs and enhance pathways for post-release employment and/or education.

Through a long and vibrant partnership between DOC, Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, Washington's community and technical colleges, and private partnerships, Washington's correctional educational system provides opportunities for incarcerated students to earn a high school equivalency, learn high-wage and high-demand workforce skills, and earn postsecondary certificates and degrees.

- ✚ Incarcerated individuals are provided education and employment reentry support through a state-wide network of prison- and community-based education reentry navigators.
- ✚ Referrals are prioritized based on risk level, individual needs, expected release date, and availability of program resources.

Education Pathways

Every prison offers adult basic education programs to provide pathways for individuals to obtain a high school equivalency. Corrections Education pathways include three bachelor's degrees, twenty associate degrees, thirty certificate programs, and thirteen state-recognized pre-apprenticeship programs. All credit-bearing programs are accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Accounting | Automotive Mechanics Technology | Autobody Collision and Repair
Baking and Pastry Arts | Bookkeeping | Business Administration and Management
Carpentry | Construction Trades | Computer-Aided Design (CAD) | Computer Numerical Controlled Manufacturing (CNC) | Computer Programming | Cosmetology
Diesel Mechanics | Digital Design | Direct-Transfer Associates Degrees
Entrepreneurship | Graphic Design | Horticulture | Human Services | HVAC
Technology | Liberal Art | Liberal Studies | Machinist Technology | Plumbing Trades
Technical Design and Drafting Web Developer Applications | Welding



College and Prison Partnerships

Airway Heights Corrections Center

Spokane Community College

Cedar Creek Corrections Center

Centralia College

Clallam Bay Corrections Center

Peninsula College

Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

Walla Walla Community College

Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women

Tacoma Community College

Monroe Correctional Complex

Edmonds College

Olympic Corrections Center

Peninsula College

Stafford Creek Corrections Center

Grays Harbor College

The Evergreen State College

Washington Corrections Center

Centralia College

Washington Corrections Center for Women

Clover Park Technical College

Freedom Education Project Puget Sound

Tacoma Community College

University of Puget Sound

Washington State Penitentiary

Walla Walla Community College

Community Education Partnerships:

Clark College

Columbia Basin College

Olympic College

Renton Technical College

Seattle Central College

Skagit Valley College

University of Washington Tacoma

Yakima Valley College

Expanding Education Programs

Student Access to Federal and State Financial Aid

Federal and state financial aid will be available in June 2024 for incarcerated students in Washington State. DOC is partnering with stakeholders and postsecondary education institutions to expand educational opportunities up to a bachelor's degree.

DOC initiated a Request for Information from all WA State colleges interested in providing education programs to individuals utilizing Title IV Pell Grant funds and the Washington College Grant.

All financial aid-eligible correction education programs must first receive approval from DOC, a national accrediting agency, and the U.S. Department of Education. Student access to financial aid is anticipated to begin in fiscal year 2025 as programs are approved.

Enhancing Student Success

Secured Internet Access

To support our college partners in ensuring high-quality educational program delivery, the Department is implementing an Off State Network Project, to include a Secured-internet system for educational use in prison facilities statewide.

Secured-internet has been installed and is operational at the following sites: Airway Heights Corrections Center, Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Monroe Correctional Complex, Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Washington Corrections Center for Women, Washington Corrections Center, and Washington State Penitentiary. Statewide implementation is anticipated to be completed by June 2024.

Student Support Services

DOC has collaborated with our education partners to develop a process to ensure students who identify as having a disability are assessed and provided accommodations to support equal access to education.



Contact information:

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