

Postsecondary education has been proven to reduce recidivism and promote more successful transitions back into communities for adults returning from incarceration.¹ However, currently incarcerated and reentering adults often face barriers to receiving high-quality postsecondary education. The Council of State Governments Justice Center, with support from Lumina Foundation, conducted an intensive 50-state scan and survey of the statutory, financial, and administrative policies and practices that impact the provision of postsecondary education for this population. This fact sheet outlines the research findings for Connecticut.



HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- ➔ The Connecticut legislature may not appropriate state funding from the Connecticut Department of Education for adult education programs in state correctional facilities.² However, postsecondary education may be funded through revenue derived by the Department of Administrative Services via the pay telephone service in the correctional facilities.³ Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources, such as the Second Chance Pell pilot program.⁴
- ➔ Connecticut is not using Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funds for postsecondary education.⁵

State Financial Aid

- ➔ Connecticut financial aid programs do not have any statutory, regulatory, or policy restrictions preventing people who are currently incarcerated from receiving aid.⁶



WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- ➔ Unified School District #1, a legally vested school district within the Department of Correction, provides career and technical education in advanced manufacturing, auto body technology, building maintenance, business administration, carpentry, computer repair, cosmetology, culinary arts, drafting computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing graphics, human services management, marketing, and printing technology.⁷
- ➔ Certifications are provided through the federally funded Second Chance Pell Pilot program sites at Asnuntuck Community College, Quinebaug Valley Community College, and Three Rivers Community College.⁸

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- ➔ Associate degrees are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot sites at Quinebaug Valley Community College and Middlesex Community College; Middlesex Community College partners with Wesleyan University to deliver these courses.⁹
- ➔ An associate degree is offered through Wesleyan University, a private institution.¹⁰

- ➔ College courses are offered through Trinity College and Yale University, private institutions.¹¹
- ➔ Connecticut does not provide bachelor's degrees.¹²

Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- ➔ Connecticut has not identified local labor market trends, employer feedback, or outcome data as the primary factors that determine the types of postsecondary education and CTE programming that are offered within the correctional facility.¹³



WHAT RESTRICTIONS OR BARRIERS ARE IMPOSED ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION?

Statutory or Administrative Requirements, Permissions, and Restrictions

- ➔ Participation in postsecondary education programs is based on custody level, behavior during incarceration, and length of sentence.¹⁴
- ➔ If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, a participant will be eligible to reenroll within six months after the withdrawal.¹⁵

Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Connecticut has 10 state universities, 9 of which used the 2019–2020 Common Application.¹⁶ Seven of these schools added questions asking applicants to disclose their criminal history: Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, and University of Connecticut (includes five campuses with the same application).
- ➔ Charter Oak State College did not use the Common Application and does not require students to disclose their criminal history.



WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.¹⁷

Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency provides information on postsecondary education, but does not provide occupational training, postsecondary education advisors and coordinators, and vocational credential testing.¹⁸

Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ Connecticut Department of Correction does not have formalized articulation agreements with schools offering programming in correctional facilities to ensure that courses offered in correctional facilities are equivalent to those offered in the community and that credits fully transfer.¹⁹

1. Lois M. Davis et al., *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education: A Meta-Analysis of Programs That Provide Education to Incarcerated Adults* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2013), https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html.
2. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
3. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 18-81x.
4. U.S. Department of Education, "12,000 Incarcerated Students to Enroll in Postsecondary Educational and Training Programs through Education Department's New Second Chance Pell Pilot Program," news release, June 24, 2016, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/12000-incarcerated-students-enroll-postsecondary-educational-and-training-programs-through-education-departments-new-second-chance-pell-pilot-program>.
5. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
6. "Facts about Student Aid," Office of Higher Education, accessed February 14, 2019, <https://www.ohe.ct.gov/SFA/sfa.shtml#Governor>; These scholarships were formerly known as the Governor's Scholarship Program and Scholarship Grant, Conn. Gen. Stat. §10a-173.
7. "Education Services," Connecticut State Department of Correction, <https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Org/Education-Services>.
8. U.S. Department of Education, "12,000 Incarcerated Students to Enroll in Postsecondary Educational and Training Programs through Education Department's New Second Chance Pell Pilot Program," news release, June 24, 2016, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/12000-incarcerated-students-enroll-postsecondary-educational-and-training-programs-through-education-departments-new-second-chance-pell-pilot-program>.
9. "College in Prison," Vera Institute of Justice, accessed April 26, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison>.
10. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
11. "Trinity Prison Seminar Series," Trinity College, accessed March 11, 2019, [https://www.trincoll.edu/Academics/SpecialPrograms/HumanRights/Pages/Trinity-Prison-Seminar-Series-\(TPSS\).aspx](https://www.trincoll.edu/Academics/SpecialPrograms/HumanRights/Pages/Trinity-Prison-Seminar-Series-(TPSS).aspx); "About," Yale Prison Education Initiative, accessed March 11, 2019, <https://www.yaleprisoneducationinitiative.org/>.
12. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*
15. *Ibid.*
16. The Common Application, an undergraduate college application system, recently removed its required criminal history question, but maintains its questions on disciplinary infractions. However, colleges on the Common Application can add questions regarding criminal conviction or disciplinary information to their individualized applications.
17. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
18. *Ibid.*
19. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.