

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 Idaho.



HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- The Idaho legislature may appropriate state funds for postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities.² No state funding or institutional funding is available for courses offered through the Independent Study in Idaho program.³ Postsecondary education is also funded through federal sources, such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.⁴
- Idaho is not using Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for postsecondary education and did not apply for/receive Second Chance Pell pilot funding.⁵

State Financial Aid

- Idaho financial aid programs do not have any statutory, regulatory, or policy restrictions that prevent people who are currently incarcerated from receiving aid.⁶



WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- The Robert Janss School, a state-accredited special purpose school within correctional facilities,⁷ and SkillStack Badge Program, a badging/micro-certification platform,⁸ provide career and technical education in administrative services, apprenticeships (cabinet making, bricklayer, masonry, residential carpenter, residential electrician, and drywall applicator), and dairy science; as well as programs leading to a Microsoft Office certification (Microsoft digital learning, Microsoft Office specialist) and National Center for Construction Education and Research certification (specifically in cabinet making, carpentry, electrical wiring, electronic systems technician, masonry, plumbing, ornamental horticulture, and welding).⁹

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- College courses are offered through the Independent Study in Idaho Program at Boise State University, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, and University of Idaho.¹⁰
- Idaho does not provide associate and bachelor's degrees.¹¹

Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- Idaho 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.¹²



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 behavior during incarceration.¹³
- ➔ If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, a participant will be eligible to reenroll six months to one year after their withdrawal.¹⁴

Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Idaho has four state universities, one of which used the 2019–2020 Common Application.¹⁵ University of Idaho added questions asking applicants to disclose their criminal history.
- ➔ Idaho State University, one of the three state colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application, requires students to disclose their criminal and expulsion history.



WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- ➔ Individuals under the age of 22 who attend 15 hours of postsecondary education programming a week receive monthly compensation.¹⁶

Postsecondary Education as a Factor in Parole Decisions

- ➔ Prior to release, individuals must have a “parole plan,” which may include pursuing or completing an educational program.¹⁷
- ➔ State law permits the parole board to consider postsecondary educational activities during incarceration as a factor when granting or denying parole.¹⁸

Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.¹⁹

Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency provides postsecondary education advisors and coordinators, but does not provide occupational training, information on postsecondary education, and vocational credential testing.²⁰

Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ Idaho 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.²¹

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. Idaho Code § 20-209; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of State Correctional Education Directors, June 12, 2019.
3. "Independent Study of Idaho," Prison Studies Project, accessed June 12, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2018/06/independent-study-in-idaho/>.
4. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, June 12, 2019.
5. Ibid.
6. Idaho Opportunity Scholarship, Idaho Code § 33-4303; Post-Secondary Credit Scholarship, Idaho Code § 33-4605.
7. "Education," Idaho Department of Correction, accessed December 13, 2019, https://www.idoc.idaho.gov/content/prisons/treatment_programs/education.
8. "Learn More," SkillStack, accessed December 13, 2019, <https://skillstack.idaho.gov/Default/TellMeMore>.
9. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
10. "Independent Study of Idaho," Prison Studies Project, accessed June 12, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2018/06/independent-study-in-idaho/>; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
11. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. 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.
16. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
17. IDAPA 50.01.01 (350)(01)(b).
18. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.