

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 Kansas.



HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- The Kansas legislature may appropriate state funds for college programs in state correctional facilities.² Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—self-pay, and private funds. These private funds include the Barton Foundation Scholarship and Barton GED scholarship.³
- Kansas is not using Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funds for postsecondary education and did not apply for/receive Second Chance Pell pilot funding.⁴

State Financial Aid

- Kansas's financial aid programs do not mention past criminal conviction history in their eligibility requirements. However, in practice, the state uses the federal Pell Grant requirements to determine eligibility; therefore, individuals who are incarcerated are ineligible for the awards.⁵



WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- In partnership with the Kansas Department of Corrections, Barton Community College provides career and technical education in carpentry, electrical, and HVAC, as well as programs leading to an Internet Core Competency certification, Manufacturing Skills Certification, plumbing certification, and welding certification.⁶

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- An associate degree is offered through Barton Community College's Building Academic Skills in Correctional Settings.⁷
- Kansas does not provide bachelor's degrees.⁸

Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- Kansas has identified local labor market trends and employer feedback as the primary factors that determine the types of postsecondary education and CTE programming that are offered within the correctional facility.⁹



WHAT RESTRICTIONS OR BARRIERS ARE IMPOSED ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION?

Statutory or Administrative Requirements, Permissions, and Restrictions

- ➔ If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, a participant who is incarcerated will be eligible to reenroll six months to one year after their withdrawal.¹⁰

Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Kansas has seven state universities, three of which used the 2019-2020 Common Application.¹¹ Only Kansas State University added questions asking applicants to disclose their criminal and disciplinary history. One of those questions inquired whether an applicant has ever entered into a “diversion program” for a felony.
- ➔ The other four state colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application do not inquire about 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.¹²

Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency does not provide occupational training, information on postsecondary education, postsecondary education advisors and coordinators, and vocational credential testing.¹³

Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ Kansas Department of Corrections does not have articulation agreements with schools offering programming in correctional facilities, which state that courses offered in the correctional facilities are equivalent to those offered in the community and indicate what credits can be transferred.¹⁴

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. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Kansas Career Technical Workforce Grant, K.S.A. § 74-32,424; Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship, K.S.A. § 74-3284; Kansas State Scholarship, K.S.A. § 74-32,233; Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program, K.S.A. § 74-32,120; “Financial Aid Sources for Kansas Students,” The Kansas Board of Regents, accessed February 14, 2019, https://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/Students/Student_Financial_Aid/KS_State_Aid_Application_2019-20.pdf; Lauren Hobby, Brian Walsh, and Ruth Delaney, *A Piece of the Puzzle: State Financial Aid for Incarcerated Students—Technical Appendix* (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2019), 28.
6. “Programs,” Kansas Department of Corrections, accessed May 3, 2019, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/facilities/ecf/programs-1>; “Barton Prison Initiative,” Prison Studies Project, accessed March 5, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2016/04/barton-prison-initiative/>; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
7. “Barton Prison Initiative,” Prison Studies Project; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
8. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. 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.
12. KRS § 197.045, K.A.R. § 44-6-127; see also K.A.R. § 44-6-101; “The Parole Process,” Kansas Department of Corrections, accessed June 5, 2019, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/prb/process>; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
13. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
14. Ibid.