

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 Maryland.



HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- The Maryland legislature may appropriate state funds for college programs in state correctional facilities.² Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as the Second Chance Pell pilot program³—and private sources.⁴
- Maryland is not using Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for postsecondary education.⁵

State Financial Aid

- Maryland financial aid programs do not have any statutory, regulatory, or policy restrictions that prevent people who are currently incarcerated from receiving aid. However, all recipients of financial assistance must sign a “statement pledging to remain drug free.”⁶



WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- In partnership with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and through the federally funded Second Chance Pell Pilot program, Anne Arundel Community College⁷ and Wor-Wic Community College⁸ provide career and technical education in general business management, hotel management, and Microsoft Office.⁹
- Certificates are also provided through the federally funded Second Chance Pell Pilot program sites at Anne Arundel Community College and Wor-Wic Community College.¹⁰

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- An associate degree is offered through Wor-Wic Community College.¹¹
- Bachelor's degrees in American studies and human services administration are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot sites through Goucher College's¹² (a private institution) Goucher Prison Education Partnership and University of Baltimore.¹³

Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- Maryland has not identified local labor market trends, employer feedback, and outcome data as the primary factors that determine the types of postsecondary education and CTE programming that are offered within the correctional facility.¹⁴



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 will be eligible to reenroll six months to one year after their withdrawal.¹⁵

Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Maryland passed a law to restrict institutions of higher education from inquiring about criminal history on applications.¹⁶ However, institutions may use third-party admissions applications; if the application has criminal history questions, then the institution has access to the information and must share on their website that criminal history does not disqualify applicants from admission.¹⁷
- ➔ Maryland has 12 state universities, 5 of which used the 2019-2020 Common Application.¹⁸ None of the schools inquired about an applicant's criminal history; however, Frostburg State University inquires about disciplinary and military misconduct. Similarly, the University of Maryland, College Park uses MyCoalition, another third-party application system, and does inquire about criminal and disciplinary history.
- ➔ Two of the six state colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application require students to disclose their criminal history: Bowie State University and Morgan State University. Both also ask questions about arrests.



WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- ➔ Individuals can earn a sentence reduction of five days for each month they participate in vocational courses, other educational and training courses, or workforce development training.¹⁹
- ➔ Dedicated or specialized housing is offered to people who participate in postsecondary education programs.²⁰

Postsecondary Education as a Factor in Parole Decisions

- ➔ The Maryland Parole Commission may consider several factors related to postsecondary education when determining whether to grant or deny parole, including mandatory educational and workforce skills training programs.²¹

Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.²²

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.²³

Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services 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.²⁴

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. Md. LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Code Ann. Section 11-906(b); The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
3. 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>.
4. Correctional Education Council, Activity Report 18 (State of Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation), 15, <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/ce/cereport2018.pdf>.
5. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
6. Md. EDUCATION Code Ann. Section 18-111.
7. Correctional Education Council, Activity Report 18 (State of Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation), 14; 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>.
8. "College in Prison," Vera Institute of Justice, accessed June 25, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison>; 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. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
10. 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>.
11. "College in Prison," Vera Institute of Justice, accessed June 25, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison>.
12. Correctional Education Council, *Activity Report 18* (Annapolis, MD: Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, 2018), 14 <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/ce/cereport2018.pdf>; "Goucher Prison Education Partnership," Prison Studies Project, accessed May 17, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2017/10/goucher-prison-education-partnership/>; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
13. "Second Chance College Program," University of Baltimore, accessed May 17, 2019, <https://www.ubalt.edu/cpa/about-the-college/community-engagement/second-chance-college-program.cfm>; "College in Prison," Vera Institute of Justice, accessed June 25, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison>; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
14. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
15. *Ibid.*
16. Md. EDUCATION Code Ann. Section 26-503(a).
17. Md. EDUCATION Code Ann. Section 26-503(b).
18. 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.
19. Md. CORRECTIONAL SERVICES Code Ann. Section 3-706(a)(1)-(3).
20. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
21. COMAR 12.08.01.18(A)(4)(c); COMAR 09.37.02.07.
22. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
23. *Ibid.*
24. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.