

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 Missouri.



HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- The Missouri legislature may appropriate state funds for college programs in state correctional facilities.² Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—and privately funded foundation grants.³
- Although Second Chance Pell sites are active in correctional facilities, Missouri did not apply for/receive Second Chance Pell pilot funding for their specific state colleges and universities.⁴

State Financial Aid

- Missouri has various statutory and regulatory barriers to accessing state financial aid programs based on incarceration and type of criminal convictions. For example, the Missouri Department of Higher Education utilizes federal Title IV eligibility—which may have restrictions for incarcerated individuals—for the Missouri A+ Scholarship⁵ and has statutory provisions for students who were convicted of crimes while receiving state financial aid.⁶ The department also extends their provisions to include Pell Grant eligibility for some of the state grants, which would make incarcerated students ineligible.⁷



WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- The Missouri Department of Corrections provides career and technical education in programs leading to a nurse assistance certification, Certiport certification, commercial drivers licensing, cosmetology licensing, U.S. Department of Labor certificate, the National Center for Construction Education and Research certification, and ServSafe certification.⁸

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- Associate degrees are offered through Rockhurst University, St. Louis University, and Washington University in St. Louis, private institutions.⁹
- Associate and bachelor's degrees are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot site college at Ashland University, a private institution.¹⁰
- Correspondence college courses are offered by Adams State University, Blackstone Career Institute—a private institution—and Ohio University.¹¹

Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- ➔ Missouri has 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.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, length of sentence, and type of offense.¹³ Postsecondary vocational programming is limited based on custody level, while postsecondary college courses are not.¹⁴
- ➔ Access to postsecondary services is prioritized based on an individual's release date, specifically for those within five years of release.¹⁵
- ➔ If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, a participant will be eligible to reenroll one year after their withdrawal.¹⁶

Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Missouri has 13 state universities, 8 of which used the 2019-2020 Common Application.¹⁷ Five of these schools added questions asking applicants to disclose their criminal history: Missouri Southern State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and University of Missouri-St. Louis.
- ➔ Three of the five state colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application require students to disclose their criminal history: Lincoln University, Missouri State University, and Missouri Western State University.



WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- ➔ An early release incentives program for completion of postsecondary education is currently being developed in collaboration with the court system and parole board.¹⁸
- ➔ Incentives for participating in postsecondary education programs include exemption from work requirements. Students who complete a vocational training program may also be considered for higher paying jobs within the correctional facility.¹⁹

Postsecondary Education as a Factor in Parole Decisions

- ➔ State law permits the board to consider participation in postsecondary educational activities during incarceration as a factor when granting or denying parole.²⁰

Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ The board may require participation in postsecondary education as a special condition of parole.²¹ The supervising officer may make a request to amend or waive any non-statutory mandated special conditions.²²
- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.²³

Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency provides information on postsecondary education, but not postsecondary education advisors and coordinators, occupational training, and vocational credential testing.²⁴

Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ The Missouri Department of Corrections has articulation agreements with schools offering programming in the correctional facilities, which state that courses and degree programs offered in the correctional facilities are equivalent to those offered in the community.²⁵

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. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
5. "A+ Scholarship Program," Missouri Department of Higher Education, accessed May 16, 2019, <https://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>; 6 CSR 10-2.190 (3)(A)(12).
6. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 173.1104 (2).
7. 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), 46-47.
8. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
9. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019; "Programs," Saint Louis University, accessed May 22, 2019, <https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/prison-program/programs/index.php>.
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>; 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. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. 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.
18. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
19. Ibid.
20. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
21. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 217.690(4); State of Missouri, *Procedures Governing the Granting of Paroles and Conditional Releases* (Missouri: State of Missouri, 2017), <https://doc.mo.gov/sites/doc/files/2018-01/Blue-Book.pdf>.
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 parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
25. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.