

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 Nevada.



HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- The Nevada legislature may appropriate state funds for vocational and education programs in state correctional facilities.² The state has a dedicated line item for prison education offered by the community colleges within its state budget.³ Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—privately funded foundation grants,⁴ and self-pay.⁵
- Nevada 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.⁶

State Financial Aid

- Nevada financial aid programs do not have any statutory, regulatory, or policy restrictions that prevent people who are currently incarcerated from receiving aid.⁷



WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- The Nevada Department of Corrections provides career and technical education in an introductory course to apprenticeships as well as programs leading to an Occupational Safety and Health Administration certificate.⁸

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- Individuals may participate in postsecondary correspondence courses geared toward college credit at their own expense.⁹
- The general education required courses for associate and bachelor's degrees in business are offered through Western Nevada College and Great Basin College.¹⁰

Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- Nevada 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.¹¹



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.¹²
- ➔ If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, an incarcerated participant will be eligible to reenroll within six months after their withdrawal.¹³

Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- ➔ Nevada has three state universities, one of which—the University of Nevada, Las Vegas—used the 2019-2020 Common Application.¹⁴ This college does not ask about criminal conviction history.
- ➔ The other two state colleges and universities do not require students to disclose their criminal history. The University of Nevada, Reno does ask whether an applicant has been dismissed from another university.



WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- ➔ Individuals who are incarcerated can earn “educational degree credits,”¹⁵ “completion credits,”¹⁶ “work credits,”¹⁷ and “meritorious credits”¹⁸ to reduce their sentence by attending postsecondary education programs.¹⁹ Students may earn 120 days off their sentence for an associate degree and 60 days for a college certificate.²⁰

Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.²¹

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.²²

Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ Nevada Department of Corrections 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.²³

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. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 209.391; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
3. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
4. Ibid.
5. AR 850.01(5)(A); AR 850.02(4).
6. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
7. Millennium Scholarship, Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 396.930; Silver State Opportunity Scholarship, Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 396.952.
8. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
9. AR 850.01(5)(A).
10. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019. Email correspondence between CSG Justice Center and NDOC, December 20, 2019.
11. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. 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.
15. AR 803.01(1).
16. AR 850.02(6).
17. AR 850.01(11); AR 850.02(5).
18. AR 850.02(6).
19. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 209.433; Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 209.446; Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 209.4465; Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 209.449; Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 211.330; "Education Services," State of Nevada Department of Corrections, accessed June 18, 2019, http://doc.nv.gov/Inmates/Education_Services/Home/; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
20. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
21. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
22. Ibid.
23. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.