

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Access to Continued Education for People in the Criminal Justice System

**P**ostsecondary education has been proven to reduce recidivism and promote more successful transitions back into communities for adults returning from incarceration.<sup>1</sup> 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 New Hampshire.



### HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

#### Correctional Agency Funding

- The New Hampshire legislature prohibits the use of state funds for college programs in state correctional facilities.<sup>2</sup> Postsecondary education is funded through privately funded foundation grants.<sup>3</sup>
- New Hampshire is not using Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act or Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for postsecondary education and did not apply for/receive Second Chance Pell pilot funding.<sup>4</sup>

#### State Financial Aid

- New Hampshire financial aid programs do not have any statutory, regulatory, or policy restrictions that prevent people who are currently incarcerated from receiving aid. However, the state has extremely limited offerings; the only program offered is a grant for orphans of veterans.<sup>5</sup>



### WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

#### Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- The New Hampshire Department of Corrections provides career and technical education in hospitality.<sup>6</sup>

#### Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- Associate degrees in business are offered through New Hampshire Community Technical College.<sup>7</sup>
- Bachelor's degrees in business are offered.<sup>8</sup>

#### Labor Market, Employer Feedback, and Outcome Data Alignment

- New Hampshire 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.<sup>9</sup>



### WHAT RESTRICTIONS OR BARRIERS ARE IMPOSED ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION?

#### Use of Criminal History in State College and University Applications

- New Hampshire has five state universities, four of which used the 2019-2020 Common Application.<sup>10</sup> Two of these schools added questions asking applicants to disclose their criminal history: University of New Hampshire-Durham and University of New Hampshire-Manchester.

Plymouth State University requires disclosure of past criminal history when assessing applicants for housing, licensures, internships, or study abroad opportunities after admission.

- ➔ Granite State College, the fifth college, does not require students to disclose their criminal history.



## WHAT INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS EXIST TO ENCOURAGE ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION?

### Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- ➔ People can earn a one-time reduction in their sentence through “earned time credits” for participating in educational or vocational programming.<sup>11</sup> They may receive a 180-day reduction for educational programming and a 60-day reduction for vocational programming.<sup>12</sup>

### Postsecondary Education as a Factor in Parole Decisions

- ➔ The parole board may consider participation in postsecondary educational activities during incarceration as a factor when granting or denying parole. For example, an individual could be denied parole if the parole board determines that continued “vocational or other training” in the correctional facility could assist the individual’s “capacity to lead a law-abiding life upon release.”<sup>13</sup>

### Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- ➔ Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.<sup>14</sup>

### Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency does not provide information on postsecondary education, postsecondary education advisors and coordinators, occupational training, and vocational credential testing.<sup>15</sup>

### Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ New Hampshire 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.<sup>16</sup>

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](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html).

2. N.H. Admin. Rules, Cor 302.01; 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. “Financial Aid,” New Hampshire Department of Education, accessed May 22, 2019, <https://www.education.nh.gov/highered/financial/index.htm>; “Chapter HEDC 500 Scholarships for Orphans and Veterans,” accessed December 20, 2019, [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state\\_agencies/hedc500.html](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/hedc500.html).

6. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.

7. State of New Hampshire Department of Corrections, *Time in Prison: Community Safety, Opportunity for Change* (New Hampshire: State of New Hampshire Department of Corrections, 2001) <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhc/divisions/victim/documents/timeinprison.pdf>.

8. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.

9. Ibid.

10. 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.

11. RSA 651-A:22-a.

12. RSA 651-A:22-a; New Hampshire Department of Corrections Policy and Procedure Directive No. 5.11. <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhc/policies/documents/5-11.pdf>; The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.

13. N.H. Admin. Rules, Par 302.01(b); The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole granting agencies, July 12, 2019.

14. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.

15. Ibid.

16. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.