Access to Continued Education for People in the Criminal Justice System

Postsecondary education has been proven to reduce recidivism and promote more successful transitions back into communities for adults returning from incarceration. 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 Oklahoma.

HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

Correctional Agency Funding

- The Oklahoma legislature may appropriate state funds for postsecondary education programs in state correctional facilities. Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as the Second Chance Pell pilot program—privately funded foundation grants, and self-pay.
- Oklahoma is not using Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for postsecondary education.

State Financial Aid

- The largest Oklahoma financial aid programs, the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program and Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, have statutory barriers for individuals who are currently incarcerated. On the application, the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access program also requires applicants to refrain from substance abuse or criminal/delinquent acts. Other financial aid programs do not have explicit restrictions.

WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- Through the CareerTech Skills Centers School System, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections provides career and technical education in automotive service technology, building and grounds maintenance, building maintenance technology, business information technology, cabinet making apprenticeship, commercial and residential painting and wall finishes, commercial framing and construction, computer technology, construction, culinary arts, electrical trades technology, engine performance, green technology, heavy equipment, HVAC/R technology, licensed trades journeyman program, maintenance workforce transition, manufacturing, masonry, pet services, plumbing technology, precision machine technology, transportation - distribution and logistics, and welding.
- Certificates are provided through the federally funded Second Chance Pell Pilot program site at Tulsa Community College.

Associate and Bachelor’s Degrees

- Associate degrees are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot sites at Connors State College and Tulsa Community College.
- Bachelor’s degrees are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot site at Langston University.
勞動市場、雇主反饋、及成果數據對準

俄克拉荷馬州尚未將當地勞動市場趨勢、雇主反饋，或成果數據作為決定州立教育及職業技術教育（CTE）課程的主導因素。15

限制或障礙何者限制或阻礙訪客參與？

法定或行政要求、許可、限制

參與州立教育課程是基於服刑行為及刑期長度。16

訪客獲取州立教育服務的優先順序是根據個人的釋放日期。17

如果因紀律問題而被逐出教育課程，參加者將有資格在撤離一年後重新報名。18

犯罪記錄的使用在州立大學和大學申請

州立高等教育委員會有一項非學術標準的入學政策適用於州內所有機構。這些標準包括紀律記載，例如被開除、停學，或被其他教育機構拒收的記載，及犯下涉及“道德敗壞”的重罪。20

俄克拉荷馬州的14所州立大學中，只有俄克拉荷馬大學使用2019-2020學年通用申請。21

十二所州立大學和大學中，有13所大學不使用通用申請。以下大學要求學生披露其犯罪記錄：卡蒙大學、東中央大學、蘭格斯頓大學、諾頓史太思大學、俄克拉荷馬州立大學（Okmulgee和Stillwater）、羅傑斯州立大學、東南俄克拉荷馬州立大學、西南俄克拉荷馬州立大學、中央俄克拉荷馬大學，以及俄克拉荷馬州立大學。西北俄克拉荷馬州立大學是該州唯一一所不需申請者披露其犯罪記錄的學校。

鼓勵與完成的激勵與支援

法定或行政獎勵

個人可以通過上進州立教育課程來獲得“成就賺取學分”以減少刑期。22

支援與社區服務

假釋署不提供職業訓練、州立教育資訊、州立教育顧問及協調員，及職業資格測試。23

學分轉換政策

俄克拉荷馬州刑事部門沒有正式的校際協議，以確保在州立刑務設施中提供的課程與社區中提供的課程等值，及學分完全轉換。24


5. Oklahoma Department of Corrections, OP-090107.


7. 70 Okl. St. § 626.6(3).


18. OP-090107(II)(E); OP-090133(I)(B).


21. 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.

22. 57 Okl. St. § 138(H); The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
