

**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 Oregon.



### HOW ARE SERVICES FUNDED?

#### Correctional Agency Funding

- The Oregon legislature does not appropriate state funds for college programs in state correctional facilities.<sup>2</sup> Postsecondary education is funded through federal sources—such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and the Second Chance Pell pilot grants<sup>3</sup>—self-pay, and private sources.<sup>4</sup>
- Oregon is not using Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for postsecondary education.<sup>5</sup>

#### State Financial Aid

- Oregon financial aid programs do not have any statutory, regulatory, or policy restrictions that prevent individuals who are currently incarcerated from receiving aid.<sup>6</sup>



### WHAT IS OFFERED INSIDE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?

#### Career and Technical Education and Certifications

- The Oregon Department of Corrections funds community colleges to provide career and technical education in automotive technology, construction technology, cosmetology, esthetics, optometry (paraoptometrics), and welding. The department provides apprenticeships and training in cabinet making, custodial service, electrical maintenance and technology, HVAC/R, energy technology, manufacturing, painting, sheet metal fabrication, and structure welding.<sup>7</sup>
- Certificates in computer-assisted drafting (CAD) and automotive technology and transfer degrees in the arts, general studies, science, and business have been provided through the federally funded Second Chance Pell Pilot program site at Chemeketa Community College.<sup>8</sup>

#### Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

- Associate degrees are offered through the Second Chance Pell Pilot site at Chemeketa Community College.<sup>9</sup>
- College courses are offered through Blue Mountain Community College, Central Oregon Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Portland Community College, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Treasure Valley Community College, and University of Oregon's Prison Education Program at the student's own expense.<sup>10</sup>

- Oregon does not provide bachelor's degrees.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Oregon 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.<sup>12</sup>



## 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,<sup>13</sup> length of sentence,<sup>14</sup> and type of offense.<sup>15</sup> For example, some CTE programs, such as welding, require outside gate clearance, and individuals who have committed certain crimes are not allowed to leave the secure perimeter.<sup>16</sup>
- If withdrawn from an education program for disciplinary reasons, a participant will be eligible to reenroll six months to one year after their withdrawal.<sup>17</sup>

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

- Oregon has eight state universities, three of which used the 2019-2020 Common Application. None of the state universities require applicants to disclose their past criminal history.<sup>18</sup>



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

### Statutory or Administrative Requirements, Permissions, and Restrictions

- Participation in postsecondary education programs is based on behavior during incarceration,<sup>19</sup> length of sentence,<sup>20</sup> and type of offense.<sup>21</sup> For example, as in other states, Oregon restricts access to some CTE programs, such as welding, which require outside gate clearance, and individuals who have committed certain crimes are not allowed to leave the secure perimeter.<sup>22</sup>

### Statutory or Administrative Benefits

- Individuals can earn credits to reduce their sentence by attending postsecondary education programs.<sup>23</sup>

### Postsecondary Education as a Factor in Parole Decisions

- The parole board is permitted to consider postsecondary educational activities during incarceration as a factor when granting or denying parole.<sup>24</sup>

### Parole Conditions Related to Postsecondary Education

- The board has the authority to set conditions of supervision after release.<sup>25</sup> As a general condition, an individual on parole must maintain employment, approved schooling, or a combination of both.<sup>26</sup>
- Post-release participation in postsecondary education can meet a parole requirement to seek or obtain employment.<sup>27</sup>

## Support and Services in the Community

- ➔ The parole-granting agency provides information on postsecondary education and postsecondary education advisors and coordinators, but not occupational training and vocational credential testing.<sup>28</sup>

## Coursework Transfer Policies

- ➔ Oregon does not have formalized agreements with independent community colleges offering programming in correctional facilities to ensure that credits from courses offered in correctional facilities fully transfer to community colleges.<sup>29</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. 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. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
5. Ibid.
6. Grants," Oregon's Office of Student Access and Completion, accessed February 15, 2019, <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/grants.aspx>; Oregon Opportunity Grant, ORS § 348.260; Oregon Promise, ORS § 341.522; Barber and Hairdresser Grant, ORS § 348.290.
7. "College in Prison," Vera Institute of Justice, accessed May 7, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison>; "Job Training," Oregon Department of Corrections, accessed May 7, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/inmate-programs/Pages/job-training.aspx>.
8. 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>; "College in prison," Vera Institute of Justice, accessed May 7, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/projects/college-in-prison>. See also Michael Budke, "College Behind Bars: The Necessity of Running A College Inside Prisons," *The evoLLution*, November 18, 2019, [https://evollution.com/revenue-streams/extending\\_lifelong\\_learning/college-behind-bars-the-necessity-of-running-a-college-inside-prisons/](https://evollution.com/revenue-streams/extending_lifelong_learning/college-behind-bars-the-necessity-of-running-a-college-inside-prisons/).
9. U.S. Department of Education, "12,000 Incarcerated Students to Enroll."
10. "Education Programs," Oregon Department of Corrections, accessed May 7, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/inmate-programs/Pages/education.aspx>; "The Prison Education Program at the University of Oregon," University of Oregon Prison Education Program, accessed March 8, 2019, <https://uoprisoned.org/>.
11. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
12. Ibid.
13. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019. "College Inside," Prison Studies Project, accessed March 15, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2011/08/college-inside/>.
14. "College Inside," Prison Studies Project, accessed March 15, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2011/08/college-inside/>; OAR 291-113-0021(1)(c).
15. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
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. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019. "College Inside," Prison Studies Project, accessed March 15, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2011/08/college-inside/>.
20. "College Inside," Prison Studies Project, accessed March 15, 2019, <http://prisonstudiesproject.org/2011/08/college-inside/>; OAR 291-113-0021(1)(c).
21. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
22. Ibid.
23. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.
24. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
25. ORS § 144.102.
26. OAR 255-070-0001, Exhibit J, GC-6, <https://www.oregon.gov/bopp/ps/Documents/Exhibits/EXHIBITJ.pdf>.
27. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state parole-granting agencies, July 12, 2019.
28. Ibid.
29. The Council of State Governments Justice Center electronic survey of state correctional education directors, July 12, 2019.