




WASHINGTON'S CORRECTIONS EDUCATION PROGRAM

AUGUST 2019

I'm now certified in every field; the highest trained and paid technician. ... I'd say that's a pretty good return on investment for the State of Washington for investing in me and my education while I was in prison.¹

Erik Harestad, former student at the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

 Watch a video <http://bit.ly/2j8YhKz>

Improving lives and safety

The Department of Corrections contracts with community colleges to provide basic education and workforce associate degrees in job training at each of the state's 12 adult prisons so upon release, individuals are more likely to get jobs and less likely to return.

Most incarcerated individuals entering the prison system lack the education to find work and succeed in society. The average Washington offender scores at an eighth-grade level or lower in basic literacy skills, such as reading and math.

Re-entry begins at entry

There are 12 prison site education navigators and 10 college site education navigators assisting incarcerated individuals into a guided pathway of education opportunities into careers in high demand and provide for family-wage jobs in and out of their incarceration.

Community colleges build a bridge for incarcerated individuals to successfully re-enter communities. In 2017-18, 8,587 incarcerated individuals participated in community college programs. These students earned:

- 831 GED® certificates
- over 90 high school diplomas using High School+
- 1,933 vocational certificates
- 53 associate degrees²



A smart investment

On average, inmates who participate in correction education programs have 43 percent lower odds of returning to prison than inmates who do not, according to a 2014 study by the RAND Corporation.³

The return to taxpayers and society is substantial. A 2018 update by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that for every dollar invested in these programs, up to \$19.80 is saved from fewer new crimes and costly incarcerations.⁴ Instead of paying for prison beds, money is freed for public education, infrastructure, job creation and other priorities that impact the lives of everyday Washingtonians.

Of the nearly 7,800 individuals released from DOC in 2014, 32 percent returned by 2017.⁵ Corrections education helps ensure they don't come back. In doing so, it gives prisoners a fresh chance to be successful community members and gives residents a safeguard from crime.

1

College and prison partnerships Programs offered

Airway Heights Corrections Center
Community Colleges of Spokane

Cedar Creek Corrections Center
Centralia College

Clallam Bay Corrections Center
Peninsula College

Coyote Ridge Corrections Center
Walla Walla Community College

Larch Corrections Center
Clark College

Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women
Tacoma Community College

Monroe Correctional Complex
Edmonds Community College

Olympic Corrections Center
Peninsula College

Stafford Creek Corrections Center
Grays Harbor College

Washington Corrections Center
Centralia College

Washington Corrections Center for Women
Tacoma Community College

Washington State Penitentiary
Walla Walla Community College

Every prison offers adult basic education programs, which provide a foundational education in reading, writing, math and English language. This includes GED® preparation programs. Several also offer High School+, a competency-based high school diploma program. With High School+, students can earn high school credits by proving they have mastered required subjects through past education or life experience. They then take classes to fill in the gaps and earn a high school diploma.

Job-search courses are also available at every prison. Workforce programs vary by institution and include:

- Accounting and Bookkeeping
- Automotive Mechanics Technology
- Automotive Collision and Repair
- Baking and Pastry Arts
- Building and Construction Management and Inspection
- Business Administration and Management
- Business and Commerce
- Technical Design and Computer Aided Design (CAD) Drafting and Design
- Carpentry
- Computer Numerical Controlled Manufacturing (CNC)
- Computer Programming
- Custodial and Building Services
- Diesel Mechanics
- Digital Media: Web and Multimedia
- Drywall, Roofing and Siding
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
- HVAC Technology
- Horticulture
- I-BEST Automotive*
- I-BEST Carpentry*
- I-BEST HVAC Technology*
- I-BEST Material Composites*
- Upholstery
- Welding

* Washington's nationally recognized I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) program pairs basic education with hands-on job experience so students learn in real-world settings.

1. Erik Harestad testimony before Senate Human Services, Reentry and Rehabilitation Committee, Jan. 22, 2019.
2. Washington Community Colleges Correctional Education Annual Report. (October 2018). Olympia: SBCTC.
3. RAND Corporation and Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice (2014). How Effective Is Correctional Education and Where Do We Go from Here?
4. Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). (Cost-benefit data last updated 2018). Inventory of Evidence-Based and Research-Based programs for Adult Corrections. WSIPP.
5. Stephen Sinclair, secretary of the Washington State Department of Corrections, Aug. 1, 2018. Olympia: Governor's Results Review.