



The Illinois Department of Corrections

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Illinois Department of Corrections Post-Secondary Education Program Submission

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) is excited about partnering to further the mission of providing high-quality, impactful post-secondary opportunities to students. With the return of Pell Grants for students who are currently incarcerated in 2023, the IDOC will be finalizing the selection of post-secondary partners and formalizing these programs through the creation of Memorandums of Understanding with partnering institutions.

As part of the Prison Education Program (PEP) process, the IDOC will be requiring current and future prospective partners to submit required information and express a commitment to certain key elements meant to protect and benefit students.

By submitting the requested information, you would be signaling a readiness to support a prison education program or programs. This is a non-binding review process, but selected programs will ultimately be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding. The provided information will be reviewed by stakeholders supporting the efforts to expand post-secondary access in Illinois's prisons, and the IDOC will make a final decision related to each program's approval.

Please provide a brief overview of the program and goals (2-3 paragraph) and respond to the following questions.

1. Program Contact Name
2. Accreditation
 - a. Please provide information on your current accreditation.
 - b. Is the prison-based campus you plan to provide programs at currently recognized by your regional accrediting agency as an additional location of your main campus?
 - c. Have the programs you intend to offer in this PEP already been reviewed and approved by your accrediting agency?
3. Does your program have support from your institution's leadership (President, Board, etc.)? Please provide evidence of this support, such as a letter of support, board proclamation, etc.
4. If this is a new program that is not currently operating, which term and month would you propose offering your initial credit earning classes?

Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change for those in custody, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.

Illinois Department of Corrections Post-Secondary Education Program Submission (continued)

5. What areas of study will be covered by your program and what credentials do you expect students to earn if they complete this program? What is the expected time of completion to earn these credentials?
6. Please provide a proposed course list for each major credential.
7. Will the program provide information to students about career pathways and employment prospects specific to this credential or area of study? If so, when will this information be provided?
8. Has your postsecondary institution determined that the career pathway(s) for the credential(s) your PEP will offer does not have a licensing barrier for people with convictions, as required under the final regulations?
9. Does your institution plan to partner with other institutions for a formal PEP effort?
10. Will credits earned by students in the PEP be fully transferable to other accredited colleges or universities in the same fashion as other credits earned by students on your other campuses?
11. How will the program ensure that students do not bear any direct costs or accrue debt when participating in this PEP?
12. Is the program planning to track student outcomes, such as employment, earnings, or continued enrollment post-release? If so, how will this be tracked?
13. The IDOC supports face-to-face instruction, but should this not be possible, does your program have a contingency plan for course delivery (this plan may not include student access to the internet at this time)?

Please provide more detailed responses to the following questions:

14. How will the program ensure a comparable experience for students in the PEP as compared to other campus locations?
15. How will the program provide academic and career advising to PEP participants? How do these services compare to the services at the institution's other campuses?
16. Will your institution allow PEP participants to continue their education on campus after release?
17. Does your institution have any policies restricting or barring admission due to criminal history, including processes that require specific review of students based on criminal history? Understanding that the option of post-release enrollment must be available to all participants under Pell program rules, what policies must be changed to comply if not currently in compliance and what is the timeline for changing these policies?

Thank you in advance for your interest in providing post-secondary education to this important population. Your submission of the above information and any questions can be sent to the Office of Adult Education and Vocational Services at maria.a.miller@illinois.gov