



Corrections and Community Supervision

2023 Post-Secondary Education in Prison

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Introduction

There is a long history of college education within the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision facilities, with formal on-site programming provided by accredited colleges beginning in the 1970s. That history will be presented, showing the decrease in participation in college programs immediately following the passage of the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act and the efforts made to maintain college programming during and following that period.

This report will also outline the eligibility requirements for college programming, such as time until earliest release, entrance exams, and region of commitment / release.

Additionally, trends in participation and post-secondary degrees earned since 2014 will be presented. A description of the population enrolled in on-site college programs will be provided, including demographics, crime, sentence structure, time spent under custody, programming, regions of commitment, and time to earliest release.

Finally, a return to custody review of the population that was released in 2018 is provided, along with a comprehensive list of facilities that have college programming and the colleges that provide them, along with current funding sources.

History of College Programming in New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

The New York State Department of Corrections (Department)¹ began hosting on-site college programming in the early 1970s. From the 1970s through 1995, college programming expanded and flourished. Institutions providing college education included community colleges and four-year colleges. Genesee Community College, Sage, Junior College of Albany, Marist, Medaille, Mercy, North Country Community College, St. Johns, Skidmore, SUNY New Paltz, and Ulster Community College are a few of the institutions that worked with the Department from the earliest stages to provide on-site, college education.

The Department developed a systemic, highly structured approach to post-secondary education that provided sustainable programs and accountability under the direction of the Director of Education. Both internal and external stakeholders helped guide the Department via a college steering committee hosted by Skidmore's "University Without Walls" program that consisted of leaders of the Department's correctional programs and other college programs. From that experience, the Department developed procedures for proposing, reviewing, and implementing new on-site, post-secondary programs and utilized the Unified College Guidelines to set standards of operation as well as outline procedures for conducting audits of the college programs.

Prior to 1994, most of these programs enrolled incarcerated individuals who were funded through Pell Grants, New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), and/or Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). The 1988 Academic Program Administrators Manual listed more than twenty pages of facilities and the associated college programs. The 1986 annual report of Academic Education Programs showed that 2,787 incarcerated individuals were enrolled in college programs during the spring of 1985 and 557 certificates, two-year, and four-year degrees were awarded. By 1993, that report showed 928 certificates, two-year, and four-year degrees awarded and between 3,000 and 5,000 individuals enrolled.

In 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (P.L. 103-322) was signed into federal law. This act amended the Higher Education Act to exclude individuals incarcerated in state or federal penal institutions from eligibility for Pell Grants. Federal support for college programs in correctional facilities ceased. In 1995, New York State followed by changing the Education Law to eliminate incarcerated individual eligibility for TAP. Section 661 (6) (d) was amended to read: "No student who is incarcerated in any federal, state or other penal institution shall be eligible for any general or academic performance award made pursuant to this article." This change went into effect on June 20, 1995. The impact of both the federal and state legislation was immediate and dramatic. Without funding, most of the college programs discontinued their programs in correctional facilities, which resulted in a substantial decrease in college programming within the Department. In Spring 1995, there were 3,445 incarcerated individuals in 46

¹ On April 1, 2011 The New York State Department of Corrections merged with the New York State Division of Parole to form The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

facilities enrolled in 25 college programs. One year later, there were 256 incarcerated individuals in seven facilities enrolled in six college programs.

To retain post-secondary education in facilities, the Department established procedures to allow individuals to participate in Independent Study programs. Some colleges reduced the size of the programs and leveraged non-public funding to maintain college programming. The Consortium of the Niagara Frontier and the Marymount Manhattan Consortium programs continued to enroll incarcerated individuals in on-site programs, but these programs were much smaller than before. The Bard Prison Initiative established on-site privately funded programs at multiple facilities.

In 2002, the Department utilized funds from the Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Individuals Program (Youth Incarcerated individual Grant) to support college programs located at Albion, Greene, and Washington Correctional Facilities. That funding ended in October of 2012. Between 2002 and 2012, 1,652 individuals participated in post-secondary programming under this program.

Since 2012, college programming has expanded to additional facilities as funding sources have increased.

College Funding

Private Funding: Privately funded programs have provided most of the college education within the Department. Prior to 1994, private funding, Pell grants and TAP were used to establish/support programs and pay tuition fees. Between 1995 and 2002, private funding was the sole source of funding for college programs. As grants and public funding begin to become more available, private funding continues to be blended with other sources to support post-secondary programs and infrastructure.

Pell: In July 2015, the US Department of Education announced the Pell Experimental Sites Initiative commonly known as the Second Chance Pell. This pilot program is an experiment to test whether participation in high quality, post-secondary education programs increases after expanding access to financial aid for incarcerated individuals. The pilot program allowed eligible incarcerated individuals to receive Pell Grants and pursue post-secondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs and support their families when they are released.

Fourteen correctional facilities hosted seven colleges from New York and one college from Vermont which provided post-secondary education under the Second Chance Pell pilot post-secondary program. The facilities that hosted the colleges are: Adirondack, Bare Hill, Bedford Hills, Coxsackie, Eastern, Fishkill, Franklin, Great Meadow, Green Haven, Otisville, Queensboro, Sing Sing, Taconic, and Woodbourne. The colleges that participated include: Bard College, Bennington College, CUNY (Hostos Community College), John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Borough of Manhattan Community College), Marymount Manhattan College, Mercy College, North Country Community College, and Nyack College.

In 2020, federal legislation fully reinstated Pell for incarcerated individuals beginning in fall 2023. This created a new definition of a “prison college program” and added specific requirements for approval, reporting, oversight and evaluation. The legislation establishes the Department as the Oversight Entity with the role of determining whether the college is working in the best interest of all incarcerated college students. To receive Pell funds for incarcerated students, the Colleges must apply to the U.S. Department of Education to become a Prison Education Program (PEP).

As of January 2023, the Department was working with college providers and other stakeholders to establish Pell supported PEPs in facilities.

New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP): TAP for incarcerated individuals was restored by the New York State Legislature in the 2022-23 budget, which repealed the ban for incarcerated New York State residents. The Department is working with the Higher Education Services Corporation, colleges, and other stakeholders to assist incarcerated college students to determine their eligibility, submit applications and potentially benefit from this program.

DANY: As part of the District Attorney of New York County's (DANY) Criminal Justice Investment Initiative, the College-in-Prison Reentry Program is funded by criminal asset forfeitures seized by DANY and distributed to selected colleges for post-secondary programming in DOCCS facilities.

From 2017 through 2022, there were 16 correctional facilities hosting seven college programs that began receiving funds through DANY. The facilities hosting programs were Albion, Auburn, Cape Vincent, Cayuga, Coxsackie, Eastern, Elmira, Fishkill, Five Points, Green Haven, Marcy, Sing Sing, Taconic, Wallkill, Watertown, and Woodbourne. The colleges and universities receiving funding are Bard College, Cornell University, Mohawk Valley Community College, Jefferson Community College, Medaille College, Mercy College, and New York University.

Eligibility for Post-Secondary Education

The Department recognizes the transformative influence of education and therefore strives to provide education to as many incarcerated individuals as possible. For post-secondary education opportunities, the Department applies minimum eligibility standards to the overall population so that the maximum number of individuals can be considered. To be eligible to apply for a college program, the Department requires a person to have a verified secondary degree or higher, not be currently enrolled in another college program, not be deportable, not be refusing to participate in mandated programs and not have a negative disciplinary background.

Time until earliest release date also acts as an eligibility criterion since individuals must have enough time to complete courses. Relatedly, while individuals returning to custody directly from community supervision for a parole violation can participate in post-secondary programs, they often have much less time to serve on their remaining sentence than individuals under custody for the first time and therefore have less time to participate in college programming. Time to earliest release is not a Departmental eligibility criterion, therefore returned parole violators are eligible to participate in post-secondary education and are included in the January 1, 2023 post-secondary eligible population presented in the tables in this report.

Overall, 50% (15,704 of 31,310) individuals under custody on January 1, 2023 met these eligibility criteria. Table 1 shows the number of individuals under custody on January 1, 2023 who met the Department's eligibility criteria for college programming, for whom earliest release date was available. This table excludes the 1,377 incarcerated individuals that were already enrolled in post-secondary education. Of these 15,494 individuals with an established earliest release date, 27% or 4,187 had less than 1 year left until their earliest release date. The greatest number of eligible individuals (42% or 6,492) had 1 to 5 years until their earliest release date and nearly three-quarters (73%) of those individuals were classified as medium security. The next largest group was maximum security individuals with more than 5 years until their earliest release date, which represented 30% of the 15,494.

TABLE 1
TIME UNTIL EARLIEST RELEASE DATE OF
POST-SECONDARY ELIGIBLE* BY SECURITY LEVEL (ROW %)
(Population on January 1, 2023)

TIME UNTIL EARLIEST RELEASE DATE (As of 1/1/2023)	SECURITY LEVEL						TOTAL	
	MAXIMUM SECURITY		MEDIUM SECURITY		MINIMUM SECURITY			
Less than 1 Year	641	15%	3,253	78%	293	7%	4,187	100%
1 to 5 Years	1,586	24%	4,730	73%	176	3%	6,492	100%
More than 5 years	4,668	97%	147	3%	0	0%	4,815	100%
TOTAL	6,895	45%	8,130	52%	469	3%	15,494**	100%

*Individuals with verified High School Credentials, not enrolled in college, no program refusals and no recent program removals due to disciplinary reasons.

**Data was missing for 210 cases.

On-Site, Post-Secondary Program Eligibility vs. Ready and Able: Table 2 shows that 88% of the individuals meeting Departmental eligibility were in a regional hub that had an on-site college program. Of the 2,016 eligible individuals in the Green Haven Hub, 100% were at a facility with a college program as was the case for the Elmira Hub (2,206 eligible) and the Oneida-Watertown Hub (2,128 eligible). While some hubs had less program availability than other hubs, whenever possible, the Department supports college programming by transferring interested and qualified individuals with a high likelihood of college enrollment to facilities with college programs.

TABLE 2
REGIONAL HUB OF POST-SECONDARY ELIGIBLE
BY ON-SITE COLLEGE PROGRAM AVAILABILITY (ROW %)
(Population on January 1, 2023)

REGIONAL HUB	ON-SITE COLLEGE PROGRAM AVAILABILITY				TOTAL	
	PROGRAM AVAILABLE		PROGRAM NOT AVAILABLE			
Oneida-Watertown Hub	2,128	100%	0	0%	2,128	100%
Clinton Hub	1,855	96%	87	4%	1,942	100%
Sullivan Hub	1,249	88%	178	12%	1,427	100%
Green Haven Hub	2,016	100%	0	0%	2,016	100%
Great Meadow Hub	1,624	94%	106	6%	1,730	100%
Wende Hub	1,669	53%	1,502	47%	3,171	100%
Elmira Hub	2,206	100%	0	0%	2,206	100%
New York City Hub	1,078	99%	6	1%	1,084	100%
TOTAL	13,825	88%	1,879	12%	15,704	100%

Region of Commitment: Region of commitment indicates the area of the state in which an individual was convicted. In most cases, individuals return to a community in the region in which they were convicted. Table 3 shows how time until release and geographic requirements can influence the number of eligible individuals. For example, of the 6,492 incarcerated individuals eligible for post-secondary education, with 1 to 5 years until earliest release date, 32% were committed from New York City while only 27% were convicted in the Upstate Other region.

TABLE 3
TIME UNTIL EARLIEST RELEASE DATE OF POST-SECONDARY
ELIGIBLE POPULATION BY REGION OF COMMITMENT (ROW %)
(Population on January 1, 2023)

TIME UNTIL EARLIEST RELEASE DATE	REGION OF COMMITMENT				TOTAL
	NEW YORK CITY	SUBURBAN NEW YORK	UPSTATE URBAN	UPSTATE OTHER	
Less than 1 Year	1,238 29.6%	481 11.5%	1,191 28.4%	1,277 30.5%	4,187 100.0%
1 to 5 Years	2,095 32.3%	682 10.5%	1,974 30.4%	1,741 26.8%	6,492 100.0%
More than 5 years	1,781 37.0%	507 10.5%	1,567 32.5%	960 19.9%	4,815 100.0%
TOTAL	5,114 33.0%	1,670 10.8%	4,732 30.5%	3,978 25.7%	15,494* 100.0%

*Data was missing for 210 cases

Note: Upstate Urban represents counties with a population center of 50,000 or more (Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Niagara, Rensselaer, and Schenectady). All other Upstate counties are included in the "Upstate Other" category.

Table 4 shows the same eligible population distributed across the region of commitment and time until earliest release while considering whether the current housing facility has an on-site, post-secondary program. Overall, 88% of the individuals meeting the Department’s eligibility requirements were housed in a facility that provides on-site programming. Individuals committed from the New York City region were more likely to be in a facility with an on-site college program than individuals from the Upstate regions.

TABLE 4
REGION OF COMMITMENT OF POST-SECONDARY ELIGIBLE ON-SITE COLLEGE
PROGRAM AVAILABILITY BY TIME UNTIL EARLIEST RELEASE DATE
(Population on January 1, 2023)

REGION OF COMMITMENT AND ON-SITE COLLEGE PROGRAM AVAILABILITY	TIME UNTIL EARLIEST RELEASE DATE (As of 1/1/2023)						TOTAL	
	LESS THAN 1 YEAR		1 TO 5 YEARS		MORE THAN 5 YEARS			
NEW YORK CITY								
College Program Available	1,107	89.4%	1,901	90.7%	1,719	96.5%	4,727	92.4%
Program Not Available	131	10.6%	194	9.3%	62	3.5%	387	7.6%
Subtotal	1,238	100.0%	2,095	100.0%	1,781	100.0%	5,114	100.0%
SUBURBAN NEW YORK								
College Program Available	430	89.4%	608	89.1%	497	98.0%	1,535	91.9%
Program Not Available	51	10.6%	74	10.9%	10	2.0%	135	8.1%
Subtotal	481	100.0%	682	100.0%	507	100.0%	1,670	100.0%
UPSTATE URBAN								
College Program Available	940	78.9%	1,621	82.1%	1,408	89.9%	3,969	83.9%
Program Not Available	251	21.1%	353	17.9%	159	10.1%	763	16.1%
Subtotal	1,191	100.0%	1,974	100.0%	1,567	100.0%	4,732	100.0%
UPSTATE OTHER								
College Program Available	1,048	82.1%	1,449	83.2%	906	94.4%	3,403	85.5%
Program Not Available	229	17.9%	292	16.8%	54	5.6%	575	14.5%
Subtotal	1,277	100.0%	1,741	100.0%	960	100.0%	3,978	100.0%
TOTAL								
College Program Available	3,525	84.2%	5,579	85.9%	4,530	94.1%	13,634	88.0%
Program Not Available	662	15.8%	913	14.1%	285	5.9%	1,860	12.0%
Total	4,187	100.0%	6,492	100.0%	4,815	100.0%	15,494*	100.0%

*Data was missing for 210 cases.

Participation in Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary participation is measured by counting the number of individuals who have started a post-secondary program. Participation does not take into account duration of enrollment, or whether or how the individual ended enrollment. Instead, it is a measure of the number of individuals who were exposed to post-secondary programming. As stated previously, enrollment, and therefore participation, was at the highest levels in the years prior to 1994. In 2014, the Department began reporting participation in college correspondence programs and on-site programs separately. During 2014, there were 1,347 individuals participating in on-site, post-secondary programs. Through the end of 2022, annual participation had increased by 50% to 2,024. While the total number of post-secondary participants has steadily increased, the rate of increase has slowed in recent years (See Table 5 and Figure 2).

Meanwhile, between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2023, the total custody population decreased by 42%. As a result, there has been an increase in the proportion of the population participating in college programming. On January 1, 2014, 2% of the custody population was enrolled in college compared with 6% of the population on January 1, 2023.

During 2020 and 2021, to control the spread of COVID-19 and conform with Executive orders, the Department limited entry into facilities and paused non-essential programming. However, there was no pause in the Department's college programming. On-site delivery of college programming was altered during the pandemic, but the Department maintained its' commitment to providing college programming. To maintain the progress being made by individuals participating in post-secondary education, the Department's Education office worked with facilities and colleges to continue providing college programming in facilities in different formats. In doing so, 1,867 individuals were able to participate in college programming in 2020 (see Table 5), which represented 85% of the level in college prior to the pandemic.

Initially, during the Spring semester of 2020, college continuation was achieved through a multi-faceted approach by coordination between the college coordinators, students and available facility staff. In particular, staff involved included security staff, Deputy Superintendents, Educational Supervisors, teachers and education office assistants. Facility staff expanded their roles, and delivered course materials, monitored progress, collected and exchanged assignments and provided individualized coordination between students and college staff. Recognizing the disruption caused by the pandemic, most colleges agreed to continue holding classes at facilities both in-person and virtually during the Summer 2020 semester.

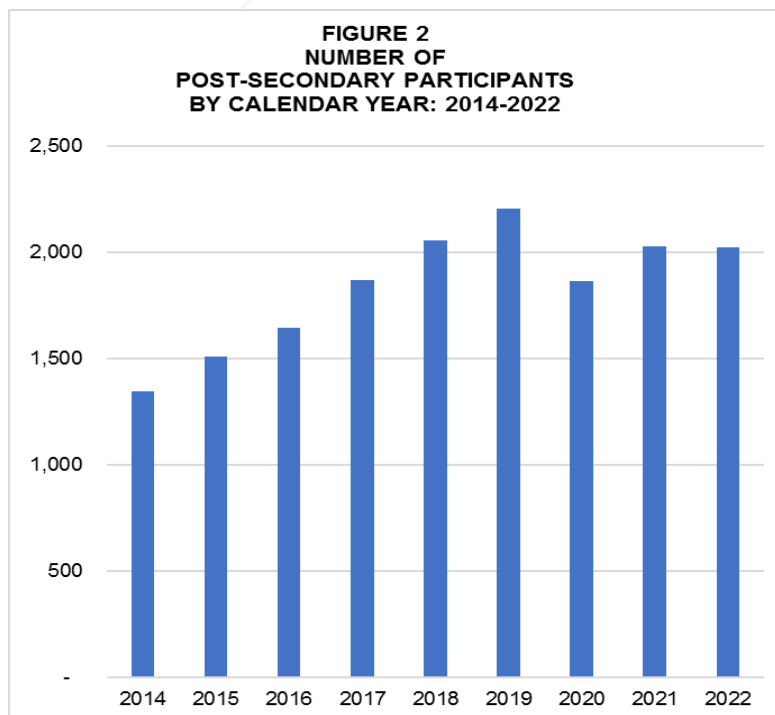
In the Fall 2020 semester, similar to college programming in the community, the Department and college partners continued courses through technology assisted learning. Classroom space, technology availability and staff resources differed at each facility, requiring site specific coordination between the colleges, their facility-based coordinators, facility staff, the Department's Executive staff and the Department's Education office.

Between the Fall semester of 2020 and the Spring semester of 2022, facilities and colleges refined and expanded their college technology assisted learning methods and course offerings. During 2022, there were 2,024 different college participants across 34 facilities (see Table 6).

In the Fall semester of 2022, COVID-19 restrictions began to be lifted. While each facility and college partner have individual space, resource and logistic plans, the resumption of in-person and hybrid services required following facility protocols, which included limiting group sizes and providing additional class space to accommodate social distancing. Again, facility staff and college coordinators maintained enrollment by adaptive scheduling of instructors and dividing classes to maintain COVID-19 protocols.

TABLE 5
NUMBER OF POST-SECONDARY PARTICIPANTS
BY CALENDAR YEAR: 2014-2022
BY GENDER

CALENDAR YEAR	GENDER		TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
	MALE	FEMALE		
2014	950	397	1,347	-
2015	1,091	419	1,510	12%
2016	1,240	404	1,644	9%
2017	1,492	377	1,869	14%
2018	1,667	392	2,059	10%
2019	1,877	332	2,209	7%
2020	1,599	268	1,867	-15%
2021	1,770	261	2,031	9%
2022	1,799	225	2,024	0%
% Change 2014-2022	89%	-43%	50%	



**TABLE 6
POST-SECONDARY ANNUAL PARTICIPANTS BY FACILITY
BY CALENDAR YEAR: 2014-2022**

FACILITY	CALENDAR YEAR								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Adirondack	0	0	0	43	29	0	0	2	6
Albion	60	53	44	59	70	63	45	56	49
Attica	32	25	33	29	36	39	27	79	67
Auburn	88	92	86	77	79	89	83	70	71
Bare Hill	0	0	0	48	66	64	64	45	24
Bedford Hills	211	193	203	193	198	160	138	123	101
Cape Vincent	47	56	47	39	44	47	39	30	37
Cayuga	32	56	71	68	61	61	57	64	78
Clinton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	9
Coxsackie	19	31	20	32	16	26	14	25	25
Eastern	113	121	109	120	111	117	89	93	114
Elmira	0	0	0	0	34	43	44	37	26
Fishkill	43	72	107	144	144	188	174	198	195
Five Points	71	88	84	64	65	53	43	56	42
Franklin	0	0	0	47	75	85	70	62	46
Gouverneur	0	0	0	0	0	34	39	22	25
Great Meadow	0	18	44	49	63	69	54	52	49
Green Haven	32	17	32	19	33	35	33	65	100
Greene	49	43	64	75	68	74	54	31	70
Groveland	0	0	0	0	0	21	29	41	40
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4
Marcy	0	0	0	0	23	31	22	28	25
Mid-State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	55
Mohawk	29	32	50	63	71	79	55	46	65
Otisville	43	27	40	64	57	74	60	63	64
Queensboro	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Riverview	0	0	16	17	19	18	14	21	39
Shawangunk	0	0	23	62	69	100	100	97	92
Sing Sing	143	137	168	200	244	234	196	180	182
Sullivan	55	62	57	98	96	102	81	103	77
Taconic	126	173	157	125	124	109	85	82	75
Upstate	9	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wallkill	0	50	65	70	85	101	70	53	58
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	42
Watertown	0	0	0	0	17	20	26	10	0
Woodbourne	84	93	76	64	62	68	62	63	47
Wyoming	61	61	38	0	0	0	0	66	25
TOTAL	1,347	1,510	1,644	1,869	2,059	2,209	1,867	2,031	2,024

*Green highlight denotes facilities that previously did not have on-site, post-secondary programs and had programs added between 2014 and 2022. Red highlight denotes facilities that used to have on-site, post-secondary programs that ended between 2014 and 2022.

Enrollment in Post-Secondary Education

January 2023: On January 1, 2023, there were 1,377 individuals enrolled in a post-secondary program. Eleven percent (151) of those enrolled were at female facilities. Sixty-nine percent of those in a post-secondary program were enrolled in an associate degree program, 29% were enrolled in a bachelor's degree program and 1% were enrolled in a master's degree program.

TABLE 7
FACILITY BY PROGRAM TYPE
POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT
(Population on January 1, 2023)

FACILITY	PROGRAM			TOTAL
	ASSOCIATE DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	MASTER'S DEGREE	
Adirondack	3	0	0	3
Albion (F)	30	0	0	30
Attica	39	15	0	54
Auburn	44	0	0	44
Bedford Hills (F)	67	5	9	81
Cape Vincent	21	0	0	21
Cayuga	49	0	0	49
Clinton	8	0	0	8
Coxsackie	10	0	0	10
Eastern	57	53	0	110
Elmira	19	0	0	19
Fishkill	41	82	0	123
Five Points	33	0	0	33
Franklin	23	0	0	23
Gouverneur	12	0	0	12
Great Meadow	37	0	0	37
Green Haven	54	38	0	92
Greene	45	0	0	45
Groveland	24	0	0	24
Hudson	2	0	0	2
Marcy	20	0	0	20
Midstate	26	0	0	26
Otisville	39	0	0	39
Riverview	0	29	0	29
Shawangunk	45	26	0	71
Sing Sing	1	138	9	148
Sullivan	45	16	0	61
Taconic (F)	40	0	0	40
Wallkill	41	0	0	41
Washington	32	0	0	32
Woodbourne	36	2	0	38
Wyoming	12	0	0	12
TOTAL	955 69.4%	404 29.3%	18 1.3%	1,377 100.0%

*Note: Female facilities denoted with (F).

Table 8 shows the breakdown of individual characteristics amongst incarcerated individuals enrolled in post-secondary education vs. all eligible individuals as of January 1, 2023. It's important to note that while females represented 3% of the post-secondary eligible custody population, they represented 11% of the post-secondary enrolled population.

**TABLE 8
INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS OF POST-SECONDARY ENROLLED
BY POST-SECONDARY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
UNDER CUSTODY ON JANUARY 1, 2023**

	POST-SECONDARY ENROLLED		POST-SECONDARY ELIGIBLE	
SEX				
Male	1,226	89.0%	15,164	96.6%
Female	151	11.0%	540	3.4%
RACE/ETHNIC STATUS				
White	319	23.2%	4,663	29.7%
Black	732	53.2%	7,657	48.8%
Hispanic	270	19.6%	2,832	18.0%
Native American	14	1.0%	168	1.1%
Asian	24	1.7%	60	0.4%
Other	18	1.3%	324	2.1%
FELONY TYPE				
Violent Felony	1,202	87.3%	11,424	72.7%
Other Coercive	63	4.6%	1,246	7.9%
Drug Offenses	75	5.4%	1,674	10.7%
Property and Other Offenses	31	2.3%	1,313	8.4%
Youthful Offenders	1	0.1%	27	0.2%
Juvenile Offenders	5	0.4%	19	0.1%
AGE				
18-21	11	0.9%	217	1.5%
22-24	30	2.2%	569	3.6%
25-29	145	10.5%	1,806	11.5%
30-34	249	18.1%	2,721	17.3%
35-39	267	19.4%	2,502	15.9%
40-49	427	31.0%	3,931	25.0%
50-59	193	14.0%	2,661	16.9%
60 +	55	4.0%	1,297	8.3%
Mean Age	40		41	
NUMBER OF MONTHS SERVED IN STATE CUSTODY				
0-11	25	1.8%	1,864	11.9%
12-17	30	2.2%	1,379	8.8%
18-23	41	3.0%	1,042	6.6%
24-29	46	3.3%	766	4.9%
30-35	35	2.5%	496	3.2%
36-41	31	2.3%	528	3.4%
42-47	34	2.5%	602	3.8%
48-59	79	5.7%	1,159	7.4%
60-71	80	5.8%	1,032	6.6%
72-119	264	19.2%	2,511	16.0%
120-179	264	19.2%	1,788	11.4%
180 Months or More	448	32.5%	2,530	16.1%
Mean Months Served	145		93	
REGION OF COMMITMENT				
New York City	607	44.1%	5,193	33.1%
Suburban New York	178	12.9%	1,697	10.8%
Upstate Urban	342	24.8%	4,800	30.6%
Upstate Other	249	18.1%	4,013	25.6%
TOTAL CASES	1,377	100.0%	15,704	100.0%

*Those missing information are excluded from this table, so some categories do not add to the total.

Post-Secondary Degrees Earned

Academic Years 2013-2022: The Department requires that on-site, post-secondary programs be accredited, credit bearing and leading to a degree. Table 9 shows the number of post-secondary degrees earned by the academic year, which is September 1 to August 31. The 230 degrees earned during the '21-'22 academic year is the highest number during this period and represents a 147% increase since the '13-'14 academic year.

**TABLE 9
NUMBER OF POST-SECONDARY DEGREES EARNED FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR (SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31)
BY DEGREE TYPE**

ACADEMIC YEAR	DEGREE TYPE			TOTAL
	ASSOCIATE	BACHELOR'S	MASTER'S	
2013 / 2014	59	21	13	93
2014 / 2015	72	46	11	129
2015 / 2016	47	10	10	67
2016 / 2017	75	60	11	146
2017 / 2018	144	34	17	195
2018 / 2019	135	39	11	185
2019 / 2020	101	66	9	176
2020 / 2021	168	47	0	215
2021 / 2022	191	34	5	230
% Change '13-'14 to '21-'22	224%	62%	-62%	147%

Return Rates for 2018 First Releases

Table 10 shows the return rates for individuals who were released for the first time on their sentence in 2018 and had participated in an on-site, post-secondary program during that sentence (Post-Secondary Participants). For comparison, Table 10 also shows the number of individuals released for the first time on their sentence in 2018 who had earned at least a High School diploma/ High School Equivalency Diploma but did not participate in on-site, post-secondary programming (Non-Participants). During the 3-year follow-up period, post-secondary participants were much less likely to return to prison than non-participants (10% vs. 24%, respectively).

TABLE 10
RETURN RATES AMONG 2018 FIRST RELEASES
WITH AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/HSE:
POST-SECONDARY PARTICIPANTS AND NON-PARTICIPANTS

2018 RELEASES	TOTAL RELEASES		TOTAL RETURNED		TOTAL RETURNED			
					NEW COURT COMMITMENT		PAROLE VIOLATION	
Post-Secondary Participants	272	3.4%	27	9.9%	3	1.1%	24	8.8%
Non-Participants	7,646	96.6%	1,832	24.0%	360	4.7%	1,472	19.3%
TOTAL 2018 RELEASES	7,918	100.0%	1,859	23.5%	363	4.6%	1,496	18.9%

Future Changes to College Programming at DOCCS

The reinstatement of Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and Pell funding for incarcerated students creates a new definition of a “prison college program” and adds specific requirements for approval, reporting oversight and evaluation of such programs. In order for college-in-prison programs to receive Pell funding for students, they must apply with the US Department of Education to become a Prison Education Program (PEP).

The Department has responsibility for overseeing PEPs, as the Oversight Entity. Specifically, DOCCS will determine whether the college is working in the best interest of all the incarcerated students in college programs by ensuring: 1) that the college provides instructors who possess the same academic qualifications, experience and rates of turnover as the college’s faculty serving non-incarcerated students; 2) the transferability of credits for courses available to confined or incarcerated individuals; and 3) the applicability of credits toward related degree or certificate programs is substantially similar to those at other similar programs at the institution.

Additionally, PEPs must ensure that students are able to transfer all credits and resume studies in a similar program on campus once released, as well as provide tutoring, academic advising, transition advice, and career planning prior to release to assist with their continuation in higher education (either at that institution or at other colleges/universities that are comparable) upon reentry. DOCCS will work with college providers and other stakeholders to establish Pell supported PEPs in our facilities. The Department will also work with colleges to avail restored TAP funding for eligible incarcerated individuals.

Conclusion

The Department has been working with colleges to make post-secondary programming available to incarcerated individuals for nearly 50 years. From the 1970s through the mid-1990s, State and Federal funding and tuition assistance afforded large numbers of individuals to participate in programs and earn post-secondary degrees. Between 1995 and 2002, in the absence of lending and funding, post-secondary programming continued but on a much smaller scale through correspondence programs and privately funded, on-site college programs provided through long standing partnerships with a few colleges. Between 2002 and 2012, the Department utilized grant funding to increase the number of colleges providing on-site programs and access to post-secondary education. By 2014, colleges were holding classes in 20 facilities and providing education to over 1,300 individuals annually. Participation has increased steadily. In 2022, over 2,000 individuals participated in an on-site, post-secondary program. As of January 1, 2023, college was available in 34 of the Department's 44 correctional facilities and the Department is anticipating expanding into additional facilities.

With the goal of increasing the number of individuals participating in on-site post-secondary programs, the Department bases program eligibility on the achievement of a secondary degree and participation in mandatory programs. While about half of the under-custody population meet the basic requirements and are housed at facilities with an on-site program, the amount of time left to serve, and other mandatory programming needs must be considered when estimating the total number of individuals eligible to participate in college. In addition, college entrance exams, interviews, and other program-specific eligibility requirements reduce the total number of individuals eligible to participate to a much smaller population of individuals who are actually able to enroll in an on-site, post-secondary program.

Those participating in on-site, post-secondary programs have different characteristics compared to the eligible under custody population. There are proportionally more females and black males enrolled when compared to the eligible under custody population. Additionally, the enrolled population is comprised of more violent felons than the eligible under custody population which is associated with the greater amount of time served and longer sentence length of those enrolled. Individuals with longer sentences have more time to complete mandatory program requirements allowing for a greater span of time to participate in voluntary programming such as on-site, post-secondary education.

Finally, individuals that participated in an on-site, post-secondary education program were less likely to return to custody than individuals who were college eligible but did not participate in post-secondary education.

APPENDIX:
Descriptions of On-Site College Programs at DOCCS:
As of January 1, 2023 (Part I)

Facility	College Program Description	Funding
Adirondack	North Country Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	Pell
Albion	Medaille College provides college credits towards a certificate and/or an associate degree.	DANY Private
Attica	Genesee Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	Private
Auburn	Cornell University through Cayuga Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DANY Private
Bare Hill	North Country Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	Pell
Bedford Hills	Marymount Manhattan College coordinates the partnership of Bank Street College of Education, Barnard College, Marymount Manhattan College, Mercy College, and Pace University along with support from SUNY New Paltz Foundation. This partnership provides college credits towards associate and bachelor's degrees.	Pell Private
	The New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) provides a Master of Professional Studies program. It is funded through donations.	Private
Cape Vincent	Jefferson Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree (up to 30 Credits).	DANY
Cayuga	Cornell University through Cayuga Community College provides college credits towards a certificate and/or an associate degree.	DANY
Coxsackie	Bard College through Bard Prison Initiative provides credits towards associate and bachelor's degrees. Degrees completed at Woodbourne C.F. or Eastern	DANY Pell Private
Eastern	Bard College through Bard Prison Initiative provides both an associate and bachelor's degree program.	DANY Pell Private
Elmira	Cornell University through Cayuga Community College provides non-degree college credits.	DANY
Fishkill	Nyack College provides college credits towards an associate and bachelor's degrees.	DANY
	Bard College through Bard Prison Initiative provides college credits towards associate and bachelor's degrees. Degrees can also be completed at Woodbourne C.F. or Eastern C.F.	Pell Private DANY
Five Points	Hobart & William Smith Colleges provide credit-bearing programs.	Private
	Cornell University provides college credits towards a certificate and/or an associate degree.	DANY
Franklin	North Country Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	Pell
Gouverneur	Jefferson Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DANY

**Descriptions of On-Site College Programs at DOCCS:
As of January 1, 2023 (Part II)**

Facility	College Program Description	Funding
Great Meadow	Bennington College-Prison Educational Program provides a one-year certificate and credits toward an associate degree. A bachelor's degree is available upon transfer to a facility with the Bard Prison Initiative.	Pell
Green Haven	Bard College through the Bard Prison Initiative provides college credits towards an associate and/or a bachelor's degree program. Degrees completed at Woodbourne C.F. or Eastern C.F.	DANY Pell Private
Greene	Columbia Greene Community College provides college credits towards a bachelor's degree.	Private
Groveland	University of Rochester and Genesee Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	Private
Marcy	Mohawk Valley Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DANY
Mid-State	Herkimer County Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DCJS
Mohawk	Herkimer County Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DCJS
Otisville	John Jay College of Criminal Justice through Borough of Manhattan Community College offers college courses and transfer to the CUNY system upon release.	Pell
Riverview	SUNY Potsdam provides college credits towards a bachelor's degree.	Pell
Shawangunk	Ulster County Community College provides college credits towards an associate degree.	Private
	Mount St. Mary College provides college credits towards a bachelor's degree.	Private
Sing Sing	Hudson Link - Mercy College and Nyack College provide associate and bachelor's degree programs.	DANY Pell
	The New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) provides a Master of Professional Studies program. It is funded through donations.	Private
Sullivan	Hudson Link - Sullivan Community College provides an associate degree program. It is privately funded.	Private
	Hudson Link - St. Thomas Aquinas College provides bachelor's degree programs.	
Taconic	Nyack College provides courses for an associate degree.	Pell
	Bard College through the Bard Prison Initiative provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DANY Pell Private
Walkkill	New York University provides college credits towards an associate degree.	DANY
Washington	Adirondack Community College provides college credits toward an associate degree.	Pell
Woodbourne	Bard College through Bard Prison Initiative provides both an associate and bachelor's degree program.	DANY Pell Private

**Description of Tablet Based College Programs at DOCCS:
As of January 1, 2023 (Part III)**

Facility	College Program Description	Funding
Attica	Ashland University provides a tablet based program providing college credits towards associate and bachelor's degree programs.	Pell
Clinton	Ashland University provides a tablet based program providing college credits towards associate and bachelor's degree programs.	Pell
Hudson	Ashland University provides a tablet based program providing college credits towards associate and bachelor's degree programs.	Pell
Wyoming	Ashland University provides a tablet based program providing college credits towards associate and bachelor's degree programs.	Pell

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