

Correctional Education

Providing Basic Education to Offenders



Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Corrections is to improve public safety.

What We Do

The Department of Corrections is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the State of Washington. This includes state correctional institutions and programs for offenders supervised in the community.

Education of Convicted Adults in State Prisons

The Department of Corrections contracts with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to provide basic skills and vocational certificates in each of the Department's 15 prisons.



Education in State Prisons

Education and vocational programs are offered at each of the state's 15 prisons. Providing offenders with needed education and job training is part of a broader DOC effort to increase public safety and reduce recidivism and the need for more prison bed space. This Re-Entry Initiative addresses the attitudes, behaviors and personal deficits that increase the chance an offender will commit new crimes after release from DOC custody or supervision.

Educational and vocational programs provide offenders with skills and training that make them better equipped to successfully transition back into the community. The programs offered have been identified by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) as effective in reducing recidivism.

Basic Skills Programs

As of April 2008 only 20% of offenders have a verified High School diploma and 52% a verified General Education Development (GED) certificate.

Department of Corrections contracts with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to

provide basic education classes including Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED instruction at each facility.

Adult Basic Education consists of basic reading, writing and mathematics.

English as a Second Language classes teach non-English speaking inmates conversational English, grammar, reading, listening comprehension, writing and vocabulary.

Offender Participation and Completion

- Students completed 1,554 ABE and ESL subject levels in FY 2007
- Students took 7,793 GED subject tests; and earned 1,269 GED certificates.
- An average of 2,046 offenders participated in ABE, ESL and GED classes per quarter in FY 2007.

Offender Enrollment

- 2,046 average quarterly enrollment in basic skills programming
- 3,911 average quarterly waiting list in basic skills programming
- 1,269 inmates completed a GED certificate

Education Testing Data

In FY 2005, more than 14,000 offenders were given a Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) test to determine the average inmate's reading and math grade level.

Reading and Math Grade Level

- Average grade levels for males:
 - o Math grade level = 8.2
 - o Reading grade level = 9.2
- Average grade levels for females:
 - o Math grade level = 7.6
 - o Reading grade level = 9.3

What the Research Says:

Correctional education participants had statistically significant lower rates of re-arrest, re-conviction and re-incarceration.

Offenders who participate in education, vocation, and work programs are employed at a higher rate and recidivate at a lower rate than non-participants.

Not only do recidivism rates decrease, but correctional education can have many other meaningful outcomes such as family stability, workforce participation, and cost savings/benefits.

-Education Reduces Crime, Three-State Recidivism Study, Steurer, 2003

Job Skills and Vocational Education Programs:

Many offenders lack meaningful employment experience and have had a series of part-time, dead-end jobs. A University of Washington Study found 50% of offenders were unemployed prior to incarceration. Department research found that 85% of offenders need job skills, vocational education or job-finding assistance.

DOC is committed to providing vocational programs that develop marketable job skills and instill a positive work ethic for offenders. Offenders can earn state certificates upon completion of some vocational



training programs and local certificates on others. In FY 2007 offenders earned 218 state certificates and 1,295 local certificates.

DOC provides the following vocational programs: Auto Body Technician, Baking, Barbering, Building Maintenance, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Computer Applications Specialist, Computer Services Technician, Electronics Systems Technician, Graphics Arts, Horticulture, HVAC, Information Technology Certification, Interactive Media, Technical Design, Upholstery, and Welding.



Vocational Skills

- 1,831 - Average quarterly enrollment in vocational skills programming
- 3,300 - Average quarterly waiting list in vocational skills programming
- 1,513 - State and local certificates were awarded

For more information:

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Programs offered at each facility:

Ahtanum View Correctional Complex

- o Basic Skills

Airway Heights Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Electronics Technician
 - o Homebuilders Carpentry
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Interactive Media
 - o Upholstery

Cedar Creek Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Building Maintenance
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Modern Drywall
 - o Roofing and Siding

Clallam Bay Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Building Maintenance
 - o Electronic Systems Technology
 - o Information Technology Certificate

Coyote Ridge Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Building Maintenance
 - o Information Technology Certificate

Larch Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Information Technology Certificate

McNeil Island Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Baking
 - o Building Maintenance
 - o Carpentry
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Technical Design
 - o Welding Technology

Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women

- o Basic Skills
- o Vocational Programs
 - o Information Technology Certificate

Monroe Correctional Complex

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Computer Services Technology
 - o Construction Trades
 - o Graphic Arts
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Computer Application Specialist
 - o Interactive Media

Olympic Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Building Maintenance

Pine Lodge Corrections Center for Women

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Office Assistant

Stafford Creek Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Building Maintenance
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Welding Technology

Washington Corrections Center

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Information Technology Certificate

Washington Corrections Center for Women

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Cosmetology
 - o Horticulture
 - o Human Services
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Technical Design
 - o Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC)

Washington State Penitentiary

- Basic Skills
- Vocational Programs
 - o Auto Body Technology
 - o Barbering/Hairstyling
 - o Basic Bookkeeping
 - o Building Maintenance
 - o Carpentry
 - o Computer Applications Specialist
 - o Information Technology Certificate
 - o Welding Technology
 - o Heating, Ventilation, and Air Co