

Improving Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

Education Services

Fact Sheet | October 2025



FY25 HIGHLIGHTS

5,577

5,577 individuals, **40%** of the population, participated in education programs

873

473 High School Diplomas and 400 GED® certificates awarded

1,143

1,143 college academic and vocational certificates awarded

116

116 postsecondary associates (107) and bachelors (9) degrees awarded

IMPACT

✚ Incarcerated people who participate in postsecondary education programs are **48 percent** less likely to recidivate than those who do not. (Vera Institute of Justice, 2020)

✚ **For every dollar invested in education in WA, 19.74 is saved** from reduced recidivism. (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2023)

About

Washington is a national leader in delivering quality educational programming to a significant proportion of the Department of Corrections' incarcerated population. DOC aims to provide basic academic skills, pre-apprenticeship, and postsecondary education programs designed to meet the individual's needs and enhance post-release employment and/or education pathways.

Through a partnership between DOC, the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, colleges and universities, and private partnerships, Washington's correctional education system provides opportunities for incarcerated students to earn a high school equivalency, learn high-wage and high-demand workforce skills, and earn postsecondary certificates and degrees.

✚ Incarcerated individuals are provided education and employment reentry support through a state-wide network of facility- and community-based education reentry navigators.

✚ Program referrals are prioritized based on risk level, individual needs, expected release date, and availability of program resources in alignment with DOC Policy 500.000.

Education Pathways

Each facility offers adult basic education pathways to help individuals obtain high school equivalency. Education pathways include three bachelor's degrees, 18 associate degrees, 31 certificate programs, and nine state-recognized pre-apprenticeship programs. All credit-bearing programs are accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Automotive Mechanics Technology | Bookkeeping | Business Administration and Management | Carpentry | Construction Trades | Computer Numerical Controlled Manufacturing (CNC) | Diesel Technology | Digital Design | Direct-Transfer Degrees Drywall, Roofing, and Siding | Electrical Systems | Entrepreneurship | Facilities Maintenance | Game Design and Development | Graphic Design and Web Development | Hair Design | Horticulture, Floriculture, and Organic Farming | HVAC Technology | Liberal Studies | Pastry and Specialty Baking | Technical Design | Trades Related Coaching | Web Developer Applications | Welding Technology



College & Program Partners

Airway Heights Corrections Center
Spokane Community College
Cedar Creek Corrections Center
Centralia College
Clallam Bay Corrections Center
Peninsula College
Coyote Ridge Corrections Center
Walla Walla Community College
Monroe Correctional Complex
Edmonds College
Olympic Corrections Center
Peninsula College
Stafford Creek Corrections Center
Grays Harbor College
The Evergreen State College
Washington Corrections Center
Centralia College
Washington Corrections Center for Women
Clover Park Technical College
Freedom Education Project Puget Sound
Olympic College
University of Puget Sound
Washington State Penitentiary
Walla Walla Community College

Community Education Partnerships:

Centralia College
Clover Park Technical College
Columbia Basin College
Edmonds College
Lower Columbia College
Northwest Commission on
Colleges and Universities
Pierce College
Renton Technical College
Seattle Central College
Skagit Valley College
Spokane Community College
South Seattle College
The Evergreen State College
University of Washington Tacoma
U.S. Department of Education
Washington Student Achievement
Council
Wenatchee Valley College
Yakima Valley College

Expanding Education Programs

Student Access to Federal and State Financial Aid

In FY24, the legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 5953, allowing students to utilize federal and state financial aid. DOC is partnering postsecondary education institutions to expand educational opportunities up to a bachelor's degree.

DOC initiated a Request for Information from all WA State colleges interested in providing education programs to individuals utilizing Title IV Pell Grant funds and the Washington College Grant.

All financial aid-eligible correction education programs must receive approval from DOC, a national accrediting agency, and the U.S. Department of Education. To date, DOC has approved 10 college academic pathways at seven sites. Five programs have received Prison Education Program approved and are eligible to provide student access to Federal Pell and Washington College Grants.

Enhancing Student Success

Secured Internet Access

To support our college partners in ensuring high-quality educational program delivery, the department has implemented an Off-State Network (OSN) that provides a secure internet system for educational use.

Key features:

- 3,547 active student users as of October 2025
- Access to the JSTOR library and research database
- Online GED® testing services at all 10 facilities
- Expanded access to safe websites for student use
- FY26 expansion to include Wi-Fi capability in classrooms and living units at five facilities

Student Support Services

The department, in collaboration with colleges, has established a process to ensure that students who may have a learning disability are evaluated and provided with appropriate education accommodations through college student disability services.



Contact information:

Janece Levien, M.Ed.
Education Services Administrator
Washington State
Department of Corrections
janece.levien@doc.wa.gov
(360) 480-3720