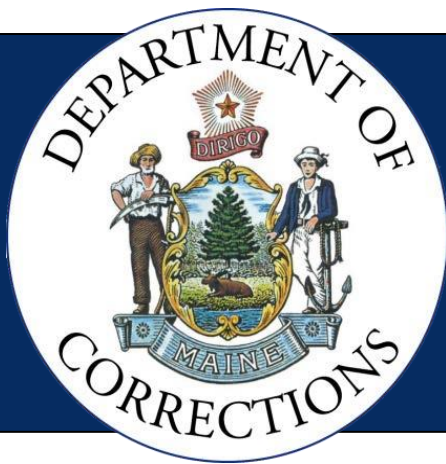


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MDOC College Program



MDOC Programming Division

This publication contains the history of, information about and data for the MDOC college program.

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Summary

For over 20 years, the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) has been providing opportunities for residents to participate in and complete college programming.

Currently, college programming is primarily supported through Second Chance Pell Funding.

Through the University of Maine at Augusta and Washington County Community College, residents are eligible to earn one-year certificates and Associate's or Bachelor's Degrees in multiple tracks.

Residents can also seek alternative funding to enroll in Master's Degree and PhD programs.

In addition, the Department has partnered with MIT's Educational Justice Institute to offer an "inside/outside" model of instruction, which allows MDOC residents to engage in courses with residents in other facilities and MIT students.

With over 130 college degrees awarded since 2009, the college program has had a transformative impact on the culture of corrections and in the mindset of residents.

History

1996 – Doris Buffett established the Sunshine Lady Foundation (SLF), a year after the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act passed, eliminating resident eligibility for Pell Grants and greatly diminishing the ability to pay for college tuition while in prison.

2006 – University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) starts their college program at Maine State Prison (MSP) through the SLF.

2009 – 13 residents at MSP graduate from UMA with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies, funded through the SLF.

2011 – 9 residents at MSP graduate from UMA. 2 of those residents are the first students at MSP to earn a Bachelor's Degree.

2013

- 13 residents at MSP graduate from UMA, with 8 receiving an Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies and 5 receiving Bachelor of Arts Degrees.
- 1 resident at Bolduc Correctional Facility graduates from UMA with an Associate's Degree.

2016

- 17 residents at MSP graduate from UMA, with 9 receiving an Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies and 8 receiving Bachelor of Arts Degrees.
- The University of Maine at Augusta is selected to participate in the Second Chance Pell (SCP) Pilot Program.

2017

- The SCP Program expands post-secondary education opportunities to a second MDOC facility, the Maine Correctional Center (MCC) including the Southern Maine Women's Re-entry Center (SMWRC).

2018

- 5 residents at SMWRC graduate from UMA, 4 funded through the SCP Program and 1 receiving private funding.
- 1 resident at MCC graduates from UMA through SCP Funding.

2019

- 20 residents at MSP graduate from UMA, including SLF and SCP funding. This includes 14 Associate's Degrees and 6 Bachelor's Degrees – the largest MDOC graduation to date.
- 10 residents at MCC graduate from UMA (9 with Associate's Degrees and 1 with a Bachelor's Degree), funded through the SCP Program. This is MCC's first college graduation ceremony.
- 15 female residents graduate at SMWRC: 6 with Associate's Degrees from UMA with SCP funding; 1 with an Associate's Degree from WCCC with private funding; 2 with Bachelor's Degrees from UMA and UMFK with private funding; and 6 from the WCCC MSSC Certified Production Technician Program with private funding.

2020

- 2 residents graduate from BCF. 1 resident graduates with a Bachelor's Degree from UMA with scholarship funding. The first MDOC resident graduates with a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution from George Mason University with scholarship funding.
- Washington County Community College is selected to participate in the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program. Programming will be delivered exclusively online in Entrepreneurship and Business Studies and Production Technology tracks. Programming begins Fall 2020 at the Southern Maine Women's Re-Entry Center with a small cohort.
- 1 resident at Maine Correctional Center graduates with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies, funded through the SCP Program.

- 5 residents graduate at MSP from UMA, with SCP and SLF funding. 2 residents graduate with Associate's Degrees and 3 residents graduate with Bachelor's Degrees.
- MDOC partners with MIT's Educational Justice Institute to offer the first inside/outside class with MDOC residents and MIT students: Nonviolence as a Way of Life.
- 1 resident at Mountain View Correctional Facility graduates with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies, funded through SLF.
- UMA receives approval for Second Chance Pell expansion to all MDOC facilities, including Bolduc Correctional Facility, Mountain View Correctional Facility and the Women's Center. Residents can earn Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees at all facilities.
- On December 21, 2020, Congress votes to lift the ban on Pell Grants for people in prison.

2021 – Washington County Community College expands their SCP Program to Mountain View Correctional Facility.

Current Enrollments

Facility	Active College Programming	Gender	#
BCF	College- Associate's Degree	M	7
	College- Bachelor's Degree	M	1
	College- PhD	M	1
MCC	College- Associate's Degree	F	15
		M	4
	College- Bachelor's Degree	F	2
	College- Master's Degree	F	1
MSP	College- Associate's Degree	M	25
	College- Bachelor's Degree	M	11
	College- Master's Degree	M	1
MVCF	College- Associate's Degree	M	9
Grand Total			77

Graduation Data

College Program	Gender	2009	2011	2013	2016	2018	2019	2020	Total
College- Associate's Degree	F					4	4	11	19
	M	13	7	9	8		27	3	67
College- Bachelor's Degree	F					1	2		3
	M		2	5	7	1	6	5	26
College- Master's Degree	M							1	1
Grand Total		13	9	14	15	6	39	20	116

Certified Production Technology

Washington County Community College, in partnership with the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) and various statewide employers, is offering DOC residents an online Certified Production Technician (CPT) Training Program. Courses are all online, are self-paced, and begin monthly.

Successful completion results in a nationally-recognized certificate from the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council and prepares individuals for entry-level work in the manufacturing industry and/or entry into one-year and Associate degree tracks in Production Technology with 13 credit hours of required coursework.

Since 2019, there have been 9 graduates of the Certified Production Technician Program.

Grants

MDOC is currently a partner in three Grants, which help to support and enhance college programming:

- The **Lumina Grant**, which aims to increase credentials of value for people in Maine, including the incarcerated population. Through the Lumina Grant, MDOC is offering an “Opportunity Ready” microcredential through Eastern Maine Community College as well as a “Computer Support Specialist” microcredential, which provides the opportunity to earn an IC3 and/or CompTIA A+ certification.
- The **Betterment Grant**, through Washington County Community College, which will allow a comprehensive College Transitions Program to be created and offered at all adult facilities. This Grant will also improve technology across MDOC facilities.
- The **Mellon Grant**, in partnership with the University of Maine at Augusta, will provide the first official systemwide support position for the college program – a Prison Education Director. This Grant will also provide the addition of 180 laptops and 20 mobile web-conferencing carts across all MDOC facilities.

Technology

Over the past year, all MDOC adult facilities have increased resident technology access, largely to support college programming. This access has expanded to housing units. College instruction has shifted from in-person to solely remote/online, with facilities offering the majority of classes via web conferencing applications.

Currently, the Department has one internal technology support position at Maine Correctional Center. MDOC program and security staff, OIT, and outside vendors are supporting the need.

All MDOC locations have different student technology infrastructures and access.

- Southern Maine Women’s Reentry Center:
 - 30+ student laptops
 - Unsupervised internet access in the classroom and in housing units
 - Student network in place
- Women’s Center:
 - 5 laptops
 - Limited and directly supervised internet access
 - No student network
- Maine Correctional Center:
 - 20 to 30 student computers/laptops
 - Supervised access to a limited number of websites in school department
 - Student network in place
 - Residents can take laptops to their housing units, no internet access
- Maine State Prison:
 - 50+ student laptops
 - No internet access
 - Student network in place
 - Access to laptops in the housing units; no internet access
- Bolduc Correctional Facility:
 - 6 to 8 student laptops
 - Partially supervised access to a limited number of approved educational websites in education area
 - Student network in place
- Mountain View Correctional Facility:
 - 20+ laptops
 - Supervised and limited internet access in the education department
 - Student network in place

Return to Custody Information

MDOC tracked all residents released from 2010 – 2020 who completed either an Associate’s Degree or Bachelor’s Degree. Since 2010, as of December 31, 2020, there have been 29 male releases with 2 returns (**6.9% return rate**) and 10 female releases with 0

returns (**0% return rate**). This is a total of 39 releases since 2010 and an **overall return rate of 5.1%**.

MDOC Mission

The mission of the Maine Department of Corrections is to reduce the likelihood that juvenile and adult residents will re-offend, by providing practices, programs and services which are evidence-based and which hold the residents accountable.

College programming for residents has become a well-accepted and supported core offering for MDOC residents across all adult facilities. Department staff as well as MDOC's partners are committed to ensuring that college programming and degree/certificate attainment are prioritized, regardless of any barriers.

With the graduation of the first MDOC resident with a Master's Degree to innovative and comprehensive educational technology practices, college programming is changing lives within the MDOC. All involved are willing to challenge the status quo to continue to grow the college program and ensure its success.



Our Mission: The mission of the Department of Corrections is to reduce the likelihood that juvenile and adult residents will re-offend, by providing practices, programs and services which are evidence-based and which hold the residents accountable.