Understanding How Bakersfield College has Developed One of the Largest Face-to-Face Inmate Scholars Program in the State

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SB 1391 (2014)

• Prior to SB 1391, community colleges could not offer in-person courses at state prisons
• Were permitted to offer in-person courses inside local jails
  • However, received funding at lower, non-credit rate (even if offered credit course)
• SB 1391
  • Offer in-person courses in both prisons and jails
  • Fully reimbursed for both credit and non-credit courses
Cost Benefit

- CA taxpayers pay an average of $81,203 a year for each person incarcerated in a state prison
- State revenue to support full-time community college student ~$5,000
- $1 invested in correctional education, research shows a return $4 to $5
- Recidivism rates lower for those who participate in education while incarcerated
- Potential revenue - SCFF
BC’s Inmate Scholars Program

• 2015 pilot program
  • 1 cohort
  • Face-to-face in Level 4 facility (high security)

• BC partnering with 9 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) – about 23,500 inmates
  • 16 yards

• One of largest face-to-face
  • Most are correspondence
Costs

- Paying faculty
  - Mileage
- Faculty safety
  - Creating additional orientation
- Establishing classroom space
- Designating a classroom time
- Chances of canceled class
- Bringing course materials (e.g., books) into the facility
- Paper work – inmates applying to BC and registering for class
- Trauma
Faculty hiring process

- Few accept risk going into prison
- Clearance paperwork
  - Time consuming
  - Could be rejected
Challenges

• Faculty
  • Clearances
  • Violating CDCR rules

• Student
  • Get students out on time – ducat (only way have student movement from cell to program)
  • Eating in class
  • Institutional obstacles

• Structural
  • Drive time
  • Security check-in
  • Class canceled

• Psychological challenges
Logistics

• Course materials
  • Prior approval required
    • Projector
    • Portable speakers
    • Laptop

• Homework
  • Textbook goes with the student
  • Paper
  • Pencils

• Clearance for pens/school supplies
  • Provided by college, prison, or family members

• Grading – all paper
  • Assignments all hand written
Number of Sections, by Fall Term and CDCR

- Central Valley MCCF: *Closing in Fall 2019*
- Corcoran State Prison
- Delano MCCF
- Golden State MCCF
- Kern Valley State Prison
- McFarland Female Community Re-Entry Facility
- North Kern State Prison
- SATF
- Shafter MCCF
- Wasco State Prison

- Fall 2017 = 32
- Fall 2018 = 59
- Fall 2019 = 64

DOUBLED!
FTES, by Academic Year

Note: 2019-20 is a projection

230% growth in 4 years
Headcount, by Term
Census Enrollment, by Term
Race/Ethnicity

- African American/Black: 23% (ISP), 4% (BC)
- Asian: 3% (ISP), 5% (BC)
- Latinx: 48% (ISP)
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 1% (ISP), 0% (BC)
- White: 16% (ISP), 17% (BC)
- Unknown/Other: 9% (ISP), 3% (BC)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td>83.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Summer 2018</td>
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<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
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Upcoming

• **Predictive Loop Schedule:** Beginning in Spring 2020, ISP will implement a re-occurring six-semester long schedule of classes (aka Predictive Loop Schedule) that will give the students the opportunity of completing an ADT in both Communications and Psychology. ISP will pilot this Predictive Loop Schedule on at least one of the sixteen prison yards that we serve.

• **J-Pay Tablets:** We will be piloting the use of J-Pay tablets that will mimic the function and feel of online coursework. Our current plan is to use this added instructional methodology as a hybrid option in conjunction with face-to-face classes.

• **Culinary Arts Certificate Program:** Beginning in Spring 2020, ISP will restart the Culinary Arts Certificate program at McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility. Fifteen students will be selected to enter the 18-month program.

• **Technology Mediated Instruction Discussions with CDCR:** ISP will be initiating discussions with CDCR and individual prisons about the possibility of bringing more technology-mediated instruction inside the prisons.
Student stories
Students finished program
Contact Us

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