Second Chance Pell & Prison Education Programs

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Agenda

- Why Prison Education?
- History of Second Chance Pell
- Prison Education Programs (PEPs)
- Program Structure & Process
- Partnerships Needed
- Pell Nuts & Bolts
- Resources, Questions & Contact Information
History of Second Chance Pell
History of Second Chance Pell (SCP)

- Pell Grant eligibility for Adults in Custody (AIC) was ended in 1994
- Second-Chance Pell Experiment began in 2015; Chemeketa was one of 67 programs in the original experiment
- Experiment was expanded multiple times to a total of 200 schools
- Over 7,000 credentials earned through spring 2022 under SCP

Prison Education Programs (PEP)

- The FAFSA Simplification Act passed in 2021 reinstating Pell eligibility for incarcerated students starting in the 2023-24 school year
- Negotiated Rulemaking Fall 2021 on Prison Education Programs
- Department of Education issued final rules October 27, 2022 to take effect July 1, 2023
PEP Requirements - Accreditation

- Accrediting Agency and the US Department of Education must approve an institution’s first prison education programs at the first two correctional facilities where the institution operates.
  - Must include a site visit
  - Thorough review to ensure education meets same standards as substantially similar programs offered outside of prison
  - Add additional location to your ECAR

PEP Requirements - Oversight Entities

- The state department of corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons is generally the oversight entity that must:
  - Assess & approve prison education programs
  - Collect and review feedback on the programs from all concerned stakeholders, including incarcerated individuals
  - Consider key program inputs & details about program operations such as whether instructors and credit transfer options are similar for incarcerated and non-incarcerated students
Expanded definition

- Previously the Pell Grant prohibition only applied to adults in custody of a state or federal prison
- New definition is broader in scope and encompasses juvenile justice facilities as well as people in custody at a county or local jail

Prison Education Implementation

- Program of study
- Curriculum
- Modality
  - Online
  - In person
  - Hybrid
  - Correspondence (not an option)
- Restrictions from DOC-May vary by state or facility
It’s not just a financial aid thing…

- How do you offer courses?
  - In-Person
    - Need to take into consideration space, faculty staffing levels, and if the facility will allow it
    - Faculty/Instructors that visit the correctional facility will need to go through additional requirements for badge access
  - New Learning Management Software (LMS) System for Tablets/Laptops
    - Students may not have internet access and if they do it is very limited
    - Courses will need to be built in an LMS System that is allowed/approved by the correctional facility
    - Institution may need to provide students the tablets or laptops
    - What kind of tech support will the students receive from the LMS Vendor?
- Hybrid

It’s not just a financial aid thing…

- Admissions Office
  - Paper applications?
- Registrar’s Office
  - Paper registration forms?
- Advising Center
  - Picking appropriate classes and being realistic about abilities
- Student Accounts (Billing Office)
  - Special billing codes
  - Sponsored payments
It’s not just a financial aid thing…

- Bookstore
  - How are participants going to order?
  - How are they going to deliver?
- School library
  - Is there a plan in place to offer additional materials?
- E Learning Services/IT
  - Special copy of Canvas
  - Are there functionalities that are not allowed?
  - Provide a list of required web addresses
- Faculty groups
  - Need to have buy in

It’s not just a financial aid thing…

- Dean’s Office
  - What classes will be offered?
  - Who will teach the classes?
  - How will they be taught?
- President’s Office
  - PR win!
- Legal
  - Can you do that?
- Department of Corrections/Individual Prison Staff
  - No way for a program to succeed without internal DOC buy-in and partnership
FAFSA Application for SCP

- FAFSA Application
  - Who will be assisting the students in completing the application?
  - Consider if FERPA releases may be needed

PEP Pell Limitations

- Regular Pell Grant calculations & eligibility apply
- Pell Grant no more than actual Tuition, Fees, Books, Supplies, Equipment and Licensure Costs
- No excess Pell Grant refund to student
- Pell Grant may be insufficient to cover amounts due
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) applies as normal
Prison Education Pell Reporting

- Reporting for the experimental site is required
  - Monthly reporting
  - Annual reporting
- 2022-23 Annual Reporting requirements
- Work with your institution and DOC to ensure you can gather the required student data for reporting purposes
Resources

Department of Education
• 2023 Virtual FSA Conference Session BO11 – Update on Prison Education Programs

Federal Student Aid Prison Education Program Resources
• https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/prison-education-programs

Vera Institute of Justice (www.vera.org)
• General resources related to incarceration and Prison Education Programs

Contact Information & Contributors

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Thank You!