



## SUNY'S VISION OF EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR INCARCERATED NEW YORKERS

The State University of New York is committed to educational equity for all New Yorkers. With the reinstatement of Pell and TAP funding, and in collaboration with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and other identifiable stakeholders, SUNY seeks to increase and expand incarcerated individuals access to quality post-secondary education, both during and after incarceration.

SUNY institutions provide incarcerated students fair and inclusive access to higher education programs that meet the same high academic standards and offer student supports equivalent to those available to other SUNY students. To achieve equity between all SUNY students, incarcerated or not, the following principles shall guide the design, implementation, and metrics for success of SUNY's programs inside prisons, jails, and federal correctional facilities in New York State:

1. Uphold the integrity of our educational missions by offering incarcerated students courses that meet the same high standards of academic rigor, curriculum coverage, and overall quality as those available to non-incarcerated students.
2. Maintain good standing with regional accreditation agencies by guarding the independence of our educational mission while working within a correctional facility setting.
3. Offer courses counting towards a degree or other community credential that can be completed either in prison or in the community.
4. Offer courses that meet the requirements of regular and substantive student interaction with instructors.
5. Incarcerated students must be given an opportunity to grow into a community of collaborative learners and colleges need to provide space for student to have meaningful peer-to-peer interaction inside and outside of the classroom. This includes creating opportunities for student leadership and student voices to help build and sustain a sense of community and maintain methods for collecting student evaluations and recommendations regarding program design and quality.
6. Employ instructors who meet the same academic qualifications as the institution's faculty serving non-incarcerated students. College-in-prison faculty shall receive specialized training and professional development to manage the challenges presented by the prison setting.
7. Employ appropriately qualified program administrators with a regular presence inside the facility to fulfill program coordination responsibilities, serve as a regular point of contact with incarcerated students, provide academic advising and access to students supports, recruit and support faculty, and serve as a liaison between the campus and corrections partners.

8. Ensure that program outreach and admission processes are transparent, fair, and open to all qualified and motivated incarcerated persons. This means offering placement testing as part of the enrollment process and providing remedial coursework sufficient to ensure equitable access to college programs.
9. Give students fair and realistic access to financial aid by informing them about eligibility, benefits, and requirements, and by offering support in their applications for financial assistance while they are incarcerated and after release.
10. Assist incarcerated students seeking to continue their education after their release from prison in planning and applying to institutions in the communities to which they will return.
11. Provide on-site student support services such as orientation, advising, re-entry planning, office hours, tutoring, and access to library materials and other academic resources.
12. Colleges should welcome their own formerly incarcerated students from the correctional facility onto their campus upon release. Credits should be fully transferred and students should be able to continue the same programs.
13. Protect student identities as incarcerated or formerly incarcerated persons from all unnecessary disclosures on campuses and in communications and media materials regarding the program, unless the student provides specific and informed consent.