

Education Benefits Individuals, Improves Post-Release Employment and Decreases Recidivism Rates

The credit and noncredit programs offered to incarcerated individuals by nine of Iowa's 15 community colleges provide tangible benefits to individuals, allow for post-release success in employment and significantly decrease recidivism rates.

Over 21.6% of Iowa's 5,284 incarcerated population who were released during calendar year 2018 received education through an Iowa community college between 2012-2018 in a variety of credit and noncredit programs, including adult education, agriculture, business, transportation and logistics, health science, manufacturing and more.

Comparative Demographics

As compared to nonstudents, students in the cohort tend to be male and significantly younger and more racially diverse than their peers.



88.5% of students were male compared to **85.2%** of nonstudents.



22.7% of students were under 25 years compared to **14.4%** of nonstudents.



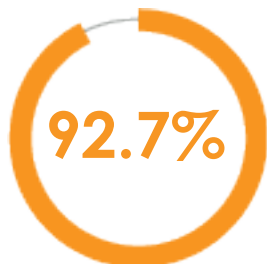
37.5% of students were of a racial or ethnic minority group compared to **29.1%** of nonstudents.

Reduced Recidivism

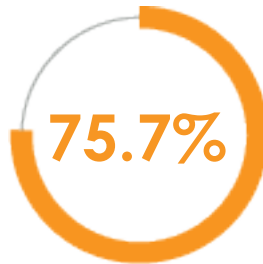
Lower rates of recidivism is in direct correlation with taking college classes while incarcerated.



21.6% of the 2018 cohort were involved in education while incarcerated.



Of those who took courses while incarcerated, **92.7%** had not re-offended.



Of those who did not take courses while incarcerated, **75.7%** had not re-offended.

Top 10 Class & Types of Offence

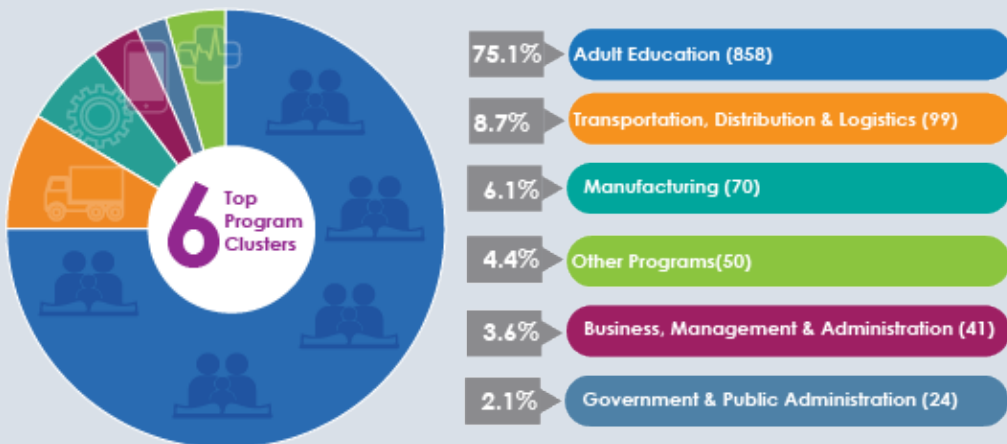


Incarcerated Iowans who were involved in a community college educational program, distributed by class and type of offence.



Top Program Areas

During the examined period, the incarcerated individuals mostly participated in the following six credit and noncredit programs. Overwhelmingly, participants took courses in adult education.



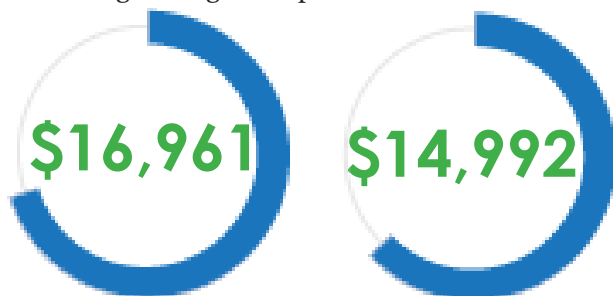
Highest Employment Rates by Program Area



Of the post-release students employed one year following program exit, the highest percentages (100) were among those who received education in architecture and construction area.

Employment Comparisons

One year post release, individuals with with a college education were employed at higher rates and earned higher wages compared to those without a college education.



70% of former students were employed in the first year following release, earning \$16,961 on average.

63% of individuals without a college education were employed in the first year following release, earning \$14,992 on average.



Earnings

Earnings in the first year following release vary based on a number of factors, including the volume of education, type of program and employer demand. Thus, depending of the type of programs, earnings ranged from manufacturing (\$22,516) to hospitality and tourism (\$12,255). The following examples provide median annual wages for the top three earning programs

Manufacturing

\$22,516



Architecture & Construction

\$20,848



Business, Management & Administration

\$20,223



Full report coming soon:

Iowa Community College Impact on Offenders Released



COMMUNITY COLLEGES & WORKFORCE PREPARATION
PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION

IOWA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT