

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE'S SECOND CHANCE COLLEGE PROGRAM

Background

On June 26, 2016, the University of Baltimore was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Grant Experimental Sites Initiative. UB was among 67 other colleges/universities selected nationwide to offer a post-secondary correctional education program through federal Pell Grant funding. During the 2017-18 academic year, we served 52 freshman and sophomore students.

Corrections Partnership

UB's program is offered at Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI), a medium/maximum security prison for men located 25 minutes from UB. JCI houses our students in a separate residential unit designated for program participants.

Mentorship

UB has developed a mentorship and tutoring program for the JCI students. Our mentors/tutors are incarcerated men at JCI who are active leaders and role models in the prison. Many of the mentors have a college education and are strongly committed to higher education.

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Outcomes

The objective of this initiative is to provide post-secondary education to incarcerated students prior to release, therefore reducing the likelihood of recidivism and improving outcomes for educational and employment success.

Educational Program

Students at JCI are engaged in general education coursework. They take two to three courses each semester, and participate in 10 hours of weekly study hall sessions where they have access to computers, tutoring, mentoring and academic counseling. The students are working toward a bachelor's degree in human service administration, with an option to minor in entrepreneurship.

Pathway to Campus

UB's program model will allow most students to begin their coursework at JCI and transition to the UB campus once released. We believe it is an important reentry strategy to have students immediately attend classes at UB, while receiving support services to assist with their transition. Our reentry support services include case management, referral services, job assistance, advocacy during court/parole hearings and academic support services on campus.