

Equipping Individuals for Life Beyond Bars

The Promise of Higher Education & Job Training in Closing the Gap in Skills for Incarcerated Adults

HIGHER EDUCATION IN PRISON

1 While an overwhelming majority of those in federal and state prisons will rejoin society, many are released without the necessary education and skills to obtain gainful employment upon reentry.

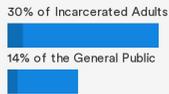
Expected time to release

■ Less than 6 months ■ 6 to 12 months ■ 1 to 2 years ■ 2 to 5 years ■ More than 5 years ■ Never



Adults whose highest level of education is less than a high school equivalence

■ Grades 1-6 ■ Grades 7-9



Source: New America Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), U.S. National Supplement: Prison Study 2014, U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014 Household Survey (public use file).
NEW AMERICA

2 However, completing a postsecondary credential while incarcerated significantly reduces and even eliminates the gap in skills

	Average Literacy Score	Average Numeracy Score
General Public	270	255
No Further Education Completed During Incarceration	246	216
Completed a Postsecondary Credential During Incarceration	273*	256*

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from the comparison category, either the incarcerated population who did not complete additional levels of education during prison or those who did not participate in correctional job training.

Source: New America Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), U.S. National Supplement: Prison Study 2014, U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014 Household Survey (public use file).

NEW AMERICA

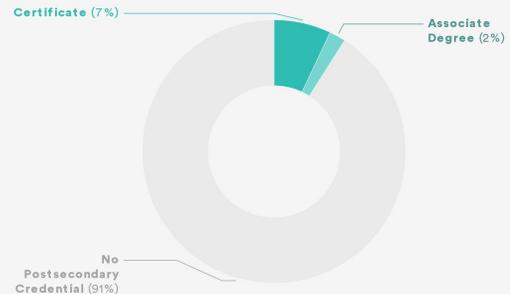
3 On average, students who complete a college credential in prison score 26 points higher in literacy and 38 points higher in numeracy than incarcerated adults who do not.



Source: New America Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), U.S. National Supplement: Prison Study 2014, U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014 Household Survey (public use file).
NEW AMERICA

Source: New America Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), U.S. National Supplement: Prison Study 2014, U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014 Household Survey (public use file).
NEW AMERICA

4 Although postsecondary education equips adults with the critical skills necessary for employment, fewer than 10 percent complete a postsecondary credential while in prison.



Source: New America Analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), U.S. National Supplement: Prison Study 2014, U.S. PIAAC 2012/2014 Household Survey (public use file).

NEW AMERICA