

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

94% of adults will be released

57% will be released within two years

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

■ Grades 1-6 ■ Grades 7-9

30% of Incarcerated Adults

14% of the General Public

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).
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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).

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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.



26 points higher for literacy

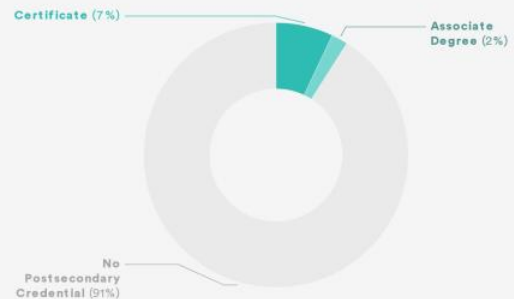


38 points higher for numeracy

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).
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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 (public use file).

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