



Overview of the Indiana Prison Education Program (IPEP)

With the July 2023 Federal Pell Grant expansion to eligible students enrolled in prison education programs, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) launched the Indiana Prison Education Program (IPEP) to enhance educational opportunities for Pell Grant-eligible individuals within Indiana’s correctional facilities. The primary goal of IPEP is to increase postsecondary credential attainment and post-release transition support for program participants enrolled in approved certificate, associate, and bachelor’s degree programs. IPEP programs complement and build upon other types of training programming offered within IDOC facilities, all of which equip participants with essential skills and knowledge that can significantly improve their job prospects upon re-entry into society.

Approved IPEP Providers and Programs (as of November 2024)

Provider	Program(s)
Holy Cross College	Associate and Bachelor’s of Arts in Liberal Arts
Indiana Wesleyan University	Certificate in Business Practices
Indiana Tech	Certificate in Business
Ivy Tech Community College	Certificates in Automotive Technology and Business Administration
Marian University/University of Notre Dame	Associate and Bachelor’s of Arts in Liberal Arts

IPEP Consortium

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) has partnered with IDOC to establish an IPEP Consortium consisting of the colleges and universities with approved IPEP programs. The purpose of the Consortium is to assist the development and operation of high-quality prison education programs and related reentry supports. Since July 2024, the Consortium has convened twice and has fostered a strong sense of community among providers who had previously never met. These meetings have allowed participants to share operational updates, discuss details of upcoming cohorts, and address challenges and hindrances through collaborative problem-solving exercises. Moreover, the consortium has enabled members to engage with CHE’s Business Intelligence team to initiate meaningful conversations around data collection, laying the groundwork for a more effective assessment of educational outcomes and program impacts. This sense of community and shared mission makes stakeholders feel connected and part of a larger, impactful initiative.

The consortium is also focused on collecting information to assemble best practices for program operations, further enhancing the effectiveness of IPEP across the state. IPEP aims to empower justice-involved individuals to chart a positive course for their futures by building connections among educational providers and facilitating knowledge exchange. This collaborative approach ensures that programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of participants while maximizing the resources available. Through its comprehensive strategies and collective efforts, IPEP transforms the lives of its participants and supports broader community goals of reducing recidivism and fostering successful reentry into society.