

The Prison Education Project



Summer Session Course Outlines

Introduction to College

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the process of applying and succeeding in college.

Week 1	Choosing a College, Choosing a Major, Vocational Education Majors & Careers
Week 2	The College Application Process; Accessing Campus Resources
Week 3	Financial Aid, Scholarships; Applying for the Pell Grant, Enrolling with the Department of Rehabilitation for Financial Assistance for College or Vocational Training e.g. Truck Driving School
Week 4	Introduction to The Campus Environment, Lectures, Assignments, Exams, Canvas, Blackboard
Week 5	Getting Involved in College; Various Organizations on Campus; Organizations for formerly incarcerated students Project Rebound at CSUs, Rising Scholars at Community Colleges, Underground Scholars for the UC system
Week 6	Understanding the College Transfer Process; Understanding the Different Levels of Higher Education

Introduction to College Success

(for youth already enrolled in college)

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the process of applying and succeeding in college.

Week 1	Accessing Campus Resources: Academic Advising, EOP, Disability Services, The Library, Tutoring, Student Life, and Leadership
Week 2	The Mechanics of Writing Essays and Making Study Outlines
Week 3	Time Management; Study Strategies; The Challenges of Reading, Writing Essays
Week 2	Set and Monitor Personal and Academic Goals; Inventory of Academic Strengths and Weaknesses
Week 3	Strategies for Being Effective in Science and Math Courses
Week 4	Create an Effective Time Management and Organizational System
Week 5	Apply Learning Strategies and Study Skills to Enhance Learning
Week 6	Developing Soft Skills, Emotional Intelligence, Networking, Follow Through

Career Development

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the process of career development.

Week 1	Orientation; Introductions; Ice-Breaker; Discussion of Personality, Interests, Values
Week 2	Community College & Vocational Education Opportunities
Week 3	Financial Aid, Scholarships, Applying for College
Week 4	Developing a Resume
Week 5	Social Networking; Searching for Felon-Friendly Jobs/Careers
Week 6	Interview Skills/Mock Interviews; Overcoming Challenges

Introduction to Soft Skills

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the importance of soft skills.

Week 1	Communication Skills: Face-to-Face Interaction, Humor, Small Talk, Body Language, Nonverbal Communication, Being Sensitive to Offensive Language
Week 2	Conflict Resolution, Conflict Styles; Escalation v. De-Escalation of Conflicts; Diplomacy
Week 3	Teamwork, Emotional Intelligence, Understanding Different Personalities
Week 4	Adaptability, Transitions, Mundane Tasks and Motivation, Goal-Setting
Week 5	Problem-Solving, Understanding Underlying Causes of Problems, Critical Observation
Week 6	Leadership Skills, Employee Skills, Taking Initiative, Punctuality

Introduction to Financial Literacy

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the fundamentals of Money Management & Financial Literacy.

Week 1	Being Financially Accountable; Budgeting; Balancing a Check Book; Opening a Bank Account; Buying a Car (used v. new); Grocery Shopping
Week 2	Money Management; The Concept of Credit; the FICO Score; The Dangers of Credit Cards; The Importance of Saving; Bad Spending Habits; Debt; Making Money v. Wasting Time
Week 3	Getting an Apartment, Renting, The Benefits of Transitional Housing, the Process of Buying a Home, County Welfare Benefits; Food Stamps
Week 4	Paying for College; Financial Aid, Scholarships; Signing up with Department of Rehabilitation for Financial Support for Education & Training

Week 5	Jobs v. Careers; Certificate & AA Degree Programs, Salaries
Week 6	Opportunity Costs, Investments, Real Estate, Understanding the Stock Market
Introduction to College Math	
Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the intricate dynamics of college math.	
Week 1	Introduction; Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Exponential Notation and Order of Operations, Rounding Whole Numbers
Week 2	Fractions: Multiplication of Fractions and Mixed Numbers, Division of Fractions and Mixed Numbers, Least Common Multiple and Greatest Common Factor, Writing Equivalent Fractions
Week 3	Fractions: Addition of Fractions and Mixed Numbers, Subtraction of Fractions and Mixed Numbers Order, Exponents and the Order of Operations Agreement
Week 4	Decimals: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Rounding Decimals Comparing and Converting Fractions and Decimals
Week 5	Ratio, Rate, Proportion, Percent Equations, Percent Applications; English-Metric Measurement Conversions; Mean, Median, Mode
Week 6	Pictographs, Circle Graphs, Bar graphs, Line Graphs, Histograms and Frequency Distribution
Building Healthy Relationships	
Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the dynamics of building healthy relationships.	
Week 1	The Building Process; Communication; Working on One's Self; Patience
Week 2	The Power of Love, Empathy, and Forgiveness
Week 3	The Power of Humility; Accepting Blame; Second Chances
Week 4	Conflict Resolution & Accepting Differences and Different Perspectives
Week 5	The Importance of Safety, Honesty, Trust, and Respect
Week 6	The Importance of Sacrifice, Loyalty, Compromise, and Happiness
Creative Writing	
Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the fundamentals of creative writing.	
Week 1	The Fundamentals of Writing: Title, Introduction, Body, Conclusion
Week 2	The Art of Storytelling; Brainstorming Words & Ideas
Week 3	Inventing the Story; Using your Imagination
Week 4	Telling the Story; Description, Character Development, Details

Week 5	Metaphors, Simile, Hyperbole, Personification
Week 6	Plot: Foreshadowing, Suspense, Conflict, Crisis, Resolution; Introspection & Reflection (Presentation of Work in Class)
Creative Expression	
Objective: To teach in-custody students the dynamics of Self-Expression, Creativity, and the Fundamentals of Artistic Practice.	
Week 1	Self-Expression, Creativity, and the Fundamentals of Artistic Practice
Week 2	Expressing Impulsive Thoughts and Overwhelming Feelings Through Art
Week 3	Brainstorming, Ideas, Imagination; Giving Shape to Ideas
Week 4	Introspection, Reflection, Metaphors; Telling Your Own Story
Week 5	Performance Art, Graphic Art, Graffiti, Tattoos; Create the Cover of Your Music Album
Week 6	Poetry, Musical Lyrics, Songwriting, Rap, Spoken Word; Student Presentations
Introduction to STEM Fields	
Objective: To introduce in-custody students to an array of disciplines in the STEM fields.	
Week 1	Students' Background, Academic Interests, Major (classes taken; careers)
Week 2	Introduction to Chemistry and Biology
Week 3	Introduction to Physics and Engineering
Week 4	Introduction to Mathematics
Week 5	Careers in the STEM Fields
Week 6	Current Topics/Events in the STEM Fields
Introduction to Law School: Understanding the Law & Legal Theory	
Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the process of going to law school, understanding legal theory, and the process of becoming a lawyer.	
Week 1	What is Law School? How do you get into law school? How do you become a lawyer? What are the different types of lawyers?
Week 2	Understanding Key Terms and Concepts in Law
Week 3	Examining the Ways in which Law Shapes Society and Society Shapes Law
Week 4	How the Law is Influence by People, Interest Groups, Politics, and Social Institutions
Week 5	Understanding Criminal Law v. Civil Law?
Week 6	The Different Ways People Perceive the Law and the Legal System

Introduction to Psychology: How the Brain Works

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the anatomy of the brain and how it functions.

Week 1	Introduction to Basic Concepts; Functions of the Brain; The Problems of Dualism
Week 2	Behaviorism: Philosophical and Psychological; The Identity Theory; “Is Consciousness a Brain Process?”
Week 3	Functionalism: The Casual Theory of the Mind; “The Nature of Mental States
Week 4	Variations on Functionalism: The Continuity Levels of Nature; Putting the Function back in Functionalism
Week 5	Privileged Access and the Problem of Other Minds; Mental Representation and Intentionality; The Semantics of Mental States; The Intentional Stance; Real Patterns & Intentional Systems
Week 6	Neurophilosophy; Understanding the Phenomenal Mind; What experience teaches.

Honeybee Biology & Beekeeping

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the biology, ecology, and management of honey bees.

Week 1	Give a Basic Overview of the History of Beekeeping and Development of Modern Beekeeping Practices
Week 2	Honeybee Anatomy, Physiology, and Social Structure
Week 3	Explaining the Similarities and Differences Between Honey Bees and Other Bee Species; Discuss the Different Types of Social Interactions in Insects
Week 4	Pests, Diseases, Pollination Ecology; Performing a Basic Hive Inspection
Week 5	Management, Breeding, Current Topics in Beekeeping
Week 6	Exploring a Career in Beekeeping

Introduction to Ethics

Objective: To introduce in-custody students to the philosophy of ethics, morality, right v. wrong, legitimacy, justice, and cultural relativism.

Week 1	Orientation; Introduction to Basic Principles in Ethics
Week 2	What is Philosophy? Expressivism and Subjectivism
Week 3	Ethics and Theology; What is Moral Relativism?
Week 4	Introduction to the Principles of Morals; The Allegory of the Cave
Week 5	Alienation, Integrity, and Morality
Week 6	Virtue Ethics, Character, and The Moral Education Theory

