Prison Education Programs Second Chance Pell

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Wisconsin Association
of Student Financial Aid
Administrators

About You

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Madison Area Technical College

- Experimental Site Initiative for Second Chance Pell (SCP)
  - Started ESI application & support documentation in 2019
  - AY21, initial target was Spr21
  - 1st cohort started Sum21
    - 12 students received SCP
  - Spr23
    - 70 students received SCP
    - 1 student fully funded by non-title IV aid
  - Summer 23
    - Will begin 1st cohort of Associates Degree

How will you run your program?

- Program selection

- Online, face-to-face and/or hybrid

- Selecting a location(s) and recruitment goals

- Dedicated staff

- Site visits

- Virtual meetings

- College processes adjustments

Know limitations – How will you overcome?

No online access

- College application

- Placement exam

- Transcripts

- Course enrollment/withdrawal

Space and technology

- Physical space required
  - Meetings, material storage
- DOC-dedicated LMS
  - Functionality
  - Training and cost
- Clearbooks
  - Docking station access
  - RHU?

Running the program

Class set up

- Dedicated SCP sections

- No Publisher access

- Limited research

- Google instead of Microsoft

Costs

- Tuition

- Technology

- Textbooks and materials

- Other costs?
  - Application, transcripts, graduation, etc.

Expect the unexpected

Movement

- Educational holds

- Disciplinary actions

- Physical and digital content if transferred and/or released

Other considerations

- Class materials approval

- Shutdowns

- Staff shortage

- Technology issues

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Wisconsin Prison Data (Jan 2023)

https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/DataResearch/DAIMonthEndDB.aspx

Incarcerated

- 20,528
  - 93.7% males and 6.3% females
  - 40.4 average age
- Race/Ethnicity
  - 52.8% White
    - 80.2% state population (66%)
  - 40.6% Black
    - 6.4% state population (634%)
  - 5.3% American Indian
    - 0.9% state population (588%)
  - 1.2% Asian
    - 3.1% state population (39%)
  - 10.4% Hispanic or Latino
    - 7.5% state population (139%)

Community Custody Supervision

- 63,672
  - 80.2% males and 19.8% females
  - 39.2 average age
- Race/Ethnicity
  - 66.6% White
  - 26.8% Black
  - 4.8% Native American
  - 1.4% Asian
  - 9% Hispanic or Latino
- 6,577 released in 2022

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Wisconsin Prison Data (Jan 2023)

Incarcerated

- 20,528
  - 19,229 males and 1,299 females
  - 40.4 average age
- Time left to serve
  - 21.3 % <1 year
  - 16.1 %   1 to <2 years
  - 23%   2 to <5 years
  - 39.6%   5+ years

Education

- 3%   < 9th grade
- 26.3% >9th but no HSED
- 45.9% HSED/GED
- 17%   Some College
- 6.9%   Associates+
- 0.8%   Unknown

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Second Chance Pell

Getting Started & Expectations

- Partnering with DOC leadership to get commitment
  - Letter of Interest from WI Dept of Corrections
- Working with accreditation agency to approve the instruction
  - Higher Learning Commission to offer distance education courses and programs
- Communicating and partnering with VERA
- Partnering on campus with ReEntry, Admissions, Records, Student Financials, Faculty, Technology Services
- Completing forecasting for initial start up of program
- Amendment to PPA to participate in the Pell for students who are incarcerated experiment under ESI
- Monthly & Annual reports on participants and student success

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Second Chance Pell

- FA staff outreach to DOC sites
  - Background check & follow DOC protocols that limits computer and phone access at most sites when visiting to assist students
  - FSA ID creation
  - FAFSA filed electronically with DOC computers
    - Unable to use IRS DRT
    - Dependent Students can only complete to a point, then parent needs to complete their section, then back and forth for FSA ID signatures
    - Parent outreach & workshops

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Second Chance Pell

- FSA IDs
    - Gmail accounts
    - Madison College email accounts
    - Students
    - Parents (dependent students)
    - Student signed consent on file to work with parents
    - Codes sent to email to verify accounts/DOC access to emails
    - Deactivated FSA IDs in future AYs

Second Chance Pell

- FA staff outreach to DOC sites
  - Loan Default & Rehabilitation
  - Dependency Status with juvenile detention center
  - Verification & C-codes
  - Appeals
    - Dependency Overrides
    - Special Circumstances
    - SAP
  - State Aid, Veterans Benefits or Tribal Aid inquiries

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Second Chance Pell

- Paper documents
  - V4 & V5 Statement of Educational Purpose
    - DOC Partners are authorized to review an applicant's identity for the V4 & V5 forms
    - Mail to Madison College "wet signatures"
    - Copy of unexpired DOC ID
    - Black or Blue Ink
  - V1 waiver currently in place, otherwise 4506T for tax transcripts
  - C-code documentation
  - Default status, currently utilizing Fresh Start program; otherwise work with Ascendium, student and DOC partners to rehabilitate student loans which can take minimum of 6 months of repayment, but usually closer to 9 before student eligible for FA

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- Ascendium
  - Consent to release form
  - Loan Rehabilitation Income and Expense Information form
  - FA staff upload forms once completed to Ascendium portal
  - FA staff coordinate 1-hour Teams meeting with DOC coordinator, student and Ascendium
  - Additional meeting with Ascendium & Diversified Management Collection Systems
    - Student qualifications and conditions of repayment
    - Student makes 6 on-time monthly payments (if no income, min is $5 month)
    - DMCS will send rehab letter
    - NSLDS will update

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Second Chance Pell

- Campus Logic/VerifyMyFAFSA portal
  - C-code & Verification documentation uploaded into the VMF portal since students do not have access
  - Create Verified Student in portal
  - Upload docs
  - Reviewed in normal process as all other student files
  - Dependency Overrides, Special Circumstances and SAP appeals are uploaded to VMF or OnBase to be reviewed in normal process like all student files

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Second Chance Pell

- PeopleSoft Updates & Reviews
  - Student Group: ECP Second Chance Pell
  - No Refund, Negative Service Indicator: SCP Recipient
  - No Prog checklist--(HS/GED documentation still needed)
  - Second Chance Pell item type created
    - Does not round like normal Pell item type does as disburse to cent
    - Easier for reporting and fund management purposes
  - MFGEN comment
  - User Edit Message (UEM)
  - Manual Package

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Second Chance Pell

- Pell Recalculation Date (PRD)
  - Adjust to actual costs: Tuition, Fees, Books/Supplies only
  - Not eligible for any refund, unless COVID funding
- Process HEAB or outside aid disbursements
- Remove UEM to allow aid to disburse
- Work with DOC partners and SCP team if any student withdraws for R2T4 calculation and balance due notification to student
- Communicate SAP statuses at end of each semester

Second Chance Pell

- Other ESI requirements
  - Monthly Reports
  - Annual Report
  - ECAR/PPA
- Key Partnerships
  - Department of Corrections
    - Education Coordinators
    - Pell Coordinators
    - IT
  - Ascendium
  - College Depts-Admissions, Records, Faculty, Tech Services

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SCP Improvements

Reactivation of FSA IDs

- Email to US Dept of Education
  - Completed form, copy of DOC ID and student email address

Resetting an FSA ID
This statement certifies that I _____ (Print Name), _____(Print Social Security Number), _____(Print Date of Birth) am incarcerated and apply for Pell under the Second Chance Pell experiment. I am requesting that my FSA ID be re-set and have provided a copy of my prison ID. I require this specialized process because I am not permitted to have other forms of identification while incarcerated.

_____
Applicant Signature

_____
Date

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SCP Improvements

- MFGEN group post

- UEM group post

- Working on Automated Process for MFGEN, UEM, Packaging Variable and separate Packaging Plan to flow into existing processes

- Working on Madison College email so less issues with FSA IDs and resets or reactivations

- Collecting Statement of Educational Purpose and Copy of ID up front since so many students selected for V4/V5 even after disbursement

Federal Improvements

- Federal Pell Grants for confined or incarcerated students, no longer just ESI

- Incarcerated FAFSA, but only paper

- Comment Code 405 & 406

- Incarcerated App Flag
  - 1=Corr Facility Address File
  - 3=Incarcerated App Flag Set

- Verification of income (V1) & HSE not required for incarcerated students

Federal Improvements

- Dependency Overrides
  - FAFSA Simplification Act states incarceration of the student or a parent of the student is an unusual circumstance that, once documented, allows for a dependency override to be granted
  - Still awaiting further guidance and forthcoming DCL before we implement with our juvenile center
  - Gen-23-05 Eligibility of Confined or Incarcerated Individuals to Receive Pell Grants issued 03/29/23

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Student Experience Matters

- Because we are in prison, some people may view us as 'broken'. Perhaps we are. Then let's approach that as an industrial maintenance technician. When a machine breaks down, you don't just discard it and trash it, you fix it! You break out your digital multimeter and you troubleshoot, you run diagnostics on all the intricate parts that make it operate and pinpoint the problem. Then you fix the problem. You provide maintenance. That analogy represents our own rehabilitation. The re-entry program has helped us troubleshoot our own personal breakdowns and apply personal maintenance to ourselves, to improve ourselves, to be more effective members of society and thriving operators of our lives. For this, I am tremendously appreciative."

- David Tatro, Electrical Maintenance, December 2022

SECOND CHANCE GRADUATION

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