



State of Utah

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Utah Department of Corrections

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May 7, 2025

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SLCC Graduates Class at the Utah State Correctional Facility

What: On Monday, May 12, 28 individuals (men and women) will be graduating from Salt Lake Community College's (SLCC) prison education program (PEP), in collaboration with the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC). Among these individuals, the degrees earned include Associate of Science Degrees in Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, General Studies, and Computer Science and Information Systems.

Who:

- Approximately 28 students who are currently incarcerated
- Greg Peterson, President, SLCC
- David Bokovoy, Director, SLCC Prison Education Program

When: 9 a.m., Monday, May 12, 2025

Where: Utah State Correctional Facility, 1480 N 8000 W Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Media access:

- Event will occur at the Utah State Correctional Facility, which is a secure facility. You will need to do the following:
 - Provide the full names of those attending, along with their dates of birth and driver license number.
 - If you would like to film or photograph, please provide a list of equipment in advance, including serial numbers.
 - Please submit all background information (date of birth and driver license number) and equipment lists to Glen Mills by 3 p.m. on May 8, 2024.

- On the day of the event, please plan to arrive 30 minutes early (8:30 a.m.), so we can get you through security and ensure you have an opportunity to set up.
- Please leave phones, smart watches, jewelry, and excess clothing in your vehicles. You will be required to present a valid form of ID to enter.

2025 FACT SHEET: SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM

- On Monday, May 12, 28 students will be graduating from SLCC's prison education program (PEP). Students have earned Associate of Science Degrees in Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, and General Studies, with one student completing a degree in Computer Science and Information Systems.
- In the past year, over 200 students, men and women, have participated in SLCC classes offered at the Utah State Correctional Facility (USCF).
- SLCC's PEP offers five different associate degrees: Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, General Studies, and Humanities. More than forty dozen SLCC faculty members currently teach in SLCC's Prison Education Program.
- More than 40 SLCC faculty members teach at USCF as part of the SLCC prison education program, many of whom teach on SLCC's main campuses.
- SLCC's prison education program is one of the few in-person options available for students to take college-credit classes that can lead to a post-secondary degree.
- SLCC has developed one of the largest in-person prison education programs in the country in which faculty engage with students directly and teach face-to-face without relying on distance learning.
- SLCC and the University of Utah have a 2+2 agreement in place that allows students to complete their associate degree with the SLCC PEP and then complete their bachelor's degree with the University of Utah's Prison Education Project.
- In 2020, the U.S. Department of Education designated SLCC as a Second Chance Pell institution, allowing incarcerated students to use federal Pell Grants to attend.

HOW PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAMS BENEFIT SOCIETY

- Education significantly reduces recidivism – An Emory University study found that getting an AS degree lowers recidivism by ~84%. In short, college students are less likely to return to prison.
- A RAND study conservatively estimated that every \$1 spent on prison education saved taxpayers at least \$4 in reincarceration costs.

- Incarcerated parents who take classes and earn degrees model to their children the importance of education. This can end a cycle of incarceration in a family.
- Individuals who leave prison and enter society are more likely to be able to get a job and become tax-paying citizens.

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- Utah's Department of Corrections supervises over 23,400 individuals. Around 1700 are incarcerated at the Central Utah Correctional Facility, 3100 in the Utah State Correctional Facility, 460 in reentry centers, 1600 in county jails, and 16500 on probation or parole.
- The Utah State Correctional Facility (USCF) opened in July 2022 to replace the prison facility in Draper, Utah. It spans 200 acres and has approximately 3,600 beds.