

A description of the education courses offered to inmates:

Adult Education & Literacy (AEL)

The Adult Education and Literacy Program helps create an educated workforce by assisting adults in becoming literate and obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.

General Educational Development (GED®)

The General Educational Development (GED®) Test provides the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma. This credential is recognized as a key to employment opportunities, advancement, further education, and financial rewards. We utilize the online GED Academy curriculum, allowing us to serve more GED students at all sites and provide additional times of service for the minimum custody units.

National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC™)

The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC™) is an industry-recognized, portable, evidence-based credential that certifies essential skills necessary for workplace success.

Common Sense Parenting & Common Sense Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers

Common Sense Parenting was designed by Boys Town as a practical, skill-based parenting program that applies logical strategies and easy-to-learn techniques in addressing issues of communication, discipline, decision making, relationships, self-control and school success.

Credit When Credit is Due

The Credit When Credit is Due course is designed to help individuals gain a better knowledge of money issues and responsibilities revolving around the world of credit.

Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP)

The Job Search Assistance Program assists inmates in their transition from correctional life to civilian life. This three day workshop includes information on employment services and programs, resumes, interviews and applications, and veteran benefits information. The Department of Labor & Regulation provides the JSAP course.

Thinking for a Change & Thinking for a Change Aftercare

Thinking for a Change (T4C) is an integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for offenders including cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and development of problem solving skills. The aftercare course continues to develop the skills learned in the T4C classroom. Emphasis is on dealing with daily issues and managing thinking errors.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)

MRT is a cognitive-behavioral program that combines education, group and individual counseling, and structured exercises designed to foster moral development in treatment-resistant clients.

Bring Your 'A' Game to Work

Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires.

Writing for Re-entry

Writing for Re-entry is a 12-week (24 hour) writing course geared toward addressing the reasons for incarceration. Inmates participating in the Writing for Re-entry course will be reading their stories they have written as part of the program.

Courage to Change

The Courage to Change Program is offered at Mike Durfee State Prison and includes basic GED skills and life skills for EFL 6.0 and below.

Lakota Language and History

Lakota Language and History is a course taught by Dr. Jerome Kills Small at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. Inmates at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre are able to take the course by videoconference via the Digital Dakota Network.

DOC also offers vocational training programs for offenders while in prison, including the opportunity to earn certificates of completion in areas such as automotive body repair, automotive mechanics, welding, and construction technology.