

Opportunities for Incarcerated Tennesseans at TBR Community and Technical Colleges

- Tennessee has a total of 23,355 people incarcerated in state and federal prison facilities, a total population larger than that of over a third of Tennessee counties. In the past five years, the incarcerated population in Tennessee state facilities has grown by nearly 5% and continues to be disproportionately black and male.
- Three TBR community colleges partner with state or federal prison facilities to offer postsecondary training leading to credentials. In Fall 2018, 183 students were enrolled in community college courses at a correctional facility in Tennessee. Additionally, many of the state’s TCATs provide training opportunities for incarcerated Tennesseans.
- Increasing TBR’s offerings in programs connected to high-demand industry areas could potentially reduce recidivism, increase employability of the released population, and make a sizeable impact on the state’s Drive to 55 efforts.

Correctional Facilities in Tennessee

Tennessee currently has 14 state correctional facilities (four privately managed) and one federal correctional institution. The state facilities have a total population of 22,339.¹ An additional 1,016 persons are incarcerated at the federal facility.

State and Federal Correctional Facilities	Location	Population
Bledsoe County Correctional Complex (BCCX)	Pikeville	2,441
DeBerry Special Needs Facility (DSNF)	Nashville	663
Hardeman County Correctional Facility (HCCF)*	Whiteville	1,991
Mark Luttrell Transition Center (MLTC)	Memphis	280
Morgan County Correctional Complex (MCCX)	Wartburg	2,089
Northeast Correctional Complex (NECX)	Mountain City	1,795
Northwest Correctional Complex (NWCX)	Tiptonville	2,363
Riverbend Maximum Security Institution (RMSI)	Nashville	764
South Central Correctional Facility (SCCF)*	Clifton	1,644
Tennessee Prison for Women (TPFW)	Nashville	739
Trousdale Turner Correctional Complex (TTCC)*	Hartsville	2,552
Turney Center Industrial Complex (TCIX)	Only	1,606
West Tennessee State Penitentiary (WTSP)	Henning	1,893
Whiteville Correctional Facility (WCFA)*	Whiteville	1,519
State Facility Total		22,339
Memphis Federal Correctional Institution	Memphis	1,016
Total Tennessee State and Federal Prison Population		23,355

Adapted from [TDOC 2018 Statistical Abstract](#) and data from [the Federal Bureau of Prisons](#)

*Privately managed by CoreCivic

Note: This does not include people incarcerated in local jails or under community supervision in the state.

Who is incarcerated in Tennessee Prisons?

Educational Attainment

According to national data from 2014, only 6% of incarcerated individuals have completed an associate degree or higher. Meanwhile, 64% have a high school credential or equivalent as the highest level of education; 30% have less than a high school education ([US PIAAAC Survey of Incarcerated Adults](#)).² In Tennessee, more than 30 percent of inmates do not have high school education equivalency.

Sentences

The average sentence for the total population in Tennessee state prisons is 16 years not including those with sentences of life/death. For 2018 admissions, the average sentence is only 8 years. In practice, actual time served on release is even shorter. For 2018

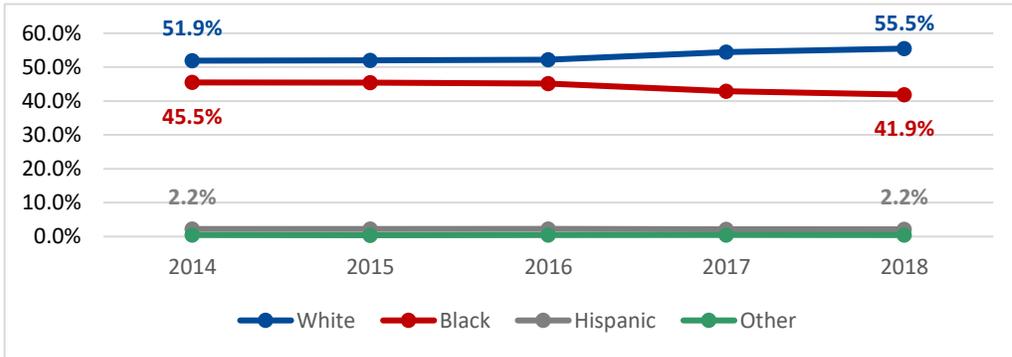
¹ This population does not include felons housed in local jails across the state or people under community supervision (probationers, parolees, and community corrections’ agencies). In FY 2018, there were 30,799 state inmates housed in state prisons and local jails. Additionally, 76,704 felons were part of the state’s Community Supervision system.

² The high school or equivalent value includes those with some college but no associate degree.

releases, the average years served is 5.3 years for those released due to expiration of their sentence and 7.4 years for those released after parole.

Race/Ethnicity

As of June 2018, 55.5% of the state prison population was white, 41.9% was Black, and 2.2% was Hispanic. In the past five years, the white population has grown both in total numbers and as a share of the total population; the Black population has declined in both. Despite the small decline seen in the Black population, the incarcerated population is still disproportionately Black, as only 16.8% of the general state population is Black³.

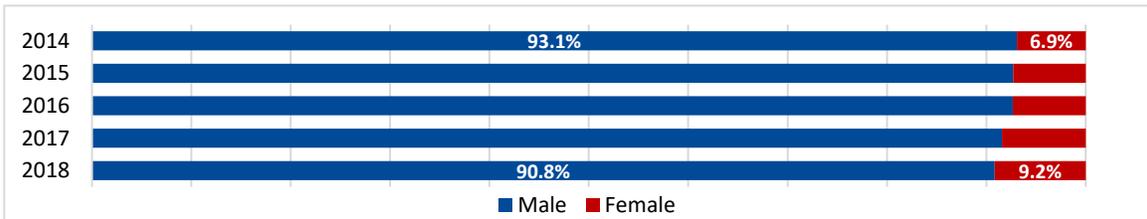


Share of Total Population at State Institutions by Race/Ethnicity

Adapted from [TDOC 2014-2018 Statistical Abstract](#) data

Gender

In the past 5 years, both male and female populations grew at state facilities, although the female population has grown in share. In June 2014, 6.9% of the total prison population was female compared to 9.2% in June 2018.

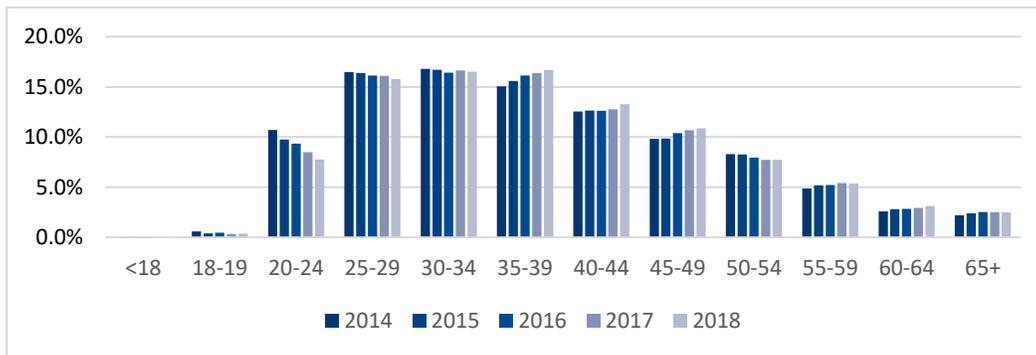


Share of Total Population at State Institutions by Gender

Adapted from [TDOC 2014-2018 Statistical Abstract](#) data

Age

In 2014, people over 35 made up 55.4% of the population of incarcerated Tennesseans; in 2018, that grew to 59.5%. All age groups over 35 have seen a clear rise in the share of the state’s incarcerated population, except those aged 50-54. Meanwhile, all age groups under 35 have declined in share, most notably the 20-24 age group.



Share of Total Population at State Institutions by Age

Adapted from [TDOC 2014-2018 Statistical Abstract](#) data

³ Based on Boyd Center population projections

Education in Tennessee Correctional Facilities

A substantial portion of the incarcerated population participates in some form of education programming at state facilities. For FY2018, there were 15,729 enrollments across all programs. Over half of these enrollments were in Adult Basic Education (ABE) or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) programs. Another 6,448 enrollments were in vocational programs. A less substantial but growing number of enrollments (421 in 2018) were in college-level programs.

Year	ABE/HiSET	Segregated Closed Circuit TV	Volunteer Literacy	Vocational	College	Total
2014	9,095	251	436	7,201	258	17,241
2015	9,304	0	747	7,578	258	17,887
2016	9,045	0	391	6,622	345	16,403
2017	8,077	-	326	6,121	276	14,800
2018	8,524	-	336	6,448	421	15,729

Education program enrollments at state institutions, 2014-2018

Adapted from [TDOC 2014-2018 Statistical Abstract](#) data

Current Postsecondary Partnerships

TDOC facilities and the federal correctional facility in Memphis have partnered with several higher education institutions. In fall 2018, this included three TBR colleges (Dyersburg State, Nashville State, and Southwest Tennessee) and two private institutions (Lipscomb University and Rhodes College). Partnerships with Dyersburg State and Nashville State are operated in conjunction with the [Tennessee Higher Education Initiative](#) (THEI). The mission of the THEI is “to provide access to on-site, degree-bearing higher education for individuals in Tennessee prisons; to support our students in leading meaningful lives in and outside prison; to prepare our students for successful re-entry; and to help our students become contributing members of our communities.”

Partnerships with TBR Community Colleges

In fall 2018, 183 students were enrolled in courses at a correctional facility associated with a TBR community college.

Fall 2018 Enrollment					
College	Site	Headcount	FTE	Credit Hours	
Dyersburg State	Northwest Correctional Complex	38	16.2	243	
Nashville State	Turney Center Industrial Complex	74	30.2	453	
Southwest Tennessee	Federal Correctional Institute-Memphis (Millington Satellite)	48	27.6	414	
Southwest Tennessee	Federal Correctional Institute-Memphis	23	12.6	189	
Total		183	86.6	1,299	

Census Enrollment, Fall 2018

TBR Student Information System

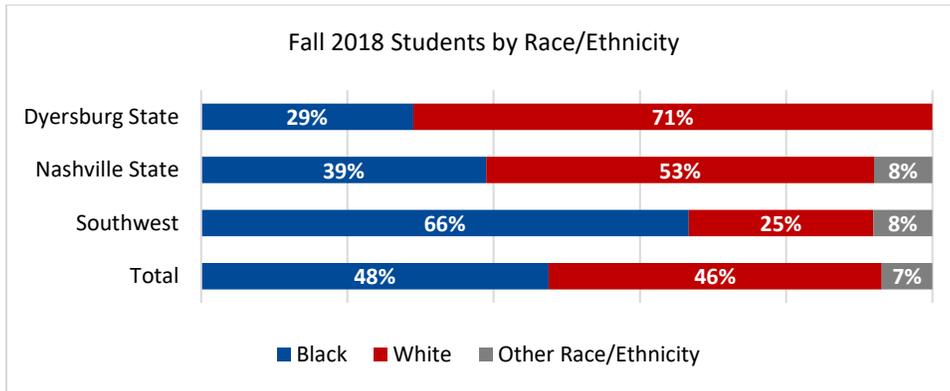
In fall 2018, most of the students at these sites were enrolled in general education courses or courses in business and health. Pass rates in these courses were high: students at these sites passed 96% of their business courses and 90% of math courses in fall 2018.

Fall 2018 Course Enrollment		
Course Subject	Enrollments	Success Rate
Business	198	96%
English	40	78%
Accounting	34	91%
Math	31	90%
Health	25	92%
History	25	80%
Political Science	23	74%
Economics	20	85%
Sociology	17	71%
Total	432	86%

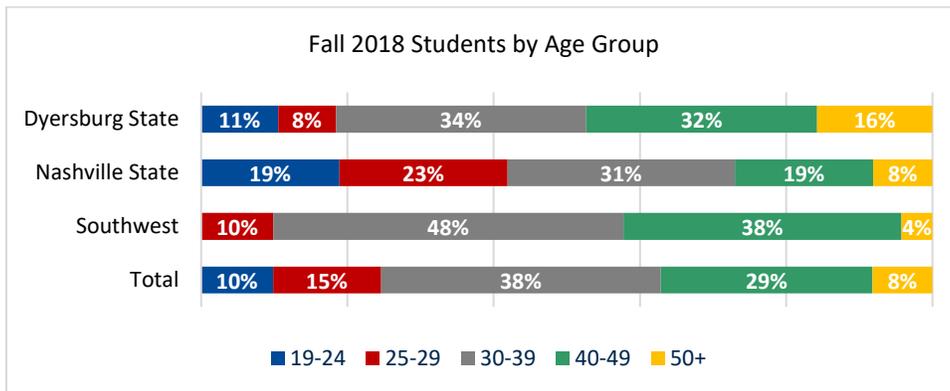
Course Enrollment, Fall 2018

TBR Student Information System (Success Rates represent the percent of students who received a grade of A, B, or C.)

In fall 2018, all of the students who enrolled at correctional facilities associated with TBR community colleges were male, and approximately half were Black or African American students. Age groups represented varied by institution, but students aged 30-49 made up the majority of enrollments.



Enrollment at Correctional Facilities by Race and Ethnicity, Fall 2018
TBR Student Information System



Enrollment at Correctional Facilities by Age Group, Fall 2018
TBR Student Information System

Additionally, in the 2017-18 academic year, 27 students who were enrolled at correctional facilities earned a degree or certificate from a TBR community college. Five students enrolled at the federal correctional facility in Memphis received technical certificates from Southwest Tennessee Community College—three in quality assurance supervision and two in logistics/transportation management. At Nashville State, 22 students received Associate of Science degrees—12 in Business and 10 in Political Science.

**Dyersburg State Community College
Northwest Correctional Complex (Tiptonville, Tennessee)**

In January 2017, the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative, working in partnership with Dyersburg State, expanded its programming to Northwest Correctional Complex in Tiptonville, a medium security prison for men. Classes began with a cohort of 25 students taking English Composition I and General Psychology. In 2018 the site expanded to a second cohort.

- In order to be admitted to the program, each applicant must take the standard TN college placement exam, Accuplacer, and place at college level; complete the application; and write an essay.
- Once admitted to the program, students must pay a \$25 admin fee each semester, maintain at least a 3.0 GPA, and keep a clean disciplinary record.
- If a student is released prior to earning his degree, credits earned from these courses are recognized and transferable to any TBR college, as well as certain private and public colleges and universities in the Southeastern region.
- Students work full-time during the day and take two evening courses per semester toward an A.S. Degree in Business Administration from Dyersburg State.
- Courses are taught by full-time or adjunct faculty from Dyersburg State.

Nashville State Community College
Turney Center Industrial Complex (Only, Tennessee)

In May 2014, THEI began offering degree-bearing college courses through Nashville State Community College at the Turney Center Industrial Complex, a medium security prison for men. The program at the Turney Center was modeled after the pilot program established at Charles Bass Correctional Complex in 2012. In May 2015, Nashville State opened up the program to inmates housed at the nearby minimum-security facility, the Turney Center annex. At present, there are five cohorts of students.

- The students, who also work full-time, take 2 to 5 courses per semester in the evenings. Courses lead towards an Associate degree from Nashville State in one of two majors: Business Administration and Political Science.
- Credits, certificates, and degrees are recognized and transferable to any TBR college, as well as certain private and public colleges and universities in the Southeastern region.
- Courses are taught by full-time or adjunct faculty from Nashville State. Two of the ten courses are taught online.
- In January 2019, TDOC [hosted a graduation ceremony](#) for students who earned credentials through Nashville State’s partnership with the Turney Center Industrial Complex.

Partnerships with the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology

Many of the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology work with county correctional facilities to host re-entry training programs. Additionally, several TCAT presidents are currently working with county officials to expand postsecondary opportunities for incarcerated Tennesseans in their service area. Highlights from this work are outlined in the table below.

TCAT	Current Activity
TCAT Covington	Meeting with officials from Tipton County to discuss a re-entry program.
TCAT Jackson	Working with Gibson County to provide Certified Production Technician training. Meetings scheduled with Henderson, Chester, and Henry Counties to discuss similar programs.
TCAT Memphis	Through Hope2Hire, a partnership between TCAT Memphis, the Shelby County Division of Corrections, the Workforce Investment Network (a community resource), and HopeWorks (a Memphis non-profit), inmates receive training in professional soft skills and can earn a postsecondary credential such as a diploma in Building Construction Technology.
TCAT Murfreesboro	Hosted Certified Production Technician re-entry program at the Rutherford County Jail/Workhouse for 13 inmates in 2018.
TCAT Oneida	Working with the Morgan County Correctional Complex on several projects, including how to provide diplomas and certificates in Welding Technology and credentials in building construction. Working with Scott County Sheriff’s Department, UT, and the East Tennessee Workforce Area Board to sponsor a night Welding program for 10 inmates at the Huntsville campus.
TCAT Paris	Working with the Henry County jail to provide Certified Production Technician training to 10 inmates.
TCAT Pulaski	Worked with the Franklin County jail to provide training to eight inmates in Injection Molding.
TCAT Ripley	Exploring opportunities to work with the Dyer County Jail to offer short-term workforce training. Investigating the opportunity to offer Administrative Office Technology, Dietary Manager, and Computer Information Technology certificate programs.

[See Appendix 1 for more details about partnership opportunities at TCATs.](#)

Opportunities for Expanding TBR Partnerships

In addition to the existing enrollment from Dyersburg State, Nashville State, and Southwest Tennessee Community College, several other community and technical colleges are positioned to explore partnership opportunities with correctional facilities. Two community colleges (Chattanooga State and Roane State) previously offered courses at correctional facilities in their service areas. Additionally, two community colleges and four TCATs are within 10 miles of other state correctional facilities.

Facility	Location	Partnership Opportunity
Bledsoe County Correctional Complex	Pikeville	Chattanooga State offered courses here until Spring 2018.
DeBerry Special Needs Facility	Nashville	Located six miles from TCAT Nashville and Nashville State.
Hardeman County Correctional Facility	Whiteville	Located 2 miles from TCAT Whiteville.
Mark Luttrell Transition Center	Memphis	Located 1 mile from Southwest’s Macon Cove campus.
Morgan County Correctional Complex	Wartburg	Roane State offered courses here in 2010-11.
Northeast Correctional Complex	Mountain City	Located 28 miles from TCAT Elizabethton and Northeast State’s Elizabethton campus.
Northwest Correctional Complex	Tiptonville	Dyersburg State has offered courses here since 2017.
Riverbend Maximum Security Institution	Nashville	Located 6 miles from TCAT Nashville and Nashville State.
South Central Correctional Facility	Clifton	Located 1.5 miles from Columbia State’s Clifton campus and 1.5 miles from TCAT Crump’s Clifton campus.
Tennessee Prison for Women	Nashville	Located 5 miles from TCAT Nashville and Nashville State.
Trousdale Turner Correctional Complex	Hartsville	Located 5 miles from TCAT Hartsville, 27 miles from Volunteer State.
Turney Center Industrial Complex	Only	Nashville State has worked with this facility since 2014 and is approved to offer three programs at this site (AA and AS in Liberal Arts and Sciences and AAS in Business).
West Tennessee State Penitentiary	Henning	Located 18 miles from TCAT Ripley, 19 miles from TCAT Covington.
Whiteville Correctional Facility	Whiteville	Located 2 miles from TCAT Whiteville.
Memphis Federal Correctional Institution	Memphis	Southwest Tennessee partners with the FCI at the Millington and Memphis sites.

Where Increased Investment Can Impact Outcomes

Recidivism

Per an April 2017 TDOC [press release](#), recidivism rates in Tennessee were down in 2016 (47.1%) from 2010 levels (50.5%). TDOC’s move to evidence-based and “whole patient” rehabilitation practices could be the main contributor to this decline, and educational programs are a key component of this. [A 2014 RAND meta-analysis](#) of existing literature supports this conclusion as the authors found inmates who participate in a correctional education program are 43% less likely to recidivate compared to those who did not participate. Presently, as college-level programs make up such a small piece of these education programs, it seems likely an expansion of these programs could lead to further growth.

Unemployment

There is a [clear relationship](#) between educational attainment and unemployment and earnings. As previously mentioned, nationally, incarcerated populations have lower attainment than the general population. Furthermore, a history of incarceration is a compounding factor which leads to a substantially higher unemployment rate among the formerly incarcerated. A [July 2018 Prison Policy Initiative report](#) found this increased unemployment for 35-44 year olds by up to 37 percentage points compared to the general population nationally in 2008. This “prison penalty” was highest for Black women and Black men.

A [January 2019 report](#) from the Vera Institute of Justice and Georgetown University found that providing access to federal Pell Grants could help to counteract such an effect. The authors reported that “if 50 percent of the eligible prison population participated in a postsecondary education program”, employment rates among those who participate would increase by nearly 10 percent. Increasing postsecondary access, offerings, and funding resources could lead to similar results here in Tennessee.⁴

⁴ No Tennessee institutions were selected to participate in the pilot to reinstate Pell Grants for incarcerated populations.

Appendix 1: Current or Past Re-Entry Programs at TCATs

TCAT Covington

President Jones is meeting with officials from Tipton County to discuss a re-entry program.

TCAT Jackson

President Sisk is currently working with Gibson County to provide Certified Production Technician training for inmates. The RAMP Program is being funded by WIOA and is taught at the jail. However, inmates are brought to Jackson/Lexington for testing. This does not prepare inmates for a work release program, but it does prepare them for post-incarceration employment. Additionally, Vice President Hodgson has meetings scheduled with Henderson, Chester, and Henry Counties to discuss this program.

TCAT Murfreesboro

Interim President Puryear worked with WIOA and the Rutherford County Chamber to host a Certified Production Technician re-entry program at the Rutherford County Jail/Workhouse for 13 inmates in 2018. This program included KeyTrain, WorkKeys, interviewing skills, and resume writing. Local business and industry interviewed participants for possible employment once released. TCAT Chattanooga also worked with the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce in fall 2017 to provide Certified Production Technician training.

TCAT Oneida

President Murphy has various projects in in the pipeline with the Morgan County Correctional Complex:

- 1) To provide diplomas and certificates in Welding Technology program using NCCR curriculum. This is a one-year program. The campus is working with the local American Jobs Center, East TN Workforce Area Board, and WIOA for funding. The goal is to start in September 2019 and have a special industry preparatory program leading to industry credentials. The uniqueness of this project is that the training programs they have at the Complex are outstanding, and they are taught by a former TCAT student.
- 2) Currently, inmates in the Morgan County area do many construction projects, such as building repairs, roads, etc. The goal is for TCAT Oneida to offer preparatory construction programs for the inmates to receive Prior Learning Credit once released (or earn industry certificates in plumbing, electrical, etc.).
- 3) Oneida is working with the Scott County Sheriff's Department, UT, and the East Tennessee Workforce Area Board to sponsor a night Welding program for 10 inmates at the Huntsville campus. These plans include WIOA paying for the students' tuition.

Additionally, President Murphy has been working on this in association with Eric Qualls, Director of Offender Rehabilitation at the State Department of Corrections. These programs are designed to articulate to Oneida's preparatory programs. Inmates at the Morgan County Correctional Complex include both local detainees and detainees from other parts of the state. Oneida will need assistance with construction equipment and instructor pay. They also have plans to expand opportunities in Industrial Electrical Maintenance/Mechatronics.

TCAT Paris

President White is currently working with the Henry County Jail to provide Certified Production Technician training to 10 inmates. The program is being funded by WIOA and is held onsite at the jail. The goal of this program is to have the inmates certified and able to participate in a paid work-release program. President White has also been contacted by Benton, Weakley, and Dresden Counties for similar programs.

TCAT Pulaski

TCAT Pulaski worked with the Franklin County Jail to provide training to eight inmates in Injection Molding. This is part of the Advanced Manufacturing Education program at Pulaski. The program lasted 10 weeks; training took place at the jail and at TCAT Pulaski. Upon passing the final test, inmates were awarded the Routsis Level 1 Plastics Certificate, just like students in the full time AME course.

TCAT Ripley

President Jones has been contacted by the Dyer County Jail about opportunities to offer short-term workforce training. The training will be paid for by WIOA funding. President Jones is investigating offering Administrative Office Technology, and possibly Dietary Manager and Computer Information Technology certificate programs. Currently, Dyersburg State is working with Dyer County Jail to provide Certified Production Technician training. The Sheriff wants short-term training that will be over in 3-4 months. President Jones believes this grant was the result of Senator Jackson working with WIOA in the previous administration.