

2019 | Imperial County Sheriff's Office



# Imperial County Inside/Out College Program Evaluation

Fall 2014 through Fall 2018

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## 1 Program Summary

The Imperial County Inside/Out College Program began offering college-credit courses at the Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) in October 2014 through a collaborative partnership between the Imperial County Sheriff's Office and the Imperial Community College District (Imperial Valley College). A major facilitator of the Inside/Out partnership agreement was the Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), which provided funding for training in the Inside/Out model of instruction through the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Training Institute.

The Imperial County Inside/Out College Program is the first Inside/Out model college program in the United States offered through a county partnership between a community college and county jail. The Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) is the only CCP in California endorsing an Inside/Out model of post-secondary education as an important part of the county's efforts to reduce recidivism.

The Imperial County Inside/Out College Program offers three units of college-credit courses per semester in the academic field of Addiction Disorders Studies. Certification in this field of study provides students with a pathway to career certification as addiction counselors. The ICSO Inside/Out College Program received the 2015 National Association of Counties (NACO) Criminal Justice and Public Safety Award for Innovative Programming, and the 2016 California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Award for innovation and best practices in county government.

The Inside/Out College Program goals are as follows:

1. Students will successfully complete the Inside/Out college courses with a grade of "C" or better;
2. Students will develop a greater appreciation of the value of education for attainment of personal goals; and
3. The recidivism rate of incarcerated students will be lower than the California state average.

## 2 Student Success Rate: 87.15% (IVC = 69.62%)

The Inside/Out College Program student success rate is measured by calculating the percentage of students who completed the course with a grade C or better. Table 1 sets forth the student success rate for each semester, with an overall average for Fall 2014 through Fall 2018. This average is compared to the IVC student success rate for the same time period.

Table 1

*Inside/Out Student Success Rate*

Semester Term	Inside Students	Outside Students	Inside/Out Success Rate	IVC Success Rate
1 Fall 2014	100%	100%	100%	69.30%
2 Spring 2015	100%	89%	94.5%	69.30%
3 Fall 2015	64%	77%	70.5%	69.30%
4 Spring 2016	64%	87%	75.5%	69.30%
5 Fall 2016	92%	92%	92.0%	62.69%
6 Spring 2017	100%	93%	96.5%	65.32%
7 Fall 2017	91%	90%	90.5%	74.94%
8 Spring 2018	91%	87%	89.0%	73.49%
9 Fall 2018	83%	69%	76.0%	72.98%
Student Success Average	87.2%	87.1%	87.15%	69.62%

### 3 Student Retention Rate: 86.45% (IVC = 87.51%)

The Inside/Out College Program student retention rate is measured by calculating the percentage of students who completed the course. Table 2 sets forth the student retention rate for each semester, with an overall average for Fall 2014 through Fall 2018. This average is compared to the IVC student retention rate for the same time period.

Table 2

*Inside/Out Student Retention Rate*

Semester Term	Inside Students	Outside Students	Inside/Out Retention Rate	IVC Retention Rate
1 Fall 2014	100%	82%	91.0%	86.01%
2 Spring 2015	92%	82%	87.0%	86.01%
3 Fall 2015	79%	100%	89.5%	86.01%
4 Spring 2016	79%	93%	79.0%	86.00%
5 Fall 2016	80%	93%	86.5%	88.05%
6 Spring 2017	56%	100%	75.0%	87.09%
7 Fall 2017	79%	83%	81.0%	90.73%
8 Spring 2018	79%	93%	86.0%	87.98%
9 Fall 2018	86%	100%	93.0%	89.78%
Student Retention Average	81.1%	91.8%	86.45%	87.51%

## 4 Recidivism Rate: 7.4% (CA = 54.9%)

In December 2017, the Public Policy Institute of California published a report entitled *Realignment and Recidivism in California*, finding that the post-realignment recidivism rate of individuals reconvicted post-release after serving their time in county jail rather than state prison was 54.9%.

A total of 60 incarcerated students completed courses in the ICSO Inside/Out College Program during Fall 2014 through Spring 2018, of which 54 students were released from custody.

The Imperial County arrest and conviction records for all 54 students released from custody were reviewed and it was determined that only 4 of the 54 students had received new convictions. Table 3 sets forth a summary of the information associated with the four students who received new convictions after successfully completing courses in the Imperial County Inside/Out College Program.

Table 3

*ICSO Inside/Out College Program Students with New Convictions Post-Release*

Student	Number of Units Completed in Inside/Out Program	Type of New Conviction	Time between Release and New Conviction
1	3	Felony	359 Days
2	7	Felony	364 Days
3	1	Felony	16 Months
4	3	Felony	22 Months

The recidivism rate for the 54 students who completed courses in the ICSO Inside/Out College Program during Fall 2014 through Spring 2018 was 7.4% (computed by dividing 4 by 54), substantially lower than the 54.9% California post-realignment recidivism rate of individuals reconvicted post-release after serving their time in county jail rather than state prison.

## 5 Conclusion

Our findings indicate that the ICSO Inside/Out College Program is an effective rehabilitative program in Imperial County's efforts to reduce recidivism. It is recommended that student success, retention and recidivism continue to be a focus of study during the duration of the ICSO Inside/Out College Program.