

GDC Post-Secondary Federal Education Study Grants Available for Qualified Incarcerated Offenders Under the Age of 26

What is the GDC Post-Secondary Opportunity?

To assist currently incarcerated post-secondary eligible offenders under the age of 26 to build a better future in preparation for release and re-entry through the achievement of higher levels of education, a new post-secondary academic education credit opportunity is available for incarcerated, eligible offenders. The Georgia Department of Corrections is designating, limited federal funds for post-secondary study from the Incarcerated Youth Offender (IYO) federal block grant. GDC grants will be awarded through offender application and according to demonstrated academic merit, need, and qualified performance and conduct records.

This initial opportunity is limited to offenders who wish to and who qualify for the Ohio University College Program for the Incarcerated (CPI). College credit hours earned are transferable to other accredited post-secondary institutions as Ohio University, founded in 1804, is accredited through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

What are the Purpose and Intended Outcomes of this Post-Secondary Opportunity?

Educational achievement supports successful reentry. National and Georgia research studies are clear that increased education achievements reduce recidivism (Georgia Department of Corrections, Risk Reduction Services 2007, Correctional Association for the U.S. Department of Education 2005, "The Impact of Prison Education on Community Re-Integration of Inmates 2002, Correctional Education as a Crime Control Program 2004).

What Does the Offender Post-Secondary Grant Provide?

A post-secondary grant covers the cost of 6-8 credit hours (two courses) for approved Ohio University College Program for the Incarcerated correspondence course fees, tuition, textbooks, supplies, and lesson postage. The successful applicant is expected to complete the 6-8 credit hours within 8 months of receipt of the course materials. Each grant is awarded based upon applicant merit, eligibility, and funds available.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

The Applicant

- Is a currently incarcerated offender within the Georgia Department of Corrections;
- Is under the age of 26; (IYO funds are limited to offenders under the age of 26. Currently, Congressional pending legislation may extend the age limitation to age 35. If passed and approved, this age eligibility change will be available to GDC.)
- Has achieved academically at least a GED or high school diploma;
- Has a release date;
- Is seeking post-secondary credit that qualify for an associate or baccalaureate degree; and
- Has Warden/Facility approval to apply.

Forty-five study grants are available fiscal year 2008. In addition to the eligibility requirements, successful applicants will have a demonstrated history or current evidence of academic achievement. All required post-secondary examinations will be proctored.

What is the Application Process?

Qualified applicants may obtain an application from the facility Deputy Warden-Care & Treatment, complete the application, and send to the GDC Post-Secondary Grant Committee.