



Goucher Prison Education Partnership

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Why Does GPEP Offer College in Prison?

On the main campus and in the prisons, an excellent college education offers access to ideas and scholarship, to social movements, to art, and to academic context for lived experience. It empowers students to think independently and thoughtfully critique ideas. GPEP students stimulate awareness and meaningful dialogue in and beyond the Goucher community about justice, incarceration, and educational access.

GPEP affords access to a rigorous Goucher education to students who have been systematically and historically excluded from quality education. It creates a path to college for these students, regardless of initial academic readiness. Sixty-seven percent of GPEP students are the first generation of their family to attend college, while seventy-seven percent are persons of color.

What is GPEP?

Founded in 2012, the Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP) is a division of Goucher College operating in two Maryland state prisons, the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) and the Maryland Correctional Institution–Jessup (MCIJ). **Each year, around 130 students enroll in 30-35 college classes taught by faculty from Goucher and other local colleges and universities.** They are held to the rigorous academic standards for which Goucher is known. GPEP provides students with:

- Full scholarships, including all books and materials
- College coursework, academic advising, and tutoring
- College preparatory classes as needed to strengthen skills in preparation for Goucher's rigorous curriculum
- Workshops to familiarize students with higher education's culture and vocabulary which are unfamiliar to many first-generation college students

GPEP students who graduate while in prison earn a Goucher College bachelor's degree in American Studies. Those who return home before completing their degree can finish on Goucher College's main campus or transfer their college credits to any accredited college or university in the country. More than 40% of GPEP students who have completed their degree with Goucher graduated with honors. Others do not complete their degree right away but instead use their college credits and knowledge to access enhanced employment opportunities to support themselves, their families, and their communities.

Get Involved!



Volunteer

Goucher students, students from other local colleges and universities, and community members of all ages can volunteer to:

- Tutor in the prisons in critical reading and writing, math, art, Spanish, science, and more.
- Serve as research assistants, securing resources from the main campus library for students.
- Work as Hotline Operators answering calls from students during set weekly hours, serving as a relay system between students and faculty and staff.
- Provide administrative support in GPEP's campus office.
- Support former students in transferring their college credits as they continue their education.

To get involved, email us at GPEPvolunteers@goucher.edu.



Teach

GPEP's college courses are taught primarily by Goucher College faculty, along with faculty from other local colleges and universities. We welcome faculty to teach courses from the Goucher College course catalog in the American Studies major and the Goucher College Commons Requirements. College preparatory classes are taught both by college professors and secondary instructors skilled in leading college preparatory English and math courses. To learn about teaching opportunities, contact us at GPEPteach@goucher.edu.



GPEP Mission

The mission of the Goucher Prison Education Partnership is to provide an excellent college education to students incarcerated in Maryland. As they earn that education, students develop as scholars and leaders. Students' hard work and academic accomplishments affect not only their own futures, but also their families and the communities to which students belong, both within and outside of the prison. Students' academic, social, and professional accomplishments make all of our lives richer.

Goucher
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