Imperial County Inside/Out College Program
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The Imperial County Inside/Out College Program was created in 2014 to increase educational opportunities for men and women, inside and outside of the Imperial County Jail, which emphasize collaboration and dialogue while addressing issues of social concern.

The community college program is offered through the cooperative efforts of the following institutions:

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
IMPERIAL COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
IMPERIAL COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Program Model
The program is modeled after The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program developed and designed by Lori Pompa of Temple University in 1997 to bring college students and incarcerated individual together as peers in a classroom setting that emphasizes dialogue and critical thinking.

The Inside-Out model is designed to counter predominant stereotypes and myths held about jails/prisons and inmates through personal engagement. Participants are encouraged to see crime and justice issues from new perspectives that otherwise might not be considered. Students (inside and out) are assisted in seeing themselves as potential agents of social change and encouraged to build new ideas about public service and meaningful citizenship.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program has been able to bring over 10,000 “inside” and “outside” students together in classrooms behind prison walls in order to consider the issues of crime and justice in a real-world setting.

Inside/Out College Program

The Imperial County Inside/Out College Program is the first Inside-Out model program developed between a community college and local county jail facility.

Fall 2014
The first Imperial County Inside/Out college course was a six-week one-unit Life Skills course meeting from October 30 through December 11, 2014. The course consisted of 15 inside students and 11 outside students.

AGE
The inside students ranged in age from 22 to 51 years. The outside students ranged in age from 17 to 64 years.

Ethnicity of Students

Gender of Students

Retention and Success

RETENTION
Three students failed to complete the course (one inside student and two outside students). The inside student was dropped from the course for violation of program rules. The two outside students discontinued coming to class.

Inside/Out Program Retention Rate: 88.46%
IVC Average Retention Rate: 83.46%

SUCCESS
Students completing the course received grades of A or B.
Inside Students: 93% = A
Outside Students: 56% = A

Student Reflections
“I can honestly say it was a honor and privilege working with every last student inside and out, and also being able to show myself I can function with normal people that were never judgmental or never teased or looked at me like I didn’t deserve to be there. Thank you for giving me the opportunity and the privilege to be in this program and I hope and pray that I can further my education and really change my life.”
- Inside Student

“The Inside/Out Program has given me a different look about the stereotypes of people who are inmates. They are just as normal as anybody else. I feel much more comfortable being in a class with them, than being at my other classes at IVC.”
- Outside Student

“If this program was around when I was incarcerated, it would have helped my transition run smoother.”
- Outside Student

Pre/Post Survey re Perceptions of Education

During academic year 2014–15, Imperial Valley College (IVC) is offering two credit courses in Alcohol & Drug Studies for Inside/Out students at the Imperial County Day Reporting Center as follows:

Fall 2014: ADS 178 – Life Skills (1 unit). This course provides an in-depth overview of the skills to better living for those in recovery from abuse and addiction. (The class met from October 30 through December 11, 2014, from 2pm-4:40pm.)

Spring 2015: ADS 110 – Physiological Effects of Alcohol and Drugs (3 units). This course provides students with information on the processing systems of the body and how they react to alcohol and drugs. The course will explain where and how drugs act and why and bring about an understanding of how drugs influence consciousness, mood and feelings. (This class will meet from February 19 through June 11, 2015, from 1:30pm-4:40pm.)

Program Requirements

Courses are limited to 30 students, 15 “inside” students (students incarcerated at the Imperial County Jail) and 15 “outside” students (IVC campus students). Students are required to register for the classes through IVC and pay the required enrollment and student fees.

Inside students are selected for participation based upon eligibility requirements established by the Imperial County Sheriff’s Office. Outside students are selected in accordance with the IVC open-enrollment policy. All students are required to attend an orientation regarding the program rules of conduct during the first week of class and sign a Waiver of Liability. Strict adherence to the rules of conduct is required of all students.

Fees and Financial Aid

Imperial Valley College Fees
Enrollment Fee……………………………$46 per unit
Student Health Fee……………………….$18 Fall and Spring
Student Representation Fee………………..$1 per semester

ICSO pays for the incarcerated students’ $19 student fees, books and supplies. The enrollment fees are waived by the California Board of Governors Grant (BOGG). Inside students may be eligible for federal financial aid.