



Overview

The Education & Programs division is comprised of four units:

- Chaplaincy
- Education
- Risk Reduction Services
- Vocational

These units are critical to Governor Nathan Deal's criminal justice reform and the prison reentry initiative. Ninety-five percent of offenders will one day return to society and these areas are tasked with preparing offenders for their return to society as productive citizens

CHAPLAINCY

Promote peaceful communities by demonstrating the following:

- Elimination of violence
- Assistance in reentry preparation
- Reduction of recidivism

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

- GDC's only 4-year college program
- Graduates receive a degree in Theology
- Located at Phillips State Prison in Buford

EDUCATION

- Voluntary participation for offenders who do not have a high school diploma or GED
- Daily enrollment is 4,500-5,000
- Available in all state and private prisons, boot camps, probation detention centers (PDC), residential substance abuse treatment centers and mosto transitional centers (TC).
 - A total of 85 GDC sites
- Comprised of one to three courses of study
- General education and special education courses of study are as follows:
 - Literacy (L/RR)
 - Adult Basic Education (ABE)
 - General Education Diploma Preparation (GED Prep)
 - ESL and Braille available at select facilities
- 2,500 to 3,000 GED examinations are administered annually with a 70% passing rate
- Classroom-based instruction is delivered by part-time and full-time GDC staff, supplemented by instructors from local area Technical Colleges
- Post-secondary academic study available providing that the recipient has approval and pays all post-secondary costs

Charter School Program

- 7 out of 10 inmates lack a high school diploma
- Charter schools will allow inmates the opportunity to complete their high school educations and receive diplomas
- In January 2015, classes began at Lee Arrendale State

Prison for the state's female offenders

- Partnership with the Mountain Education Charter School
- Expansion plans will create the opportunity for male offenders to receive a high school diploma at Burruss Correctional Training Center
 - Partnership with Foothills Education Charter School

GED Fast Track

- In July 2014, GDC launched a fast track program at three medium security prisons: Lee Arrendale, Johnson, and Washington State Prisons
- Designed for offenders who have higher reading and math levels
- 10 to 12 week program

RISK REDUCTION SERVICES

- A unit within the Georgia Department of Corrections' (GDC) Education and Programs division which mandates the reduction in recidivism by providing research-based programs
- Provides constitutionally mandated or legally required programs
- Implements evidence-based programs that target crime-producing behavior
- Focuses on changing criminal thinking and reducing criminal behavior
- GDC partners with federal agencies, state and county agencies and non-profit and community-based organizations

SELECTION OF OFFENDERS FOR RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS

- Selected by an assessment process that identifies an offender's risk and needs

Primary Targets of Effective Offender Interventions

- Criminal thinking
- Substance abuse
- Education
- Employment

VOCATIONAL, *Workforce Development*

Prepares offenders for employment

Classroom Training

- Auto Body Repair
- Auto Mechanics
- Auto Painting
- Barbering
- Braille Transcription
- Building/Industrial Maintenance
- Computer/Office Technology
- Cabinetry/Carpentry
- Commercial Drivers License

- Computer/Electronic Repair (Microsoft Certification)
- Cosmetology
- Customer Service and Computer Technology
- Diesel Mechanics
- Drafting
- Electrical Wiring
- Food Preparation/Culinary Arts
- Graphic Arts/Printing
- Heating & Air Conditioning
- Masonry/Tile Setting
- Plumbing
- Veterinary Assistant (large and small animals)
- Visual Graphics
- Welding

Technical College System of Georgia has collaborated with GDC to certify these programs and offer certificates to offenders who complete the program.

On the Job Training (OJT)

- Offenders earn Technical College completion certificates certifying the skills learned while employed on their work assignments

Live Works Project

- Provide work experience for offenders in vocational education classes
- Offenders build, remodel, or repair items owned by state, county, local government and non-profit agencies

TOPPSTEP

- Offender Parolee Probationer State Training Employee Program (TOPPSTEP) is a collaborative effort between the Department of Corrections, Department of Labor, Department of Human Resources and State Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Provides offenders with the documents needed to obtain employment upon release
- Documents include birth certificate and Social Security card