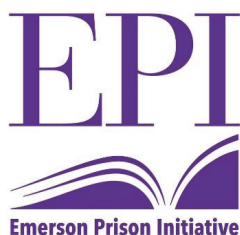


# Identifying and Scaling Higher Education in Prison Programmatic Resources: Grantee Profile



## Emerson Prison Initiative (EPI)



**Location** | Boston, Massachusetts

**Facilities served:**

- Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Norfolk (MCI-Norfolk)
- Northeastern Correctional Center

[Additional Program Information](#)



## Resource Overview: HEP Program Implementation Toolkit

EPI's Higher Education in Prison (HEP) Program Implementation Toolkit includes a set of five instruments developed during EPI's 8 years of implementation across two Massachusetts correctional facilities. These field-tested materials, refined by feedback from students, faculty, and corrections administrators, equip students, tutors, and faculty for success by establishing clear programmatic expectations; trauma-informed instructional practices and consistent training protocols; better continuity of the student and instructor experience in and beyond the program; and alignment with campus-based programming.



## What the Resource Includes

The HEP Program Implementation Toolkit provides a combination of five customizable instruments designed to train, onboard, and support key HEP program stakeholders:

- Student handbook template
- Faculty handbook template
- Facilitator guide for HEP faculty and teaching assistant orientation
- Training module on trauma-informed teaching and learning
- Peer tutor program application and training materials



## Resource Refinement and Scaling Journey

Through this grant, the EPI team will engage in an evidence-informed cycle of continuous improvement to enhance the applicability and transferability of these resources to the broader HEP field.

The EPI team will improve and finalize the resources through a series of hands-on refinement activities. This work will include scanning the literature to inform resource content, organization, and presentation; piloting each resource at multiple sites; and finalizing materials based on feedback from the pilots and subject matter expert review. These steps will help ensure that the materials are useful, practical, and based on solid evidence. The team will explore these key topics during the refinement and scaling process:

- Instructional design that addresses the unique challenges of teaching in correctional environments
- Trauma-informed and culturally responsive instruction that supports effective engagement with diverse student populations
- Administrative strategies to support instructors and students in navigating program operations within correctional systems

### Learn More About the Grantee

Since 2017, the Emerson Prison Initiative (EPI) at Emerson College has offered students who are incarcerated an undergraduate education that aligns with traditional college standards. Drawing on this experience across two Massachusetts correctional facilities, EPI has developed deep expertise in delivering consistent, high-quality HEP programming that informs the resources developed through this grant.

To learn more about the project's evidence-informed continuous improvement cycle, read the [Identifying and Scaling Higher Education in Prison Programmatic Resources one-pager](#). The insights and materials developed through this project will be shared with the broader HEP field to support ongoing improvement in prison education programs.



**AIR® Headquarters**

1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor | Arlington, VA 22202-3289 | +1.202.403.5000 | **AIR.ORG**

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