

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



Possibility Lab at UC Berkeley and Mount Tamalpais College (MTC)

POSSIBILITY LAB

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY



Location | Berkeley, California/San Quentin, California

Facilities served:

- San Quentin Rehabilitation Center

[Additional Program Information](#)



Resource Overview: Alumni Reconnection Project

The Alumni Reconnection Project (ARP) provides tools and information to guide higher education in prison (HEP) programs in maintaining connections with released students, building trust with incarcerated students, and working with them to evaluate HEP program outcomes. Adapted from field-tested materials refined through years of engagement with current and former MTC students, these tools enable programs to conduct meaningful outreach, identify student reentry needs, and use data for continuous improvement of services.



What the Resource Includes

Working together, MTC and the Possibility Lab are providing the ARP for HEP program leaders seeking guidance on maintaining meaningful engagement with released students. It includes an array of practical tools for gathering and using alumni data to improve educational and reentry services:

- Recommendations on alumni records management and engagement
- Outreach tools and guidance for maintaining contact
- Data collection instruments, including example surveys for tracking outcomes
- Guidance for evaluating program quality and impact through alumni participation

The ARP reflects sustained experience conducting outreach and carrying out participatory research with both released MTC alumni and enrolled MTC students. All MTC students reside at the San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, a Level II facility for men and transgender women within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



Resource Refinement and Scaling Journey

Through this grant, MTC and the Possibility Lab team will engage in an evidence-informed effort to enhance the applicability and transferability of the ARP to the broader HEP field.

MTC and the Possibility Lab team will refine and finalize the elements of the ARP through a series of hands-on activities. This work will include reviewing existing research to guide the content, organization, and presentation of materials; adapting survey protocols and tools used with released MTC alumni; conducting a field survey to understand current HEP alumni connection practices; and using feedback from survey results and usability testing with key HEP practitioners to make final updates. These steps will help ensure the materials are useful, practical, and based on solid evidence. The team will explore these key areas during the refinement and scaling process:

- Systems and processes for staying connected with students post release
- Data accuracy and privacy protections
- Methods of follow-up communication
- Lessons learned from established HEP programs

Learn More About the Grantee

Mount Tamalpais College (MTC), operating at the San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, is one of the largest and longest running higher education in prison (HEP) programs in the United States. Since 2016, the Possibility Lab at UC Berkeley has partnered with MTC on conducting longitudinal research on student outcomes.

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.



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