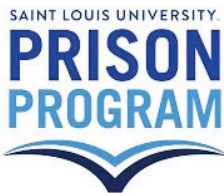


Identifying and Scaling Higher Education in Prison Programmatic Resources: Grantee Profile



Saint Louis University Prison Education Program (SLU PEP)



Location | St. Louis, Missouri

Facility served:

- Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center (ERDCC)

[Additional Program Information](#)



Resource Overview: SLU PEP College Prep Program

The SLU PEP College Prep Program is a six-course curriculum that prepares students for college-level coursework through foundational skill-building in academic writing, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, public presentation, and academic reentry. This resource equips learners with college-readiness skills and provides replicable materials to establish or strengthen student preparatory programming.

Developed through SLU PEP's 8 years of direct implementation at the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic Correctional Center (ERDCC), a maximum-security facility, the program reflects sustained partnership with the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC). By offering a curriculum framework, implementation toolkit, and field-tested materials refined through student feedback and lessons learned, this resource enables programs to efficiently establish or scale preparatory programming in correctional environments.



What the Resource Includes

The SLU PEP College Prep Program prepares individuals to enter a higher education in prison (HEP) program. It helps bridge readiness gaps by familiarizing students with the expectations and structure of college-level participation. For students approaching their release date, the program can also lay the groundwork for pursuing higher education after reentry. The resource includes these components:

- Curriculum framework and implementation guidance for six foundational courses:
 - Academic Reentry
 - Academic Writing

- Public Presentations
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Critical Thinking (choice of two out of three)
 - ◆ Arts, Humanities, and Culture
 - ◆ Society, Economy, and Politics
 - ◆ Science and Technology
- Student-facing resources, including course recruitment materials, application documents, a student handbook, sample syllabi, course activities, and a course evaluation
- Training on trauma-informed instruction and program resources on DOC-compliance



Resource Refinement and Scaling Journey

Through this grant, the SLU PEP 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 SLU PEP team will improve and finalize the resources through a series of hands-on refinement activities. This work will include reviewing existing research to guide the resource content, conducting a pilot implementation with a new SLU PEP cohort, and testing the resources at another HEP program. These steps will help ensure that the materials are useful, practical, and based on solid evidence. The team will explore these key areas during the refinement and scaling process:

- Workforce preparation curriculum design
- Trauma-informed and culturally responsive instruction
- Nonacademic learning outcomes

Learn More About the Grantee

Founded in 2008, the Saint Louis University Prison Education Program (SLU PEP) expands access to educational opportunities for individuals directly impacted by the justice system. Rooted in the Jesuit value of *cura personalis* and SLU's mission of forming people for and with others, the program fosters intellectual growth and affirms human dignity through three comprehensive initiatives at a maximum security facility in Missouri: the Associate of Arts Program, the Arts and Education Program, and the College Prep Program.

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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