Inmates who participate in college education programs are 51 percent less likely to return to prison within three years than those who do not enroll in school programs, according to a study by the Rand Corporation. The study found each dollar invested in prison education saves five dollars in future incarceration expenses.

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Cal State LA’s Prison Graduation Initiative receives funding from The Opportunity Institute’s Renewing Communities Initiative.
On-site Bachelor’s Program

Cal State LA is the only university in California to offer an in-person bachelor’s degree completion program for incarcerated students.

Students in California prisons have thus far been able to earn associate’s degrees, but not could not progress further in their institutions. Through Cal State LA, these students can now complete a bachelor’s degree from a public university, through transferrable courses taught on site.

Cal State LA is piloting its program with 30 students at California State Prison, Los Angeles County (located in Lancaster). All of the students have associate’s degrees.

Prison Graduation Initiative students will earn a Communication Studies B.A. by taking two courses a semester (including summers). Students who are released prior to completing their degree are automatically enrolled as Cal State LA students should they wish to continue their education on our campus.

A CSU Degree

Starting in Fall 2018, we anticipate receiving students from Antelope Valley College, which is offering an AA degree in business on-site at California State Prison, Los Angeles County. Once students have an AA degree, it will take them approximately three years to complete the BA program.