



BU's Prison Education Program: A Legacy of Social Justice

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Elizabeth “Ma” Barker

1912-2001



Prisons that don't help people change their lives aren't tough on crime. They are tough on society.

Timeline

- 1972 – present MCI-Norfolk
- 1989 – 2005 Bay State Correctional Center
- 1991 – present MCI-Framingham



MCI-Norfolk

Degrees Awarded 1990-2019

Gender	MLA	BA	BS	BLS	Total
Male	28	0	47	265	340
Female	0	1	3	59	63
Total	28	1	50	324	403

Degrees Awarded 1990-2021

Gender	MLA	BA	BS	BLS	Cert.	Total
Male	28	0	47	276	1	352
Female	0	1	3	61	1	66
Total	28	1	50	337	2	418

Course Offerings – Spring 2020

MCI-Norfolk	MCI-Framingham
MET HI332 – Contemporary History of Europe	MET EN127 - The American Experience Through Short Stories, Essays, and Novels
MET PY211 – General Physics	MET CJ501: Special Topics: Mass Incarceration
MET SOC201 – Research Methods	MET HI332 – Contemporary History of Europe
PH155-Politics and Philosophy	MET MU118 Music Appreciation
MET PO501-Special Topics: Introduction to Comparative Politics	
MET PO315-American Political Culture	

Course Offerings – Fall 2020

MCI-Norfolk	MCI-Framingham
MET AS102 - Astronomy	MET AH380: Special Topics - Women and Art
MET SO335 - Technology, Environment, and Society	MET IS400 Great Ideas
MET MA118- Algebra	MET IS401 - Communication Skills
MET MG410 - Entrepreneurship	MET MG305 - Principles of Marketing

Recidivism among Students in the Boston University Prison Education Program from 1990 to 2017

- descriptive analysis of students who participated in the Boston University Prison Education Program from 1990 to 2017
- to determine the recidivism (rate of reoffending) of participants
- recidivism is defined as reincarceration after three years of release from custodial supervision (imprisonment, parole, and probation)

Participants are defined as:

Students who were enrolled in the Prison Education Program:

1. completed the Metropolitan College degree while in custody (n=393)
2. completed the degree post release on the Charles River Campus (n=26)
3. did not complete the Metropolitan College degree (n=798)

Preliminary Result

- 54% of those who completed the program on campus did not have a single subsequent arraignment.
 - Does not include dismissals, CWOF