



## Department Administrative Policy and Procedure

**Subject:** Admissions Consult and Programmatic Support for Pathways from Prison Students

**Number:**

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### I. PURPOSE

To provide a process for the admission of an applicant to the University of Wyoming (University) through the Pathways from Prison program and to outline the requirements for continued admission during incarceration and/or after release.

### II. DEFINITIONS

**Admission:** The general standards of admission as described in UW Regulation 2-201 (Admission of Students).

**Admissions Consultation Policy:** The University of Wyoming Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure for Admissions Consult Policy through the Dean of Students Office.

**Applicant:** An incarcerated individual who applies to the University of Wyoming through the Pathways from Prison program.

**Appeals Committee:** A Committee comprised of a UWPD designee, Risk Management designee, Student Welfare Coordinator, and an Academic designee.

**Wyoming Pathways from Prison Program:** Wyoming Pathways from Prison's mission is to provide higher education opportunities to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students, in order to support rehabilitation and reentry among one of the most marginalized populations in Wyoming. By providing these opportunities we hope to make a significant impact on the quality of life for the citizens of Wyoming by promoting employment, community reentry, and public safety through fiscally responsible means.

### III. POLICY

The University may deny admission to an Applicant based on previous conviction(s) or disciplinary action(s) where admission would involve an unreasonable risk to property or a risk to the safety or welfare of individuals within the campus community or the general public. The University also may deny admission to an applicant for not disclosing their previous conviction(s) or disciplinary action(s) on their application.

Previous conviction(s) or previous disciplinary action(s) do not automatically bar an applicant from admission.

#### **IV. WYOMING PATHWAYS FROM PRISON APPLICATION PROCESS**

- A.** The Wyoming Pathways from Prison program operates on a four year cycle for admission. All applicants must have completed their high school diploma or equivalent. Applications are solicited through announcements at the Corrections facility and with the Help of the University's Educational Opportunity Centers Project.
- B.** Once the applicant list has been reviewed by Corrections, the program's lead faculty works with the University's Admissions team to determine academic eligibility based on current standards.
- C.** The Wyoming Department of Corrections team reviews the applicants to determine if there are any persons ineligible due to behavioral issues during the time of incarceration, or due to other sentence structure limitations.
- D.** Those applicants who meet the University's Admission's eligibility and conduct requirements move forward in the admissions process.
- E.** Interviews are conducted with each Applicant and a team of representatives from UW and the Corrections.
- F.** The Dean of Students Office may request documents from Applicants to consider in the review process, including but not limited to:
  - 1.** A personal statement explaining the circumstances surrounding their conviction and steps they have taken towards rehabilitation;
  - 2.** Documentation of criminal offense(s) and sentence structure;
  - 3.** Letters of recommendation from any individual who may be able to speak to the Applicant's rehabilitation or good conduct since their conviction;
  - 4.** Re-entry program participation or completion documents;
  - 5.** Substance abuse, domestic violence, or other program completion documents; and
  - 6.** Documents verifying work experience or community service during incarceration.
- G.** The finalized applicant list for the Pathways from Prison program will be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office as outlined in the Standard Administrative Process for Admission Consultation Policy.
- H.** Recommendations for admission will be made by the Dean of Students following the interviews with the candidates using a multi-factor analysis including sentence structure, anticipated release date, habitual offender status, nature of criminal offense.

## **V. ENGAGEMENT IN THE WYOMING PATHWAYS FROM PRISON PROGRAM**

- A.** Due to the specific constraints of providing higher education courses for incarcerated students, the Pathways from Prison Director and Corrections administration have the ability to make decisions related to program structure, supports, and access.
- B.** Courses offered within the program will be determined by the Director based on several factors, including but not limited to faculty availability, feasibility in a prison setting, majority interest from the students and requirements for fulfilling the degree. Courses will be offered emphasizing USP requirements and breadth of subjects reflecting the courses available at the University as far as possible.
- C.** Any participant who is removed from the course(s) for an extended period of time may need to withdraw from the course or program if coursework overdue exceeds what faculty and/or the program director determine can be reasonably completed within the constraints of University policy and the Pathways from Prison program.
- D.** Participants are subject to UW Regulations, policies, and procedures, including the Student Code of Conduct during the time they are enrolled in the Wyoming Pathways from Prison program. Behaviors occurring within the classroom or impacting the classroom environment may be managed through a student conduct process involving the Pathways from Prison Director. Repeated or severe violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in removal from the program.
- E.** The Corrections policy for responding to behavioral violations supersedes the Student Code of Conduct in circumstances when those policies may conflict. Additional violations of the law occurring during the time of the program may result in removal from the program.
- F.** Academic support will be made available by the University and Corrections.
- G.** In compliance with federal requirements, participants may request reasonable accommodations due to a disability through UW Disability Support Services for their academic coursework or programs.
- H.** Participants in the cohort will be supported by the University's Restorative Justice program in partnership with Corrections and the Pathways from Prison program.
- I.** Faculty will follow the process for assignment of grades as described in UW Regulation 2-106 (Assignment of Grades) and reporting academic dishonesty as noted in UW Regulation 2-114 (Student Academic Dishonesty).
- J.** Academic probation and suspension, as outlined in UW Regulation 2-109 (Academic Probation and Suspension), may be applied to participant academic performance.

- K.** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114 (Student Academic Dishonesty).
- L.** Applicants will be notified of the above upon offer of admission to the University through the Wyoming Pathways from Prison program.

**VI. SUPPORT FOR RE-ENTRY FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM PRISON**

- A.** Wyoming Pathways from Prison participants who are released from the prison prior to completing the program may choose to complete their degree with the University. Both online and in person options could be available for completion of the Bachelor of General Studies degree.
- B.** Participants who are discharged from prison will have met all the requirements for release from Corrections.
- C.** Wyoming Statute § 6-2-320 prohibits adult registered sex offenders from being on school grounds or living within 1,000 feet of a school. Given the presence of two schools on the University's main campus, the University may determine that registered sex offenders will be limited to completing coursework through existing online course offerings.
- D.** Participants who are released from prison who wish to continue their education will participate in a pre-release program with support from the University's Dean of Students Office, program faculty and Corrections. These partners will work to coordinate resources and prepare participants for return to community life. The pre-release program team will continue with regular touchpoints and communication with the participant following their release if they are continuing to pursue their education at the University.
- E.** Participants who do not continue their education at the University immediately following their release will have to re-apply for admission after three or more semesters, including summer terms, of inactive course enrollment per University Regulation 2-201 (Admission of Students).
- F.** Upon release, the participant must provide documentation of the conditions of parole and probation as well as contact information for the supervising authority and proof of residence to the University's Dean of Students Office.
- G.** Participants released from prison will be required to have a meeting with the University's Dean of Students, or designee, prior to coming to campus or participating in online classes. Regular meetings with a member of the Dean of Students team will be required of the student as a condition of their admission to the University of Wyoming. These meetings can happen virtually if the participant is not currently living in Laramie, Wyoming.
- H.** Participants will have the option of participating in the University's Restorative Justice Program.

- I. Applicants will be notified of the above upon offer of admission to the University through the Wyoming Pathways from Prison Program.

## **VII. DISMISSAL**

If an applicant fails to disclose information about prior criminal history or provides falsified information or documents, they may be dismissed under the Student Code of Conduct.

**Responsible Division/Unit:** Dean of Students Office, Division of Student Affairs

**Source:** None

**Links:** <http://www.uwyo.edu/regs-policies>

**Associated Regulations, Policies, and Forms:** None

**Approved:** 11/1/2023