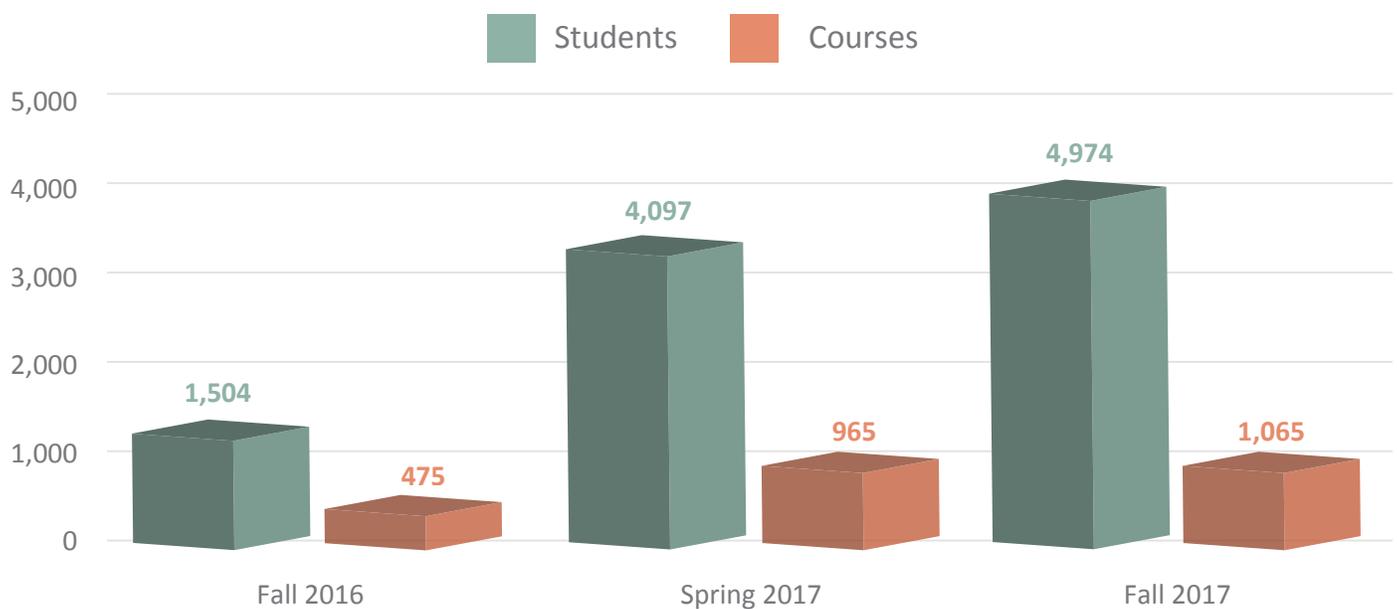


A second chance through Pell

Prison education reduces recidivism.

Expanded enrollment and courses for incarcerated individuals through the Second Chance Pell Initiative



Sources: Vera Institute of Justice, *"Fact Sheet: Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative Update,"* June 2018. (Data through fall 2017)

Bureau of Justice Statistics, *"Prisoners in 2016,"* January 2018.



Incarcerated individuals have lower educational attainment than the general population, but education plays an important part in their re-entry into society. Prison education has shown to increase the likelihood of employment upon release and reduced recidivism. With about 1.5 million incarcerated individuals in state and federal prisons, and about 650,000 released annually, the American Association of Community Colleges, Vera Institute of Justice and other organizations are advocating for more educational opportunities to eligible inmates.

Currently, inmates cannot use Pell grants for their postsecondary education. But in 2015, the U.S. Education Department opened Pell eligibility on a pilot basis through the Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative, involving 65 postsecondary institutions (including many community colleges) in more than half the states. In fall 2016, institutions participating in the initiative offered 475 courses in which 1,504 inmates were enrolled. By fall 2017, inmate enrollment jumped to 4,974 and courses to 1,065, with participating colleges offering 82 certificate, 68 associate and 21 bachelor's degree programs.

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