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## **overview**

People returning from prisons and jails face many challenges, including **lack of employment** and **educational opportunities**, **psychological trauma**, **poverty**, **social isolation**, and the **lack of self-esteem** that result from having been incarcerated.

As part of the Tufts University Prison Initiative of the Tisch College of Civic Life (TUPIT), the Tufts Educational Re-entry Network (TERN) employs a multi-pronged, trauma-informed approach to re-entry in the new Civic Studies accredited certificate program called **MyTERN**. This hybrid college-re-entry program offers a 4 course, 12-credit certificate in CIVIC STUDIES through Tufts University *at no cost to its students*. Personal laptop and transportation stipend provided. ***Program meets in-person at the Tufts Boston campus after working hours for 2 sessions each week, each 3 hours long.***

Program participation includes academic advising toward the continuation of higher education, including application for federal financial aid. Course credits are transferrable to community colleges, U Mass, or other schools.

THROUGH CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH MULTIPLE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK WITH PEOPLE RETURNING HOME FROM PRISON, **MyTERN …**

Engages people *holistically* by offering educational opportunities guided by a commitment to individual well-being

Facilitates a healthy social network that mitigates the isolation of people directly impacted by the justice system

Cultivates social-emotional, intellectual, and practical skills proven to be essential to strengthening one’s candidacy for meaningful employment and continuing education

Builds the participant’s sense of individual purpose, self-efficacy, and self-worth, as well as community belonging and accountability, by fostering relationship-building skills.

Measures success not only in decreased recidivism rates but also in the increased health and wellness of people re-entering society after incarceration.

Previous **MyTERN** students and members of TERN with **lived experience of incarceration serve as mentors** in **MyTERN**. **Faculty from Tufts** and a cohort of **trained Tufts Medford students** provide instruction for accredited courses and computer training.

## **Community partners Participating with Tufts University**

TERN’s expertise is in cultivating transformative education and personal growth opportunities. Doing so in a comprehensive program requires resources and collaboration with people and organizations with expertise in each component of re-entry. Our established community-partner network has built the foundation for success:

Project Place

Boston Mayor’s Office of Returning Citizens (ORC)

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

Eliot Community Human Services

Partakers: College Behind Bars Mentoring Program

MassHire Career Centers

InnerCity Weightlifting

Bunker Hill Community College

Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium (MPEC)

## **who is served**

**MyTERN** serves both **men & women** with **various levels of education** who have **returned from incarceration in Massachusetts**. ***Applicants must have a high school degree or equivalency (HSE)*.** *Referral sources for candidates include:*

People returning to communities from the Tufts college-in-prison programs at MCI-Concord, Souza Baranowski Correctional Center, or the Suffolk County correctional facilities.

People returning from facilities where they have participated in other college-in-prison programs, via **PARTAKERS** + **MPEC** (Mass. Prison Ed. Consortium).

People referred by organizational partners or by **PAROLE & PROBATION & COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS** as potential students.

## **program description**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Module 1: Introduction to Civic Studies: Literatures of Justice*** | ***Module 2: Technology for civic impact*** | ***Module 3: Tufts credit-bearing course*** (Alternates every year) | ***Module 4: Personal Finance and Entrepreneurial Project Development*** |
| Readings on justice from Sociology, Law, and Literature. Utilizes discussions of personal experience toward the development of writing skills, critical thinking, and self-reflection in relation to readings from different historical periods, regions, and cultures about socio-economic and racial justice.  Includes Medford campus Tufts students and centers the value of socialization and learning-in-community across social-cultural differences, promoting successful re-entry outcomes. | Training in Basic Computer Proficiency: Microsoft Office’s Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.  Podcast skills development.  Professionalization and career skill building with Tufts student tutors and **MassHire:** resumes/interviewing/etc. | 2020-2021: ***Introduction to Coding & Financial Math***  2021-2022: ***Improvisation, race and ethnicity on the US Stage*** | Quantitative reasoning toward personal and professional financial literacy, including basic terms of credit, savings and retirement accounts, taxes, and wealth management.  Imaginative work designing a personal project, including budgeting, networking, timelines, pitch practice, and grant proposals or loan applications supported by **Dorchester bay economic development corp.** |
| **IN-DEVELOPMENT: *Internship: 4-week Direct Experiential Learning*: Project Place, Office of Returning Citizens, InnerCity Weightlifting**  Our network is always expanding and presenting new domains of experience for **MyTERN** participants. | | | |
| ***Post-Program Graduate Involvement:***  Further enacting the practice and value of **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT,** a selected group of **MyTERN** participants are modestly compensated as re-entry mentors for the next year’s cohort. Mentoring training is included. Students are also invited to join the **MyTERN** Speakers’ Bureau and to continue work on the podcast, *MyTERN Conversations*. Some graduates may also be invited to participate as research assistants in program assessment and development. | | | |

## **APPLICATION & logistics**

* NO COST to students for: courses/tuition, laptop, books, public transportation.
* 12 transferrable course credits possible from Tufts & Bunker Hill Community College.
* Class meets 2 times a week for 3 hours, during non-working hours when possible.
* Participants must commit to the *full 9 month-long program*.
* Individual feedback requested periodically from participants as part of on-going program assessment measures.
* **Admissions occurs June/July 2021** with **program start of August 23**. Written application with invitation to group interview for strongest candidates.
* **APPLICATIONS DUE BY OR BEFORE JULY 15**: admissions is rolling so the sooner you apply the better.
* Contact **TUPIT at Tufts University, 163 Packard Avenue, Medford MA, 02155** / [**TUPIT@tufts.edu**](mailto:TUPIT@tufts.edu) **/** [**TUPIT.org**](http://sites.tufts.edu/tupit)

Please send application package to:

**TUPIT@tufts.edu**

– OR –

Hilary Binda, Director

Tufts University Prison Initiative

Tisch College / Barnam Hall

163 Packard Avenue

Medford, MA 02155

**Applications DUE NOW**

**through July 15 *2021***

**MyTERN Program Application**

|  |
| --- |
| Program Dates: AUGUST 23, 2021 – May 5, 2022  If accepted into this program, participants are expected to commit to the entire 9 months.  Program Location: Tufts University, 150 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02111 |

***Applicant Information***

Name (first, middle, last): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, Unit #, City, State, Zip Code): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender identity: what pronoun do you prefer? (he/she/they/other; if “other,” please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date of birth (day/month/year): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth (country, city, state, county): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number, if known: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Check *one or more* of the following groups of which you consider yourself a member and/or add what may be missing (response optional):

* Indigenous, American Indian or Alaskan Native
* Asian
* Black or African American
* Latino/a/x
* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
* White
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What language/s are you most fluent in: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have a second or third language, please identify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Educational History***

To your knowledge, did either of your parents/guardians receive a college degree (Yes/No): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To your knowledge, did either of your parents/guardians receive a bachelor’s degree or higher: ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Did you receive a high school diploma or HiSET/GED? What year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In what school or facility did you receive a high school diploma or HiSET/GED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have previous college experience, from which college/s: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If YES, what year/s were you in college (can be estimation): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If YES, list approximate number of courses taken: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If YES, list relevant courses/certificates/fields of study: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***References***

Please share the name and contact information of two professional or personal references.

**1.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***Current or Recent Employment,*** *if applicable*

Company name & address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Company phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job title & responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Start date – end date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Please complete the following questions as thoroughly as possible:***

1. Will you be able to attend classes in person 2x/week September-May? Meeting times September – December will be on **Monday & Thursday evenings 5:30-8:30pm** and are TBD January – May. Attendance, BEING ON TIME, and completing homework *before* class are mandatory for on-going program participation. Your performance will be evaluated for second semester continuation based on your ability to actively participate and complete required assignments during the first half of the year. Do you foresee any difficulties meeting these program requirements? If so, please explain how you would manage these.
2. The MyTERN program provides a monthly **transportation stipend** up to $100/month for each participant. This covers the cost of a Charlie Card. Please explain where you will be *traveling from* to get to class and how will you get yourself to and from the classroom **so that you arrive *before* the start of each class period?** Being on time and having time to greet people and settle in before class begins is a program requirement.
3. MyTERN includes Tufts University courses; there are high standards for passing and earning a grade in these courses. You will not receive credit unless *all assignments are completed*. We want to help you succeed! The Program Director will work with participants to support their academic success by providing tutors when needed. Do you have **access to a safe work space, access to Wi-Fi at home, and can you commit to completing all assignments** to the best of your ability?
4. Please briefly tell us **why you are interested** in joining MyTERN.
5. What do you value about higher education?
6. How will you contribute to the MyTERN community?
7. How do you see education and civic impact as transformative for you?
8. All students must commit to standards of behavior that are guided by a core belief in the importance of equality and respect for others. Students who join MyTERN must agree to follow the terms of the **community agreement**, attached below. Do you understand and agree to these terms of community engagement?

**MyTERN COMMUNITY AGREEMENT**

While a participant in the Tufts Education Re-entry Network’s Program MyTERN, I agree to the following terms of community agreement in the interest of supporting a collaborative and constructive classroom culture *by demonstrating RESPECT for all members of the MyTERN community: students (MyTERN and Medford), faculty, mentors*.

1. I understand that this program is about the community we create together above all. I therefore agree to respect and support my peers the way I would want to be respected and supported. I understand and commit to upholding standards of behavior that are guided by MyTERN’s commitment to total equality and the nondiscrimination policies by which Tufts and MyTERN operate, that cover differences in race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, age, and sentence and incarceration history - I understand and agree that I will never use language that insults any particular group of people, such as racist, homophobic, or sexist language.
2. The MyTERN standard of behavior includes a respect for privacy, as well as a readiness to honor all individual members of the program, peers and instructors: I understand that I am participating as part of a cohort, a team, which may sometimes require that I place the needs of the group over myself. I understand that my own success is connected to the success of others.
3. Because I understand that participation in MyTERN hinges on the sense of community we build by showing up consistently together, I commit to attending all classes and to showing up ON TIME during the 9-month program duration. I understand that if there is an emergency and I have to miss a class, I am responsible for alerting the professor/s in advance and following up with the professor/s immediately regarding work missed. I understand that because class meets only twice a week, I am expected to be in class every session and that if I miss more than two sessions per semester, I am jeopardizing my ability to earn credit in the course/s and to continue in the program.
4. I agree to be open to new ideas and to work as hard as I possibly can to engage the topics with my whole self. I understand that MyTERN recognizes my intelleigence and potential and thus that the courses I take will be full-fledged Tufts University courses. I know that MyTERN will hold me to the same high standards for passing and earning a grade in these courses as any student at Tufts University and that I will not receive credit unless I complete all assignments, including reading, writing, group work, presentations – at a satisfactory level according to the determination of the faculty member/s. I understand that not passing a class will result in the end of my participation in MyTERN.
5. I understand and agree that difference and disagreement is a crucial part of education and that civil discussion is what makes differences productive and potentially transformative. I understand that I can approach the professors and Program Director at any time with concerns I may have related to conflict mitigation. I understand and agree that I will always demonstrate respect for community members, including my professor/s, by listening and being responsive to their requests, especially in a conflict situation, expecting/understanding that they will always also listen to me.
6. *I understand and agree that I will never threaten or enact physical or verbal violence.*
7. *I understand and agree that I will never come to class under the influence of alcohol or any other non-prescribed substances.*
8. If I find a person’s behavior challenging, I will consider very carefully *and in partnership with the Program Director* how to best address my concern. I know that I can always take myself away from a conflict by leaving the classroom if I cannot figure out any other way to resolve a situation. I understand that should such a rare and
9. extreme case arise, I would need to have a conversation with the professor/s and come to a mutual understanding before returning to the program.
10. I understand that successfully completing the MyTERN certificate program does not promise preference in enrolling in Tufts University’s degree programs.
11. I understand that in order to receive the modest transportation stipend in my bank account monthly, I will have to provide information by email in response to an email from Tufts’ payment service and that this information will include citizenship status, social security number and/or tax identification number. U.S. citizenship status is not required for participation in this program, but evidence of a green card is required to receive the stipend. All information will remain confidentially held by Tufts Student Services (TSS).
12. I understand that as a condition of my participation I may be subject to a background check through the Street Outreach, Advocacy, and Response (SOAR) organization which works with the city of Boston’s BRIC system to assess any recent involvement in street violence/activity.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_