

MYTERN PROGRAM & APPLICATION

THE TUFTS UNIVERSITY EDUCATION RE-ENTRY NETWORK (TERN)
OF THE TISCH COLLEGE OF CIVIC LIFE



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**

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
<p>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.</p> <p>Includes Medford campus Tufts students and centers the value of socialization and learning-in-community across social-cultural differences, promoting successful re-entry outcomes.</p>	<p>Training in Basic Computer Proficiency: Microsoft Office's Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.</p> <p>Podcast design, storytelling, conversation structuring, and technical skill building + community involvement/activism.</p> <p>Professionalization and career skill building with Tufts student tutors and MASSHIRE: resumes / interviewing / etc.</p>	<p>2020-2021: INTRODUCTION TO CODING & FINANCIAL MATH</p> <p>2021-2022: IMPROVISATION, RACE AND ETHNICITY ON THE US STAGE</p>	<p>Quantitative reasoning toward personal and professional financial literacy, including basic terms of credit, savings and retirement accounts, taxes, and wealth management.</p> <p>Imaginative work designing a personal project, including budgeting, networking, timelines, pitch practice, and grant proposals. For those starting a business, our partner, DORCHESTER BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IS A RESOURCE FOR YOU AND THEY PROVIDE YOU WITH BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MICRO LOANS TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN BOSTON.</p>
<p>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.</p>			
<p>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, <i>MyTERN Conversations</i>, and in some cases to serve the editorial board of the ReSentencing Journal.</p>			

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:** admission to MyTERN is rolling, so the sooner you apply the better.
- Contact TUPIT at Tufts University, 163 Packard Avenue, Medford MA, 02155 / TUPIT@tufts.edu / TUPIT.org