



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

P.O. Box 1258
Uluga Campus
Majuro, Marshall Islands, MH 96960

Tel: (692) 625-3394/3291/4931
Fax: (692) 625-7203
Email: bor.regents@cmi.edu

CMI POLICY NO. 332

Justice-Impacted Students

Status:	Active
Effective Date:	August 8, 2022
Approval Date:	August 8, 2022
Steward:	Board of Regents
Approval Authority:	Board of Regents

Policy Statement

Students and trainees or prospective students and trainees shall not, solely on the basis of past criminal convictions, be denied access to or enrollment in any CMI program, service, or facility except as specified in this policy or in law. Eligibility for CMI programs and services extends to formerly incarcerated individuals, deportees, and currently incarcerated individuals who are allowed to leave the prison to attend classes. Justice-impacted students will be provided additional services and monitored to ensure their success and the safety of the campus community.

Reason for the Policy

The College of the Marshall Islands recognizes the life-changing potential of education and the importance of allowing students who have been incarcerated to reintegrate into the community fully and effectively. At the same time, the College has a responsibility to ensure that the campus community remains safe and secure for all students.

Definitions

Justice-Impacted

The widely-used Law School Admission Council definition of justice-impacted individuals is: “those who have been incarcerated or detained in a prison, immigration detention center, local jail, juvenile detention center, or any other carceral setting, those who have been convicted but not incarcerated, those who have been charged but not convicted, and those who have been arrested.”



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Statements of Elaboration of Policy

Applicant Disclosure of Status

Applicants are expected to disclose criminal convictions as part of the admissions process, whether to college or pre-college programs. Admitted students who failed to disclose this status will be subject to the Student Discipline process. Applicants who have been arrested or charged but not convicted are not required to disclose but may do so voluntarily.

Specific Programs

Individuals convicted of violent crimes or crimes against children may be denied admission to the health-related programs and any teacher education programs. This decision will be referred to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

Incarcerated Students

Eligible incarcerated individuals are encouraged to apply for and attend college and pre-college programs. The respective offices responsible for recruitment and admission will provide assistance in the application process. The Dean of Student Success will ensure that incarcerated students have a weekly schedule to include required counseling and academic support sessions. These schedules will be shared with Safety and Security as well as with prison officials. Incarcerated individuals should check in and out of campus with Safety and Security.

Other Justice-Impacted Students

When students disclose their status as justice-impacted individuals, they will be referred to the Counseling Director for assistance in accessing necessary resources and support. New justice-impacted students will be required to meet regularly with a Student Advocate regularly during their first semester and will be referred to other services as needed.

Students who commit a criminal act or are convicted of a criminal activity during their period of enrollment are subject to the Student Discipline Policy.



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Role of Safety and Security

Safety and Security will be made aware of justice impacted individuals on campus and may additionally monitor these individuals as necessary. However, security shall not interfere with these students' authorized participation in educational or co-educational activities.

Confidentiality

Except as otherwise specified in this policy or where a valid educational concern exists, students' past criminal convictions, arrests, or charges will not be disclosed. Employees should not disclose this information to other students unless required to do so by law.

Cross References to Related Policies and Regulations

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99)

CMI Policy 349: Student Discipline

Responsible Officer

Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Key Offices to Contact Regarding the Policy and its Implementation

Dean of Student Success, Adult Basic Education, Admission & Records, Safety & Security, Counseling



Procedures

Incarcerated Students

1. Prior to the deadline for application, the Dean of Student Success will work together with the Community Liaison and Protocol Officer to contact prison officials for a list of potential applicants for adult basic education (ABE) and college programs. Lists of potential applicants for ABE will be shared with the Dean of WAVES and lists of potential applicants for college programs will be shared with Admission & Records.
2. Each respective office will assist potential applicants with completing application requirements.
3. An evaluation from a mental health professional will be required prior to admission.
4. Each respective office will inform the Dean of Student Success about admitted students. The Dean of Student Success will ensure that prison officials are informed about orientation and registration requirements and that CMI Safety & Security are informed.
5. Incarcerated students should check in to and check out of the campus at the Safety & Security Office.
6. Once incarcerated students have a class schedule, they should meet with the Dean of Student Success or designee to have required counseling sessions and tutoring sessions added to the schedule. This schedule will be provided both to CMI Safety & Security and to prison officials.
7. Faculty and employees responsible for counseling and tutoring should report absences of incarcerated students to the Dean of Student Success who will work to ensure the student attends.

Other Justice-Impacted Students

1. When students disclose their status as justice-impacted individuals they should be referred to the Director of Counseling. If this status is disclosed as part of the admissions process, the office responsible for admissions will also notify Safety & Security. If the disclosure occurs outside the admissions process, the Director of Counseling will be responsible for contacting Safety & Security and, in case of a conviction that was not disclosed, the Dean of Student Success to initiate disciplinary processes.
2. The Counseling Director will assign each new justice-impacted student to a Student Advocate. Students will be required to meet regularly with their Student Advocate during their first semester and will be encouraged to continue meeting thereafter.
3. The responsible Student Advocate will ensure that each justice-impacted student is also referred to other students as required.
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5. When numbers allow, the Counseling Director will ensure that peer support groups are formed for justice-impacted students. These groups may be specialized e.g. deportees or those incarcerated on Majuro may have their own groups.

Date of Initial Policy:

Date(s) of Any Revisions:

Irene J. Taafaki

Dr. Irene J. Taafaki, President

August 8, 2022

Date