

INFORMATION SHEET

Office of Offender Services | In-Prison Programs



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Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP)

The OMCP is a voluntary program for long-term and life-term inmates, providing offenders with the training and certification needed to allow them to become certified mentors for alcohol and other drug counseling. Once participants graduate from this program, they are assigned as inmate mentors in Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUD) and Reentry Hub programs.

The primary goal of the OMCP is to provide drug and alcohol counseling from a team of both certified inmate mentors and certified contracted counselors. Combined, they provide enhanced treatment services to inmates assigned to the SAT programs. OMCP is intended to reduce the occurrence of substance abuse relapse and recidivism among SAT program participants. At the completion of training, participants can obtain a substance abuse counseling certification from a certifying organization recognized by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

OMCP mentors currently earn their certification through the California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators (CAADE) and use this certification to obtain employment upon release.

Location(s):

- Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)
- California State Prison
- Solano (SOL) and Valley State Prison (VSP)

Length of Program: OMCP candidates must complete a closely supervised 4000-hour counseling internship in an In-Prison SAT program to be eligible for certification. Each Offender Mentor must also successfully pass the Counselor Certification written examination, currently provided through CAADE.

Enrollment: Offenders must have a minimum of five years to life remaining time to serve, and cannot have a 115 in the last three years, a recent or current serious mental health history, a conviction for PC 288 or PC 290 registration, and no felony holds.

Eligibility Requirements: To be considered for the OMCP, each candidate must:

- Successfully complete the SAT program;
- Complete a CDCR OMCP application packet;
- Write a 500 word essay;

- Provide a resume with 3 references;
- Agree to and sign a Code of Ethics/Scope of Practice from the certifying organization;
- Allow evaluation of the candidate's Central File (C-File);
- Participate in an oral interview with CDCR selection panel;
- Agree to and sign a CDCR/OMCP internship performance contract.

CDCR's Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) manages adult inmate and parolee rehabilitative programs. Its top priority is to provide rehabilitative programming and life skills to offenders in an effort to reduce their likelihood of reoffending after their release from prison. DRP is comprised of the Office of Offender Services (OS), the Office of Correctional Education (OCE), and the Office of Program Accountability and Support (OPAS).

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