



**YEAR ONE PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH PRISON  
EDUCATION PROJECT**  
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This study consists of a year one program evaluation for the University of Utah Prison Education Project (UPEP). UPEP is a college-in-prison program that was developed through years of dialogue and relationship building in the local community and was launched in Spring 2017 out of a Praxis Lab supported by the University of Utah Honors College. Following a rigorous admissions process during Summer 2017, the Project initiated programming in two correctional facilities at the Utah State Prison in Draper in Fall 2017. During the 2017-2018 academic year, UPEP facilitated two college-level non-credit-bearing courses per semester in each facility. During this period, UPEP supported additional extracurricular events and opportunities on Campus and in the Prison. The purpose of this study is to conduct a process evaluation of the programming and engagement offered during the first year of operation. The secondary purpose of this study is to identify and quantify some of the preliminary impacts UPEP has had on incarcerated students, non-incarcerated volunteers, and the greater campus community. This evaluation will consist of several surveys designed for distinct populations of program participants that utilize Likert scale, yes and no, and short response questions. The surveys have been developed through a conscious benchmarking effort across the field of higher education in prison as well as through several informal focus group discussions conducted on Campus and in the Prison. While the results of the survey are still forthcoming, the data is expected to have significance for the Project's decision-making and development during the 2018-2019 year and beyond. Additionally, the evaluation is expected to help the Project better articulate its value to the University of Utah, the Utah State Prison, the state of Utah, and the broader community. Ultimately, these data are critical for supporting the Project's quality, longevity, and growth, especially as it seeks funding to make the transition to for-credit programming.