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[The Cornell Prison Education Program Holds Its First Graduation Ceremony](#) Filed in [Degree Attainments](#) on June 22, 2012



Recently, the Cornell Prison Education Program held graduation ceremony at the Auburn Correctional Facility. Many of the graduates were African Americans.

The Cornell Prison Education Program began in 2008. About 100 inmates are enrolled at the Auburn facility or the Cayuga Correctional Facility. Cornell faculty and graduate students teach the courses and they are aided by more than 40 volunteer students earn Cornell credits which are transferred to Cuyuga Community College, from which the graduates receive their associate degrees.

Prisoners must pass an entrance examination to be admitted to the program. All fees, including books and supplies, are paid for by the state.

It was the first graduation ceremony for the Cornell Prison Education Program. The graduates were the first in New York State since the enactment of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1995. That legislation made prison inmates ineligible for higher education.

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**Tracking the Progress
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An interactive graphic shaped like a smartphone. At the top, it asks "Would You Go Back To School If You Qualified For A Grant? See If You Qualify!". Below this is a cartoon illustration of a woman with glasses and a red fire helmet, holding a red book. The text "Click Your Age:" is written in blue. Below the illustration are ten age group categories, each with a small white square icon: "Under 18", "19-25", "26-35", "36-45", "46-55", "56-65", "66-75", and "Over 75". The "classesUSA" logo is at the bottom.

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