

SECTION III

In this third section of Preparing for Success after Prison, we invite participants to join our coalition for reforms that would expand the concept of “earning freedom” by incentivizing excellence.

In Section I, the first five hours of our Preparing for Success after Prison course, we provided the construct for living a values-based, goal-oriented adjustment.

In Section II, we endeavored to show a practical application for the next ten hours of the course. I used the Straight-A Guide as a compass to prepare for success upon release.

In Section III, we offer an additional 15 exercises on personal development. These final 15 lessons involve more writing and critical thinking; participants should use critical thinking to memorialize their personal growth and preparations for success.

Purpose:

Throughout this course, I’ve written that I would offer guidance that I learned from leaders. Those leaders taught me the importance of life-long learning. If we’re always preparing, we’re living more intentionally.

We must identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. I pledge transparency and would never ask anyone to do anything I’m not doing. Subsequent lessons will show how I’m still using these strategies today.

Since completing my prison term, in August of 2013, working toward prison reform and sentence reform has been like a ministry for me. Every day, I advocate for reforms that include:

- » Expansion of incentives that would allow all people in prison to earn higher levels of liberty through merit and reconciliation.
- » Access to work release for people in federal prison who qualify.
- » Meaningful access to commutations and compassionate release.
- » Reinstatement of the US Parole Commission.

To succeed with such efforts, I need help from people in prison. When more people show that they’re building release plans and using those plans to guide their preparations for success, we become more successful at persuading administrators, business leaders, and citizens on the need to expand the use of incentives in prison.

We invite participants to subscribe to our newsletter. If you haven’t done so already, consider becoming a part of our community:



Prison Professors
1205 BMC Drive / Suite #706
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Corrlinks:
Interns@PrisonProfessors.org

Subject line: Requesting a Scholarship



AFTERWORD

Build a Record of Your Progress

On behalf of everyone at Prison Professors Charitable Corporation, thank you for working through this course.

Our nonprofit provides free educational resources to help justice-impacted people prepare for success. We encourage participants to use their time intentionally, develop useful skills, and create a written record of their growth.

During the 26 years I served in federal prison, I learned that personal development becomes more powerful when we document it. I earned academic degrees, wrote books, developed release plans, and preserved evidence of the work I completed. That record helped others understand how I was preparing for success.

You can build a similar record through a free Profile on PrisonProfessors.org.

What to Include in Your Profile

Use your Profile to document:

- » Biography: Describe your background, the lessons you have learned, and how you are preparing for success.
- » Journal Entries: Record the decisions, habits, and actions that demonstrate continued growth.
- » Book Reports: Explain what you learned from each book and how you will apply those lessons.
- » Release Plan: Describe your plans for housing, employment, education, finances, health, family responsibilities, and community support.
- » Accomplishments: Record courses, work assignments, certificates, commendations, and other evidence of progress.



A Profile does not guarantee any particular outcome. It gives you a way to show the work you are doing and the person you are becoming.

How to Create Your Profile

Ask a family member or trusted friend to: Visit PrisonProfessors.org.

Select Profiles.

Follow the instructions to create your Profile.

Save the login information securely.

Add the written work you send to them.

Your family member or trusted contact may update the Profile on your behalf.

Points and Leaderboards

Participants may earn points when they add written work to their Profiles. The leaderboards recognize people who consistently document their progress.

Profile participation is optional. Profile points do not determine First Step Act eligibility or the award of First Step Act time credits. Building a Profile is separate from completing Preparing for Success After Prison under the supervision of an authorized facilitator.

When You Need Assistance

If you do not have a family member or trusted friend who can help, contact our team. Email: Interns@PrisonProfessors.org. Or use the US Post office:

Prison Professors Charitable Corporation

1205 BMC Drive, Suite 706

Cedar Park, TX 78613



When writing, include:

- » Your full name
- » Your registration or identification number
- » Your institution
- » Your return mailing address
- » A clear explanation of the assistance you need

You may also send biography updates, journal entries, book reports, release-plan sections, and other written material for your Profile. Keep copies of everything you send whenever possible.

Continue Building

Your past will always remain part of your story, but it does not have to control your future. The decisions you make today can influence how others perceive you and what opportunities may become available later.

Do not wait for an opportunity before beginning to prepare. Build the record now.

With hope and respect,

Michael Santos

Founder

Prison Professors Charitable Corporation

1205 BMC Drive, Suite 706

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