



# JOB CORPS: Changing Lives, Building Futures, One Student at a Time

November 2007

DATA SPOTLIGHT

Every year Job Corps helps thousands of young people begin satisfying careers. This Data Spotlight provides general information about Job Corps centers and students. It describes the daily schedule and methods employed to ensure appropriate program management and accountability for every student.

### What Is Job Corps?

Job Corps is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week residential academic and technical training program. The US Department of Labor administers the program to meet the education and training needs of economically disadvantaged youth throughout the United States. Established in 1964, Job Corps to date has trained and educated more than 2 million young people and serves nearly 64,000 young Americans each year. The program value approximates a \$2,000 per month scholarship.

### Where Is Job Corps?

Job Corps has 122 centers located in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Several government agencies and Indian Nations manage 28 centers with the balance (94) managed by private contractors. Admissions, and Placement operations exist at hundreds of locations around the country.

### Whom Does Job Corps Serve?

Students must meet the following requirements to enroll in the program.

- Age 16 through 24
- A U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Meet income requirements
- Free of parole supervision
- Free of serious medical or behavioral problems
- Willing to work and learn in a drug-free and violence-free environment
- Ready, willing, and able to participate fully in an educational environment

The application process can take several months. All prospective students will:

- Meet with an Outreach and Admissions counselor prior to admission
- Learn expectations and the benefits of the program
- Undergo a background check
- Sign a pre-admission agreement complying with Job Corps' Zero Tolerance Policy for drugs and violence

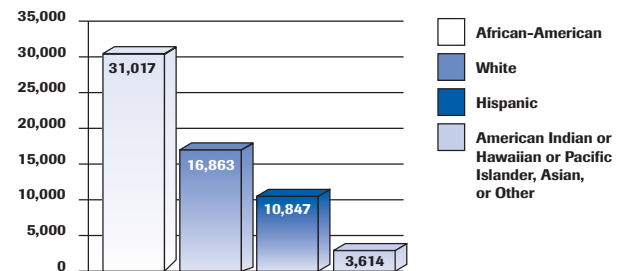
Applicants are generally assigned to a center close to where they live. Outreach and Admission counselors arrange travel for entering students to ensure their safe arrival at the center.

### What Do Job Corps Students Learn?

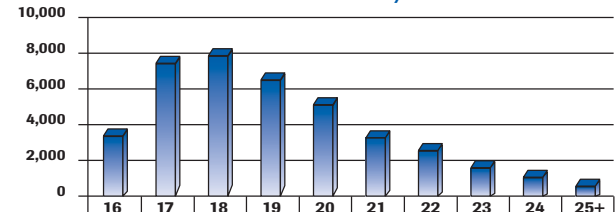
Job Corps students enter with varying levels of academic abilities and progress at their own pace. Many centers offer english as a second language (ESL) classes. Using certified teachers, the program features:

- High school diploma or GED
- Vocational/ Career & Technical training in more than 100 occupational areas leading to industry-recognized certification
- Attainment of literacy and numeracy
- Social and Career Success Skills
- Advanced training, including college opportunities

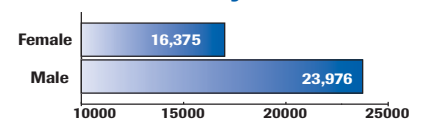
**Job Corps Active Student Population by Race and Ethnicity, As of June 30, 2007**



**Active Students by Age As of June 30, 2007**



**Active Students by Gender As of July 31, 2007**



## Center Life

For approximately the first 60 days, student training targets the students' transition into the center.

### Initial Training Subject Matter

- Safety and security
- Health and wellness
- Benefits, including pay, leave, and support services
- Basic schedule of training and activities
- Personal career development plans
- Center life, personal responsibility and social skills

Concurrently, students enter an individualized academic program and work toward their high school diploma or GED and industry-recognized career and technical training.

Dormitories promote a safe and comfortable environment for students. Residential advisors (staff) manage dormitories and social development programs.

- Residential students are assigned to specific dormitory rooms.
- Students must clean their own rooms and assist with the upkeep of "common" living areas such as lounges and television rooms.
- Dormitory meetings, group counseling sessions, and adherence to curfew and "lights out" time are mandatory.

Job Corps also provides a non-residential setting at some centers.

Job Corps offers a variety of activities and support services, including:

- Basic Health care
- Nutritious meals
- Sports and recreation
- Counseling
- Group living
- Arts and crafts
- Student government
- Leadership and incentive programs
- Community service and events
- Living allowance to cover personal expenses
- Spiritual development activities
- Communication skill development

On weekends, centers often organize trips to nearby attractions, such as shopping malls, parks, museums, sporting events, and movie theaters as well as arrange civic service learning opportunities through community-related projects and events.

Job Corps provides student transportation to and from home during the winter and summer breaks. Family members may arrange to visit students at the Job Corps center.

As part of the student transition after graduation, staff work to assist students in finding housing, transportation, and childcare for up to 6 months after graduation to make the transition from the program to the world of work easier.

### Job Corps Living Allowance and Transition Payment

The living allowance (i.e., pay) is based on stay duration (e.g., up to 56 days is \$25/pay period or two weeks, 57-112 days is \$30/pay period, 113-182 is \$40/pay period and 183+ days at \$50/pay period).

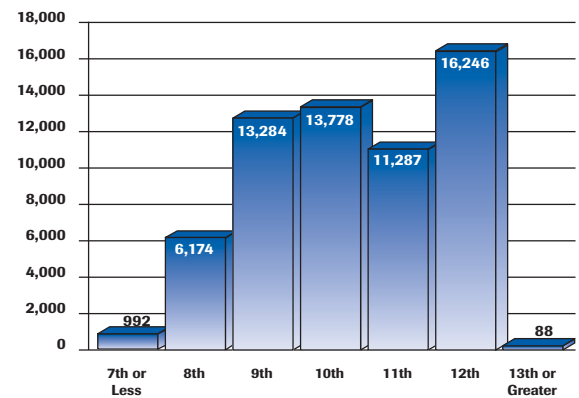
A transition payment occurs when the student successfully completes a High School Diploma/GED and/or a career and technical certificate. Students receive \$250 for HSD/GED, \$750 for CTE or \$1,200 for completing both.

### Job Corps Center Schedule

While schedules vary from center to center, a day in the life of a Job Corps student usually follows the same pattern Monday through Friday:

6:00 - 8:00	AM	Breakfast and clean up activities
8:00 - 11:30	AM	Training day begins (Academic/ Career and Technical training)
11:30 - 12:30	PM	Lunch
12:30 - 4:00	PM	Training day continues
4:00 - 10:00	PM	Dinner, meetings with counselors, student government, residential life, recreation, cleanup
10:00 -	PM	Lights out
Weekends		Home visits, field trips, volunteer work, leisure activities, spiritual development and residential life activities

Last Academic Level of Entering Students



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## What Are The Results?

Job Corps is an individualized program and the length students stay vary. Students may remain enrolled for up to two years (or a total of three years to attend advanced training or college).

- Average length of stay is approximately eight months.
- Studies have shown the longer students remain in the program, the greater the likelihood of success.
- Program costs are approximately \$25,000 per participant per year.
- Initially benefits exceed costs, returning \$2.02 for every \$1 spent on the program.

Job Corps has one of the highest placement rates among the nation's job training programs. For Job Corps graduates:

- Over 87.5 percent obtained jobs, enlisted in the military or enrolled in higher education.
- Of students entering without a diploma, 18,552 earned a High School Diploma or GED during their time in the Job Corps program.
- 58 percent of students achieve a literacy of numeracy gain of one or more educational levels.

In PY 2006, MTC Job Corps students and staff joined with local communities to serve their neighbors as part of various national initiatives and community building events, providing over 116,000 hours of service.

## Job Corps Centers Management and Accountability

The Department of Labor (DOL) ranks Job Corps centers according to their performance on identified measures. To win and keep a contract to manage a center a contractor must consistently meet DOL performance standards. Contracts based on performance goals last for two years with three optional one-year renewal periods. DOL monitors and collects data on each student in the program and after completion. DOL tracks key performance measures including:

- Literacy and numeracy gains
- High school diploma (HSD)/GED attainment
- Career and technical certificate completion
- Placement after graduation (includes students staying more than 60 days but not completing their training)
- Six and 12 month placement success
- Average weekly earnings of graduates

## MTC Job Corps Centers

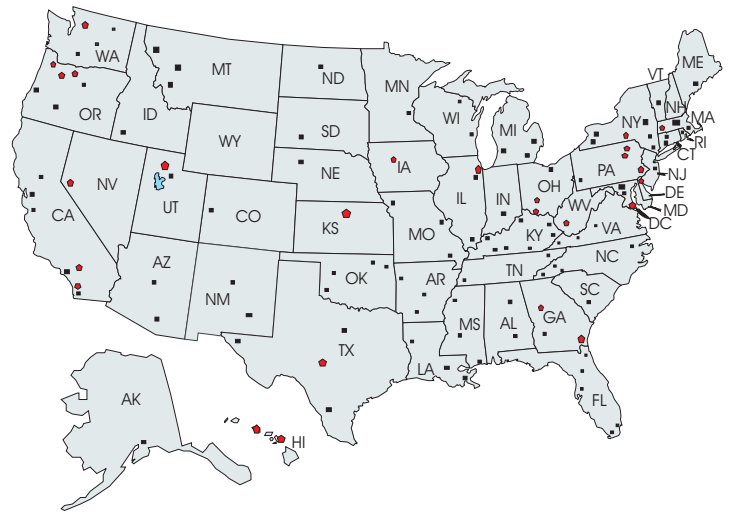
MTC is the largest private Job Corps contractor with the U.S. Department of Labor. MTC manages and operates 25 Job Corps centers and satellite centers in 18 states, as well as 27 contracts for recruiting and placement of students across the US. MTC's size gives customers access to unique technical specialists and expertise. The depth of MTC's executive team, corporate university and research Institute ensures experts are on hand to find innovative solutions to complex operational challenges.

**PY 2006 Job Corps student graduates placed in higher education, jobs, or military**  
**87.5%**

**Vocational Certificates earned in Job Corps**  
**31,855**

**High School Diplomas/GEDs earned in Job Corps**  
**18,552**

**PY 2006 Students Entering Job Corps**  
**65,100**



Find out more about Job Corps, <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>, or by calling: (800) 733-JOBS or (800) 733-5627.

Equal Opportunity Employer Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

## Sources

Data provided by the Job Corps Data Center, and Job Corps National Office. References to data can be obtained by contacting the MTC Institute.



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**Management & Training Corporation (MTC)** is an international private contractor that manages and operates Job Corps centers and correctional facilities.

**MTC Institute** is dedicated to examining data and projecting trends relevant to job training and corrections programs.

**The Data Spotlight** is a periodic publication highlighting issues that impact the future of young people and offenders.

