

Brave Behind Bars — Virtual Web Design Curriculum in US Prisons and Jails

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 56/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

A 12-week MIT-led virtual course teaches HTML, CSS and JavaScript to incarcerated students across five US prisons. A 2024 MIT/UMass Lowell study found strong qualitative confidence gains, but a 37-person quantitative pilot found no statistically significant self-efficacy change.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	0/1
Demonstrated reach	0/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-22

[MIT Educational Justice Institute \(TEJI\) & Brave Initiatives](#) — accessed 2026-07-22

[MIT News: Study demonstrates efficacy of MIT-led Brave Behind Bars program](#) — accessed 2026-07-22

[The Register: Turns out teaching criminals to write web code keeps them out of prison](#) — accessed 2026-07-22

[MIT News: Brave Behind Bars — computing skills for women \(2022\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-22

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