The United States currently has the highest incarceration rate in the world; however this has little effect on crime. While we have other methods at our disposal for punishing offenders – some which have proven to be very effective on crime reduction – the current get-tough approach to punishment is leading to more reliance on imprisonment.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a practical understanding of today’s corrections operation, its history and theories. The examination of trends, alternatives, and controversies currently occurring in the field of institutional corrections is discussed throughout the course.

The objectives of this course are:

- To become knowledgeable of the history, concepts, and philosophy of correctional institutions programs
- To gain a better understanding of issues faced by the inmate in the US correctional system
- To understand the various roles played by practitioners in the field of corrections institutions.
- Introduce correctional institutions as a career opportunity.

Tours of Illinois correctional institutions are part of the course