

FIT Activity in the Field During COVID

The current status of FIT ministry remains at an all-time low due to the virus outbreak. There are signs of a slow improvement, however, as more institutions open. The institutions that have opened the most are transition and recovery houses, followed by jails and prisons. FIT ministry is almost totally confined to institutions that let us in to minister. The greatest number of our clients are located in Florida state prisons. Our clients are approximately 65% male and our facilitators are about 65% female.

Nearly all of the state prisons and jails are currently closed to volunteer programs such as ours due to the virus. All of the District 4 (South Florida) prisons are shut down and even peer facilitators are not allowed out of their pod to conduct classes.

Data from the FL DOC Website

The following data is derived from the Florida Department of Corrections website dated September 8, 2020.

- Visitation of inmates has been suspended through September 14.
- 15,672 positive cases of COVID in inmates, 2,718 in staff.
- 111 inmate deaths, 3 staff deaths.



"As Florida's largest state agency, and the third largest state prison system in the country, FDC employs 24,000 members, incarcerates approximately 90,000 inmates and supervises nearly 155,000 offenders in the community."

FIT Activity at the Office



Thanks to your continued giving, the office has been able to stay open with no cut backs in service. We have used the time in upgrading our curriculum and office procedures so that we will be there when you need us. Our loyal supporters have not let us down during this difficult time. Thank you again for your faith in your organization. Without your passion, we wouldn't have ever made it this long!

Projects we are working on include a reformatting and upgrading both the English and Spanish editions of our *Anger Dynamics* books. Also being worked on is our new course, *Starting Over*.

Coming Events

- Next FIT Training is Saturday, October 24, 9 AM - 3 PM EDT with a lunch break. <http://100hour.org/leadertraining.html>
- Next FIT Board Meeting is Saturday, October 24 at 9-11 ET. The meeting is online and FIT members are welcome to join the meeting as "visitors". Call the office at 941.799.4975 for the web address and access code.

FIT Adopts Course Completion Plan

In an effort to provide guidance to what is required for completing a FIT course, the FIT Policy Committee recommended and the Board approved the following policy.

Policy 2020-2

FIT Course Completion Plan

Approval on July 26, 2020

1. Purpose of Courses. FIT maintains course curriculum to assist the incarcerated, addicted, homeless, brokenhearted, and recently released in transitioning back into society. The curriculum consists of a comprehensive “100-Hour” program taught by trained facilitators.

2. Curriculum Design. The Integrity Curriculum course books are designed for small group sessions where the goal for participants is a purposeful and meaningful life. To this end, the curriculum is designed for jail, prison, halfway house, recovery home, community center, and church settings.

A distinctive feature of FIT is the focus on many key areas of life-skill need. The FIT curriculum is not just about addiction, or anger, or parenting skills, or finances, or relationships. It is about all these things and addresses the needs of people wherever they may be.

Class participation is a significant component of the FIT curriculum design. Therefore, FIT considers class participation and group discussion as an important part of the overall learning experience. To maximize learning, students must participate in class discussion.

Participants in FIT-authorized classes receive course completion certificates for each course they complete. Participants are also eligible to receive a special program-completion certificate if they complete the requirements as outlined in this policy.

3. Course Completion. FIT maintains that the maximum benefit for the student is to attend all course sessions, participate in group discussions, and complete all course preparation/homework assignments. Therefore, course requirements are considered complete when a student has accomplished the following:

- A. no unexcused sessions and no more than one excused session per course.
- B. completed all course preparation/homework assignments.
- C. approval by facilitator.
- D. class participation.

A. Excused Session. An excused session is granted when the student failed to attend a course session due to circumstances beyond his/her own control. The facilitator can only excuse one session absence per student, per course.

B. Course Preparation/Homework Assignments. FIT maintains that students receive the maximum benefit from the training by preparing for the course session prior to attendance in session. This allows for maximum student participation during group discussion. Therefore, course preparation assignments will be accomplished prior to course session. Course preparation/homework assignments cannot be utilized as a substitute for class attendance. Students that fail to attend the class session cannot receive class credit for completing the preparation/homework assignments.

C. Approval by Facilitator. Course facilitators will be responsible for confirming that students have met the course completion requirements in accordance with this policy. When the course

completion requirements have been met in accordance with this course completion policy, the

- D. FIT facilitator can order an official custom-made, computer-generated FIT course completion certificate for each student participating in the course and meeting the completion requirements.
 - E. **Class Participation.** FIT maintains that class participation increases the learning opportunities of the students. Therefore, class participation is required for students to receive a course completion certificate. The facilitator must have a method to track class participation for each student. Attachments to this policy provide techniques and a behavioral assessment tool that may be employed to track student participation.
4. **Special Program Completion-Certificate.** Students who complete at least one course from each of the six focus areas and accumulate a minimum of 100 hours of class time may be submitted for a Special Program Completion-Certificate. This certificate must be requested by a FIT member and program requirement completion verified by FIT office administrator.
 5. **Alternative Course Completion Method during Emergencies.** The FIT Board will task the FIT Curriculum Committee to develop an alternative method for course completion in the event of National, State, or Local emergencies as deemed appropriate by the FIT Board. The FIT Curriculum Committee will present the alternative course completion method to the FIT Policy Committee for approval and incorporation in this course completion policy.
 6. **FIT Board Policy Adoption.** The Family Integrity Training Board Members voted and adopted this policy on (on agenda for approval on July 25,2020).