



DESCRIPTION

The Challenge Program is a cognitive behavioral, residential treatment program developed for male inmates in the United States Penitentiary (USP) settings. The Challenge Program provides treatment to high-security inmates with substance use problems and/or mental illnesses. Programming is delivered within a modified therapeutic community (MTC); inmates participate in interactive groups and attend community meetings while living in a housing unit separate from the general population. In addition to treating substance use disorders and mental illnesses, the program addresses criminality, via cognitive behavioral challenges to criminal thinking errors.

The Challenge Program is available in 13 high security institutions. Inmates may participate in the program at any point during their sentence; however, they must have at least 18 months remaining on their sentence. The duration of the program varies based on inmate need, with a minimum duration of nine months.

An inmate must meet one of the following criteria to be admitted into the Challenge Program:

- A history of drug use as evidenced by self-report, Presentence Investigation Report (PSI) documentation or incident reports for use of alcohol or drugs.
- A serious mental illness as evidenced by a current diagnosis of a psychotic disorder, mood disorder, anxiety disorder, or severe personality disorder.

HOURS

This program is typically completed in 500 hours.

LOCATIONS

USP Allenwood	USP Atwater	USP Beaumont	USP Big Sandy
USP Canaan	USP Coleman I & II	USP Hazelton	USP Lee
USP McCreary	USP Pollock	USP Terre Haute	USP Tucson

NEEDS

Anger/Hostility, Antisocial Peers, Cognitions, Mental Health, and Substance Use

PROGRAM DELIVERY

To ensure program fidelity and proper credit, the **Challenge Program** must only be delivered by Psychology Services staff.