



# Study in Arizona at One of the **Ten Maricopa Community Colleges**



[www.maricopa.edu/international](http://www.maricopa.edu/international)



**Dr. Steven R. Gonzales**  
*Interim Chancellor*

Maricopa Community Colleges is decidedly distinct, serving over 168,000 students every year through ten colleges, one skill center, and multiple campuses and sites in the metropolitan Phoenix area in Arizona. With over 1,000 business partnerships, advanced health care training, biotechnology opportunities, and unique career offerings, Maricopa Community Colleges has an excellent reputation for providing a top-notch education for students.

Each year, our colleges welcome hundreds of international students from more than 60 countries, who come to participate in a wide range of programs from English language training to university transfer programs. Our colleges offer international students superior academic opportunities, unique cultural experiences, and friendly campus environments.

Whether your interest is in information technology, business, film making, tourism, culinary arts, computer technology, or many other varied fields, we encourage you to consider Maricopa Community Colleges for your international education experience. As an institution that celebrates diversity and embraces global education, we value international students and would welcome you with open arms.

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## Why Study in Arizona at a Maricopa Community College?

- ▶ Choice of 10 nationally accredited colleges and one skill center
- ▶ Easy and open online admission process
- ▶ Over 1,600 degree and certificate programs
- ▶ Innovative transfer programs to state universities in Arizona and other universities throughout the U.S.
- ▶ Low tuition cost
- ▶ Quality education experience
- ▶ Flexible and convenient day, evening, and weekend class schedules
- ▶ Multiple learning formats, including in-person, online, live online, and hybrid
- ▶ Personal attention and small class sizes
- ▶ English as a Second Language (ESL) programs
- ▶ Support services for international students
- ▶ Accessible technology

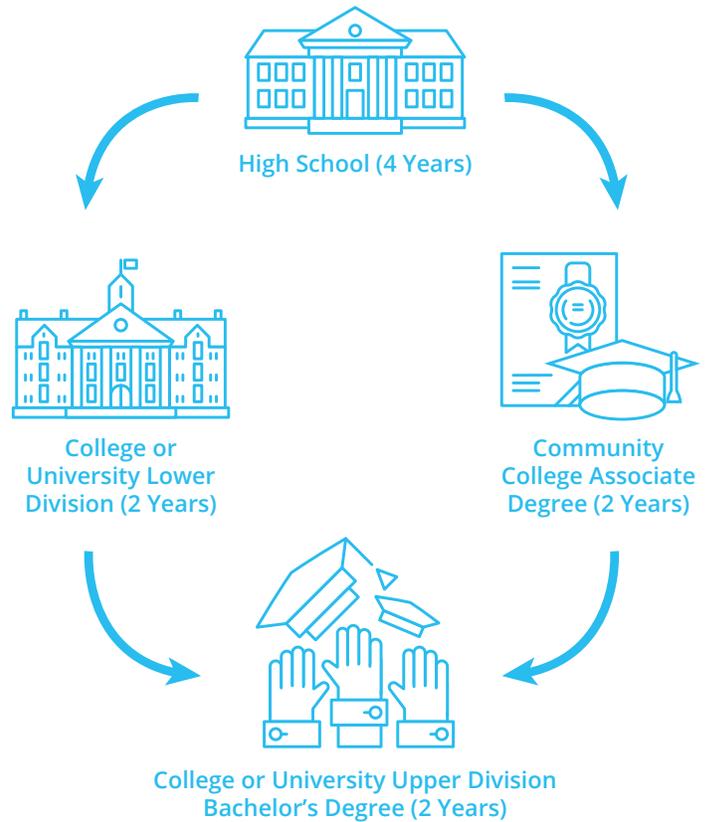


# What is a Community College?

**Community colleges offer several kinds of programs of interest to international students:**

- ▶ University-transfer programs
- ▶ Technical programs
- ▶ Job training programs
- ▶ Basic skills programs
- ▶ Special-interest programs

International students are probably most interested in the first program on this list: university-transfer programs. Maricopa Community Colleges offer the first two years of a normal four-year bachelor's degree program. A student completes the first two years at the community college, then transfers to the university as a junior to complete the final two years of the bachelor's program. Students who attend a community college can prepare themselves to transfer to a four-year institution by completing the lower division courses at the community college instead of at a university.



**For international students coming to the United States from other countries, community colleges offer some distinct advantages over other institutions:**

- ▶ Open admission policies
- ▶ Easy transfer to a university
- ▶ A wide selection of academic and technical programs
- ▶ Basic skill courses including English as a Second Language
- ▶ A supportive learning environment with small class sizes
- ▶ Low-cost tuition
- ▶ Credits fully transferable to other colleges and universities



# More About Maricopa Community Colleges

## Degrees, Courses and Transfer Opportunities

Whether just out of high school, beginning or re-entering college, re-careering, or seeking lifelong education, Maricopa Community Colleges offers a wide range of opportunities.

- ▶ Associate Degrees:
  - ▷ Associate in Arts (AA)
  - ▷ Associate in Sciences (AS)
  - ▷ Associate in Business (ABUS)
  - ▷ Associate in General Studies (AGS)
  - ▷ Associate in Transfer Partnership (ATP)
  - ▷ Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
  - ▷ Associate in Arts in Elementary Education (AAEE)
  - ▷ Associate in Fine Arts (AFA)
- ▶ Over 933 Certificates of Completion, including:
  - ▷ Dental Hygiene
  - ▷ Interior Design
  - ▷ International Business
  - ▷ Media Arts
  - ▷ Networking Technology
  - ▷ Nursing
  - ▷ Web Design
- ▶ 9,930 courses are available throughout the District

Flexible course delivery includes online, live-online, in person, hybrid, and hybrid/virtual.

Transfer articulation agreements with public and private colleges and universities enable seamless transitions to four-year institutions.

## Job Placement and Advisement

Educational and career advice is available to students as well as community members. College career centers offer one-on-one career planning assistance and access to:

- ▶ Employment search information
- ▶ Internship opportunities
- ▶ Occupations in demand
- ▶ Resume writing and interview tips
- ▶ Wage/salary ranges and skill requirements
- ▶ Job readiness assessments
- ▶ Academic planning

## Technology

Maricopa Community Colleges ranks among the nation's leading institutions of higher education in the use of computers and telecommunications. High-tech computer centers and learning centers at each college combine with modern libraries to provide students access to worldwide information and learning opportunities. Faculty, staff, and students have access to cutting-edge technologies, Internet education opportunities, and daily use of the Internet and email.

## Admissions

Maricopa Community Colleges welcomes your application as an international student. Our staff will make every effort to assist you. Our admission requirements conform to the regulations of the U.S. Government for issuing F-1 student visa documents. If you have questions, please contact the International Education Program at the college of your choice. There is NO application fee.

## Application Deadlines

- ▶ Fall Semester - July 1
- ▶ Spring Semester - November 1

## General Information for F-1 Non-immigrant Students

- ▶ Prospective students seeking admission based on F-1 nonimmigrant status must provide the following documents:

*Updated 6/24/2020*

- ▶ International Student application
- ▶ Language proficiency documentation such as TOEFL scores, IELTS scores, STEP EIKEN score
- ▶ Equivalent of a United States high school diploma (secondary education)
- ▶ Financial guarantee to cover tuition and living expenses
- ▶ Transcripts from colleges or universities. It is the applicant's responsibility to have the transcripts evaluated or translated to English by a foreign credential evaluation service if necessary
- ▶ Copy of the ID page of the student's passport
- ▶ Contact the International Education Program office for additional information

# Our Colleges

Each of the ten colleges in Maricopa County Community College District is individually accredited, yet part of the larger system. The District is one of the largest higher education systems in the world — a major resource for business and industry and individuals seeking education and job training.

## Maricopa Community Colleges Across the Valley





# CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.cgc.edu](http://www.cgc.edu)

2626 E. Pecos Rd Chandler, AZ 85225

**Phone:** 480.732.7391 | 480.857.5453 fax

**E-mail:** iep@cgc.edu

**Website for International Students:**

[www.cgc.edu/admissions/international-students](http://www.cgc.edu/admissions/international-students)

Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) is a dynamic learning environment for more than 19,000 students annually. Ranked as one of the best community colleges in Arizona, CGCC is fully accredited and serves the needs of Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek, and other communities. CGCC has three locations: its main Pecos campus, the Williams campus, and Sun Lakes Center.

International students who want to improve their English language proficiency can complete English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to prepare them for their academic program. CGCC has a full-service Transfer Office to help students move on to a university to complete a bachelor's degree. In addition to university transfer and general education degree options, CGCC has unique signature programs,



which include: Aviation, Mortuary Science, Automated Manufacturing Systems, Electric Utility Technology, and Crime and Intelligence Analysis.

CGCC also has a successful baseball program that attracts players and coaches from all over the nation and other countries. In addition, our performing arts program, student clubs and organizations, nationally awarded Service-Learning, and learning communities make CGCC a great place to earn a college degree.

Other centers & campuses:

**Sun Lakes Educational Center** | 480.857.5500  
25105 S. Alma School Rd., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

**Williams Campus** | 480.988.8000  
7360 E. Tahoe Ave., Mesa, 85212

**Communiversit**y | 480.726.4182  
21740 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ 85142

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My first visit to Arizona was during high school for summer vacation and I knew is where I wanted to go after high school was over.

I chose **Chandler-Gilbert Community College** for the outstanding and high-quality academic opportunities, variety of study fields, and having a very dynamic community. The faculty and staff at CGCC go out of their way to make sure every student can reach their goals and support our growth to create a better world for future generations.

**Zalma | Mexico**

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## ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**www.estrellamountain.edu**

3000 N. Dysart Rd. Avondale, AZ 85323

**Contact:** Laura Dulgar

**Phone:** 623.935-8808 | 623.935.8848 fax

**E-mail:** laura.dulgar@estrellamountain.edu

**Website for International Students:**

[estrellamountain.edu/students/  
international-students](http://estrellamountain.edu/students/international-students)

Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) is a locally and nationally recognized leader in higher education, distinguished for its innovative and experimental programs and practices. The campus, which opened in 1992, has provided educational and workforce training opportunities for residents of western metropolitan Phoenix. Designated a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Hispanic students comprise approximately 30 percent of Estrella Mountain's enrollment.



As a result, the college has secured federal grants and funding to support underrepresented groups and established the NASA Center for Success in Math & Science in 2002. In addition, Estrella Mountain houses the SouthWest Skill Center, offering specialized certification programs and training for immediate entry into the workforce.

Other campuses:

**EMCC@West-MEC Southwest Campus** | 623.935.8445  
500 N. Verrado Way, Buckeye, AZ 85326





# GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.gatewaycc.edu](http://www.gatewaycc.edu)

108 N. 40th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034

**Contact:** Jessica Hoffert

**Phone:** 602.286.8063

**E-mail:** iso@gatewaycc.edu

**Website for International Students:**

[www.gatewaycc.edu/international-students](http://www.gatewaycc.edu/international-students)

GateWay Community College is one of the most innovative and comprehensive colleges in the Maricopa Community Colleges system. With the Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation, an Early College High School, and a Children’s Learning Center, along with more than 150 degree and certificate programs in occupational and professional education, trade and technical training, university transfer and workforce training options, we are uniquely equipped to find the best fit for students. Academic options include: Apprenticeships & Construction Trades, Automotive Technology/Auto Body, Beauty & Wellness, Business Environment, Healthcare, Industrial Technology, Information Technology, Liberal Arts, Math and Science, Meat Cutting, Nursing, Precision Machining, Welding

With more than 50 years of educational excellence and service, GateWay has emerged as a leading institution



in the development of occupational programs designed to meet the demands of business and industry. With partners in all segments of the workforce, Gateway exposes students to a variety of career training opportunities. GateWay has multiple locations across the Valley and offers a variety of student services to help students have a successful college experience.

Other campuses:

**Central City** | 602.238.4350

1245 East Buckeye Road, Phoenix, AZ 85034

**Deer Valley** | 602.392.5000

2931 West Bell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85053

**SouthWest Skill Center** | 602.392.5401

3000 North Dysart Road, Avondale, AZ 85392

**Washington** | 602.286.8000

108 N. 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

**18th Street** | 555 N. 18th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006



Being a student in the Nursing program at **GateWay Community College** has been an awesome experience for me. I have loved everything about the program and the fact that the instructors are very supportive of students’ learning outcomes. The Global Education Center is helpful to international students in providing comprehensive guidance and support as needed.

**Oiza | Nigeria**





# GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.gccaz.edu](http://www.gccaz.edu)

6000 W Olive Ave, Glendale, AZ 85302

**Contact:** Leonor Carrasco

**Phone:** 623.845.3135 | 623.845.3541 fax

**E-mail:** Leonor.carrasco@gccaz.edu

**Website for International Students:**

<https://www.gccaz.edu/global-education>

For more than fifty years, Glendale Community College (GCC) has been serving the higher education needs of the Northwest Valley of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Today, GCC offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs and enrolls approximately 34,000 students per year. GCC is committed to preparing students to participate responsibly in a culturally diverse, technological, and global society; to transfer successfully to colleges and universities; to pursue lifelong learning; and to gain employment and advance within their chosen careers. We are proud of our strong partnership with many universities that ensures the transfer of credits and a seamless transition to bachelor degree programs.

GCC strives to offer higher education that is accessible and affordable. Our professors have years of teaching



experience and are recognized as some of the most gifted in the nation. With smaller classes and personalized, quality instruction, students can learn the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. GCC is fully accredited and now has two convenient locations, including its Main and North campuses.

For international students, GCC offers a high-quality undergraduate education and full services to help students transfer to the university of their choice. There is also an intensive English as a Second Language program to help students develop their language proficiency before beginning their major field of study.

Other campuses:

**North Campus** | 623.888.7000

5727 W. Happy Valley Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85310



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Choosing **Glendale Community College** was one of the best choices I made in my life. Their application process is fairly simple and easy to follow. They have International student advisors who help you with the application process. This is helpful because you have someone helping you until your application is ready. Once you submit your application, they usually reply within 24 hours. Upon arrival in the United States you are required to visit their campus and meet with the Global Education Services department. When I arrived, the first thing I noticed was their hospitality. I felt welcomed, and immediately felt like I was part of their family.

**Lincoln | Zimbabwe**

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## MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

1833 W Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85202

**Phone:** 480.461.7756

**E-mail:** [ie@mesacc.edu](mailto:ie@mesacc.edu)

[mccintl@mesacc.edu](mailto:mccintl@mesacc.edu)

**Website for International Students:**

[www.mesacc.edu/international-education](http://www.mesacc.edu/international-education)

Mesa Community College (MCC) is nationally recognized as an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College and is known for its service-learning, career and technical programs, civic engagement, and innovative approaches to education. The college has served as a resource for career readiness, transfer education, workforce development and lifelong learning throughout its 50-year history.

Host to more than 30,000 students annually, MCC offers 195 degree and certificate programs on campus and online, at its main campus and additional locations. MCC is a Hispanic Serving Institution and more than 50 percent of its students are the first in their family to attend college. Its American Indian Institute serves 22 federally recognized Arizona tribes and more than 30 out-of-state tribes. The diverse student body includes more than 400 international students representing over 60 countries. Award-winning faculty are dedicated



to student success, providing the education and training that empowers MCC students to successfully compete in the workforce. Located in Mesa, Arizona in the East Valley of the Phoenix metropolitan area, MCC is the largest of the 10 colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District.

MCC offers an English as a Second Language (ESL) program and a comprehensive range of student support services. It provides a cost-efficient guided pathway for international students to complete the first two years of a bachelor's program before transferring to a university to complete their four-year degree.

Other centers & campuses:

**Red Mountain** | 480.654.7200

7110 E. McKellips Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207

**Downtown Center** | 480.461.6220

145 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85201

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For me, **Mesa Community College** is a dream come true. I had the chance to meet people from all around the world, to interact with a lot of students and to become the best version of myself. The teachers and staff are so friendly and the environment is so welcoming. At MCC I gained both skills and confidence to face the surprising future. MCC was the best choice I ever made. From my first day, the international education office was so helpful to me and made me feel at home right away.

**Xhulia | Albania**

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## PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.paradisevalley.edu](http://www.paradisevalley.edu)

18401 N. 32nd Street Phoenix, AZ 85032

**Phone:** 602-787-7020

**E-mail:** [international.students@paradisevalley.edu](mailto:international.students@paradisevalley.edu)

**Website for International Students:**

[www.paradisevalley.edu/students/admissions/  
international-students](http://www.paradisevalley.edu/students/admissions/international-students)

When you choose Paradise Valley Community College (PVCC), you are choosing excellence in higher education. Our staff and faculty are committed to providing innovative higher education opportunities to increase student success, retention, and persistence of learning. Our dedication has even garnered the praise of the Aspen Institute, ranking PVCC in the Top 150 community colleges nationwide.

Whether your goal is to transfer to a university, enter the workforce, or continue your lifelong learning, PVCC is the right place to start. PVCC has created a learning environment that promotes inclusion, positive social change, and community engagement. In 2009, we opened our second campus – Black Mountain – serving residents in the northern outskirts of the Valley.

We offer both associate degrees and certificate programs and understand that today's hectic schedules require ingenuity and flexibility. Therefore, we offer



not only traditional in-person classes but also online, hybrid classes, and live online. Students can also choose from multiple starting dates each semester. PVCC also proudly presents classes promoting civic responsibility, global engagement, honors education, and workforce development, in addition to traditional classes.

As part of the nationally recognized Learning-Centered college movement, you will experience active and engaged learning, opportunities to enhance your critical, creative, and entrepreneurial thinking, and apply learning to meaningful societal issues. Our goal is to enrich learning through relevancy and rigor, develop strong leaders, and prepare students to have a lasting positive impact on our community. At PVCC you will develop your full potential.

Other campuses:

**Black Mountain Campus** | 602.493.2600  
34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85266





## PHOENIX COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.phoenixcollege.edu](http://www.phoenixcollege.edu)

1202 W Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85013

**Contact:** International Student Center  
Paula Chalarca-Chavez or Tatiana Kona

**Phone:** 602.285.7424 | 602.285.7578 Fax

**E-mail:** [isc@phoenixcollege.edu](mailto:isc@phoenixcollege.edu)

**Website for International Students:**

[www.phoenixcollege.edu/isc](http://www.phoenixcollege.edu/isc)

Founded in 1920, Phoenix College is Arizona's first two-year college and has celebrated more than 100 years of commitment to the community. In 1962 Phoenix College became the model for the state's public community college system and today, it continues to grow to meet the community's needs.

The student body reflects the diverse multicultural central city it serves, with 15 percent of our students, almost 2,000, being immigrants, refugees, or foreign visitors. Phoenix College offers an array of classes geared toward cultural betterment and awareness. More than 12,000 students attend Phoenix College each semester, taking advantage of nationally recognized programs in nursing, dental hygiene, fire science,



emergency medical technology, interior design, fashion merchandise, art, graphic design, creative writing and administration of justice, as well as coursework leading to a bachelor's degree. Phoenix College has articulation agreements with state universities in Arizona that allow students to transfer to a baccalaureate degree. Classes are small to allow for more meaningful interaction between the instructor and student, and tuition is reasonable.

Other centers & campuses:

**PC Center for Excellence** | 602.285.7323

**in Health Care Education**

**PC Center for Nursing Excellence** | 602.532.8605

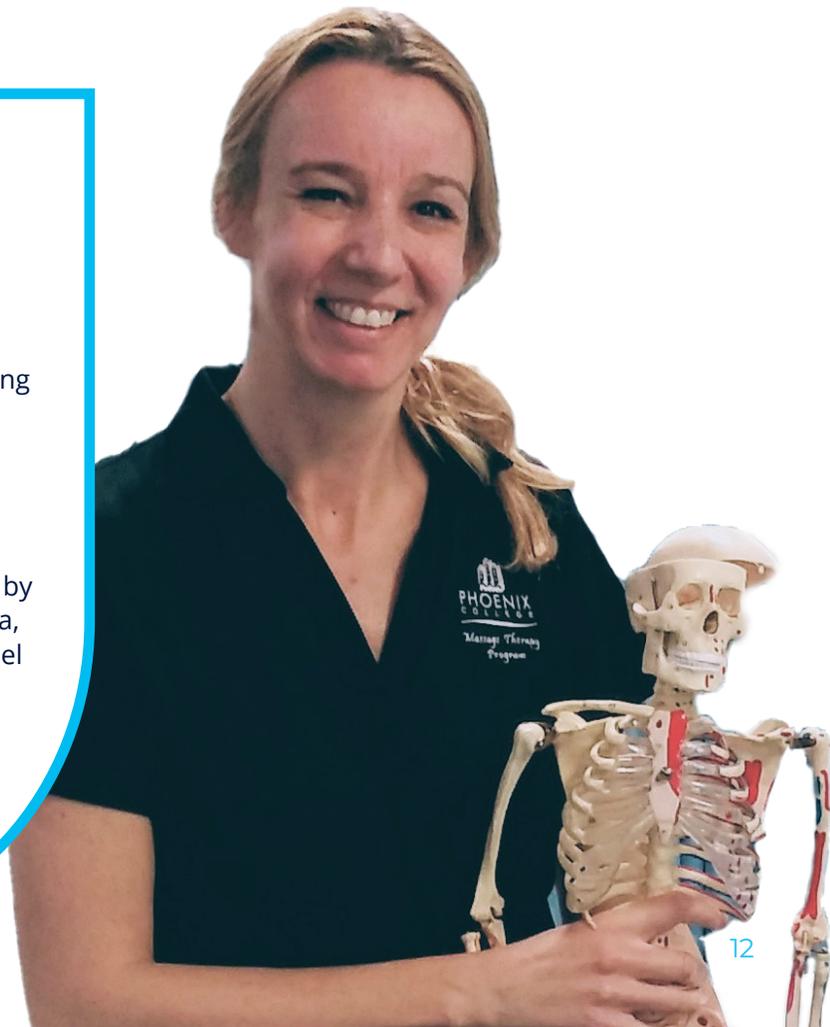
**PC Downtown** | 602.285.7777

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I came from London to the United States to study Massage Therapy. I got to know **Phoenix College** through their website in 2017. After doing my research, I found out that the PC Massage Therapy Program was the most complete and the only place I could earn an Associate Degree in Therapeutic Massage. Since the beginning, Phoenix College gave me the greatest support with my Visa. During the process I was assisted by the International Department, especially Tatiana, who oriented me in every step and made me feel secure for this big move. I can say that PC has changed my life completely.

**Cristina | London**

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## RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.riosalado.edu](http://www.riosalado.edu)

2323 W. 14th St. Tempe, AZ 85281

**Contact:** Office of International Education

**Phone:** 480.517.8416 | 480.517.8849 fax

**E-mail:** OIE@riosalado.edu

**Website for International Students:**

[www.riosalado.edu/international](http://www.riosalado.edu/international)

Rio Salado College is the college within everyone's reach. You can study in the United States or study from your own country. Earn an American degree in the most convenient and efficient way possible. Rio Salado uses a format that works as easily as email. You can participate anytime and anyplace that works best for you. Rio Salado offers over 450 unique courses online.

When it comes to innovation in higher education, Rio Salado College is a recognized leader that serves students around the world through e-learning



and accelerated formats. Today, Rio Salado utilizes technology and partnerships to deliver education opportunities to diverse populations in nearly every state and on six continents.

The office of International Education provides services to students from diverse countries, cultures, and languages. This office is committed to providing quality services that support life opportunities for its international community.



## SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.scottsdalecc.edu](http://www.scottsdalecc.edu)

9000 E. Chaparral Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256

**Phone:** 480.423.6590 | 480.423.6099 Fax

**E-mail:** iss@scottsdalecc.edu

**Website for International Students:**

[www.scottsdalecc.edu/students/international](http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/students/international)

Scottsdale Community College (SCC), founded in 1970, is located in the city of Scottsdale, Arizona, on 160 acres of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community land. The college, just minutes away from all the urban amenities of downtown Scottsdale, serves more than 8,000 students each year and offers more than 100 associate degree and 60 certificate programs, including award-winning programs such as Hospitality & Tourism Management, Business, Nursing, Film, and Theatre. SCC prepares its students for an occupation or for easy transfer to a university by having articulation agreements with colleges and universities across the state and nation.

With a focus on active, engaged, and intellectually-rigorous learning, SCC is a leader in Open Education Resources, Undergraduate Research, and Service-Learning. Learn from highly-regarded faculty and experts in your field who focus on you. Add to your



curriculum vitae, gain leadership skills, and participate in multicultural and community service activities sponsored by our clubs, the Center for Civic & Global Engagement, Service-Learning & Leadership, and American Indian programs.

Free services include tutoring, personal development workshops, and academic and career advising. Services for international students include personalized admission assistance, academic and registration advising, new student orientation, visa counseling, issuance of I-20's, and university transfer assistance.

SmartAsset has named SCC the 4th Best Community College in the U.S. and for the third consecutive year, SCC was among only 150 community colleges nationally to be eligible for the prestigious Aspen Award for Community College Excellence. Join us in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona!



## SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[www.southmountaincc.edu](http://www.southmountaincc.edu)

7050 S. 24th St. Phoenix, AZ 85042

**Contact:** Steven Fontaine

**Phone:** (602) 305-5648 | 602.243.8343 Fax

**E-mail:** [steven.fontaine@southmountaincc.edu](mailto:steven.fontaine@southmountaincc.edu)

**Website for International Students:**

[www.southmountaincc.edu/future-students/enrollment-steps/international-education](http://www.southmountaincc.edu/future-students/enrollment-steps/international-education)

From its beginnings in 1979, South Mountain Community College's (SMCC) innovations have garnered national notice. Many of its innovative programs have been emulated by colleges throughout the United States. The main campus of SMCC hugs the outer edge of one of the nation's largest cities, but the college has a distinctly small-town feel that adds to the college's reputation of being "the college with a personal touch." SMCC enrolls students at the main campus and Guadalupe Center, serving the Yaqui community of Guadalupe.



South Mountain Community College offers a wide variety of courses, Associate of Arts Degrees and certificates. In addition to four levels of English as a Second Language programs, SMCC offers courses in CISCO Technology, Bioscience, Nursing, Engineering, Information Security, Business, and Performing Arts.

Other centers & campuses:

**Guadalupe Center** | 602.243.8000  
9233 S. Avenida del Yaqui (Priest Dr.) 85283  
**Laveen Center** | Betty Fairfax High School  
8225 S. 59th Ave., Laveen Village, AZ 85339

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I feel very lucky and privileged to be studying at **Scottsdale Community College**. As an international student, it has been a great experience, and I have had many memorable moments. One of the amazing aspects about SCC is the people. There are countless people that have made my experience so great. Everyone who works on campus has the students' best interests at heart and goes above and beyond to make everyone feel at home. In addition, the learning environment is so beneficial and allows you to really understand the material. The classes are small enough that the teachers can really focus on helping individual students. I also have noticed how passionate the teachers are in their fields. I can honestly say that each of my professors genuinely cares about my success.

**Shayn | Australia**

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# Arizona, The Grand Canyon State

There is no place on earth quite like the Grand Canyon State. It's not just the dramatic landscapes, which include tall mountain ranges, forests, swift rivers, grasslands, deserts, sand dunes, and cactuses, or its history, which reaches back thousands of years. It's these combined with the people, an exciting blend of cultures and traditions, that make Arizona a truly unforgettable experience.

While Phoenix is the most populous Arizona city and has a vibrant downtown, each of the surrounding cities has a unique downtown area with a personality all its own. Get more information on any of these communities below, or visit [www.arizonaguide.com](http://www.arizonaguide.com)

## Phoenix



Phoenix, Arizona, the fifth-largest city in the United States, has a metropolitan area population of nearly five million. With a conurbation of that size, there is plenty to see and do.

Central Phoenix is where you'll find a lot of action. One of the most popular activities is taking in a sporting event. You can watch the Arizona Diamondbacks, the state's Major League Baseball team, at Chase Field ballpark, or cheer on the National Basketball Association's Phoenix Suns at Talking Stick Resort Arena. For something on the more artistic side, explore Native American art and culture at the world-renowned Heard Museum, then check out the newest exhibit at the Phoenix Museum of Art. Downtown Phoenix really comes to life on the first Friday of every month for ArtLink's First Fridays Art Walk. Known for its contemporary and edgy art galleries, the downtown area has burst on the scene as one of the top spots in the state for modern art. When you want to refuel after the big game or before the Art Walk, head to some of Downtown Phoenix's signature eateries.

[www.visitphoenix.com](http://www.visitphoenix.com)

## Glendale



Go west to shop til you drop in Glendale. The downtown area has been named by both USA Today and Sunset magazine as one of the best antique shopping destinations in the nation. There, you'll find brick-lined sidewalks, white picket fences, and mature shade trees, plus dozens of antique and specialty shops. It is also home to some interesting museums, including the Bead Museum, housing a collection of more than 100,000 beads and beaded artifacts. Those with a sweet tooth will want to indulge at the Cerreta Candy Company, where candy has been made the old-fashioned way since 1930. Downtown Glendale is also a microcosm of international cuisine, including Polish, German, and Mexican food, to name a few.

[www.visitglendale.com](http://www.visitglendale.com)



## Tempe



Fun is the name of the game in Tempe, an eclectic college town just east of Phoenix. Mill Avenue is where you'll find the most concentrated area of restaurants, cafes, nightlife, and shops in Arizona. The downtown area has become a unique, pedestrian-friendly place to live, work, and play. Shady brick sidewalks, turn of the century buildings, historic landmarks, Arizona State University, and Tempe Town Lake all make it one of the most vibrant places in the state. Tempe Beach Park provides incredible recreation opportunities, from running along the shore to paddling across Tempe Town Lake, and hosts several world-class festivals, as well as music and sporting events, all within walking distance of the action on Mill Avenue. [www.tempecvb.com](http://www.tempecvb.com)

## Scottsdale



Just north of Tempe, you'll find Scottsdale, which is known for its world-class resorts, spas, and golf courses. Downtown Scottsdale, also known as Old Town Scottsdale, offers more than 125 galleries and museums. Take a free ride on the Scottsdale Trolley to explore the art, or spend an afternoon shopping outdoors on the streets of Old Town, or indoors at Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall. Every Thursday evening, the galleries stay open late for the Scottsdale ArtWalk. There is no better way to cap off an evening of strolling around the galleries than to indulge in Scottsdale's unbeatable dining and nightlife scenes. Visit one of the many unique, award-winning restaurants, or relax on the patio at one of the area's more casual venues. [www.scottsdalecvb.com](http://www.scottsdalecvb.com)

## Mesa



As part of the Phoenix metropolitan area, Mesa is the third-largest city in Arizona and provides the advantages of a thriving metropolis while maintaining the feel of a suburban environment. Just 15 miles east of Phoenix, Mesa covers 128 square miles. With dynamic recreational, educational, and business environments, Mesa provides a variety of amenities including parks within easy walking distance from home, sports facilities, highly rated golf courses, and plenty of special events and community festivals. And don't forget that Mesa is the home of the ever-popular Chicago Cubs baseball team during Spring Training.

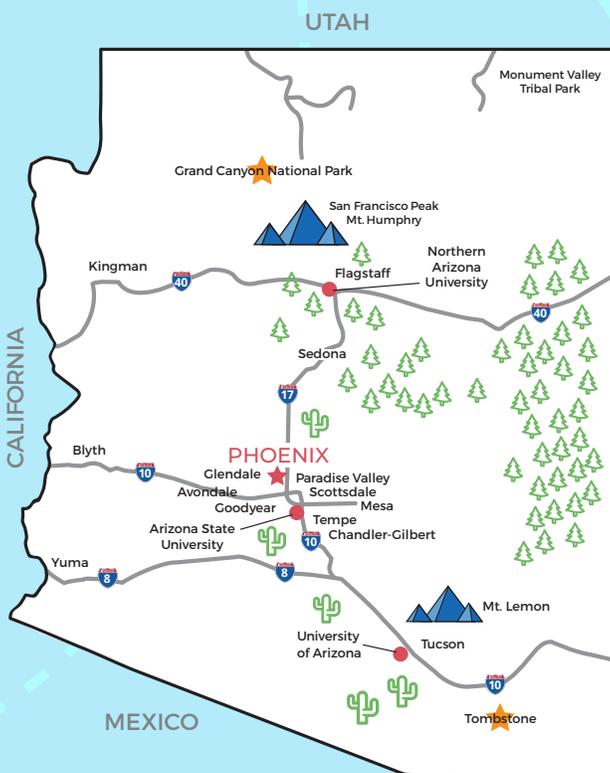
[www.mesaaz.gov/things-to-do](http://www.mesaaz.gov/things-to-do)

## Chandler



The City of Chandler is one of the fastest-growing cities in the country. Featuring beautiful Arizona resorts, it's no wonder why it's one of the great Arizona vacation spots. Chandler boasts world-class golf facilities, Arizona resorts, fabulous restaurants of every cuisine, premier shopping and tons of fun activities.

[www.visit Chandler.com](http://www.visit Chandler.com)



## The State of Arizona

Located in the Southwest, Arizona is the sixth-largest state and fourteenth in population. Most Arizonans live in the Valley of the Sun, home to Arizona's capital and largest city, Phoenix, and numerous other towns and cities. With a vibrant urban life, there is also plenty of tourist and outdoor activities around the state. Although its legendary Wild West has disappeared, Arizona possesses quaint towns and breathtaking landscapes to visit, including beautiful deserts and pineclad mountains and plateaus boasting lakes and spectacular natural wonders like the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, and Antelope Canyon.

# Gilbert



On the southeast side of the Valley, Gilbert has grown exponentially since 1980, going from a small farming community of 5,000 to its current population of 259,000. Despite its meteoric growth, Gilbert has met the many challenges of preserving the small-town atmosphere of the community while promoting high-

tech industry and progressive planning for the future. Insulated from the faster pace of metropolitan Phoenix, Gilbert still offers many amenities to enhance an urban lifestyle. The city has revitalized its sleepy, historic downtown, which now boasts trendy restaurants and bars. The village concept of planned communities includes parks, equestrian trails, fishing, boating, and local business services all within walking distance. Gated communities, as well as equestrian properties, are available in Gilbert. [www.gilbert.az.com](http://www.gilbert.az.com)



## Distance of Phoenix to Major U.S. Cities

Phoenix residents have easy access to other U.S. cities. On the West Coast, Los Angeles (400 miles), San Diego (355 miles), and Las Vegas (300 miles) are relatively short drives, and flights take under an hour. Other cities, like San Francisco (750 miles), New York (2450 miles), Chicago (1800 miles), and Miami (2455), are also easily accessible by air or the country's well-developed interstate highways. Phoenix's main airport, Sky Harbor International, is centrally located and easy to access, and The Wall Street Journal named it the country's best large airport in 2019.

| Phoenix Area To: | Miles | Kilo. | Air Time | Drive Time |
|------------------|-------|-------|----------|------------|
| Chicago          | 1800  | 2897  | 3:30     | 30 hours   |
| Las Vegas        | 300   | 485   | 1:00     | 5 hours    |
| Miami            | 2455  | 3951  | 4:15     | 44 hours   |
| New Orleans      | 1520  | 2445  | 3:15     | 25 hours   |
| New York         | 2450  | 3943  | 4:45     | 41 hours   |
| Quebec           | 2785  | 4482  | 6:30     | 38 hours   |
| San Diego        | 355   | 571   | 1:15     | 6 hours    |
| San Francisco    | 750   | 1207  | 2:00     | 13 hours   |
| Seattle          | 1505  | 2422  | 3:00     | 25 hours   |



Chandler-Gilbert | Estrella Mountain | GateWay | Glendale | Mesa | Paradise Valley | Phoenix | Rio Salado | Scottsdale | South Mountain



**MARICOPA**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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