

# University Transfer Guide

SPRING 2014

For students  
who want a  
*bachelor's degree*



College  
Times

WHO  
people going places

WHAT  
campuses everywhere

WHERE  
campuses everywhere

# University Transfer



If you are interested in earning a bachelor's degree, starting at a Maricopa college and transferring to a four-year university provides you with an affordable option. While you can transfer anywhere, the Maricopa Community Colleges have established transfer partnerships with quality, reputable colleges and universities. These university partnerships assist students in making a smooth transition from one institution to the next by maximizing your Maricopa credits. In addition, many university partners offer Maricopa graduates dedicated advisement and financial incentives such as transfer scholarships, waived application and/or textbook fees, and special tuition incentives for military personnel. The Maricopa Community Colleges have formal partnerships with the following institutions.

## Arizona Transfer System Partners

- Arizona State University
- Northern Arizona University
- University of Arizona

## Private, Online, and Out-Of-State Transfer Partners

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Albright College-Mesa Campus            | • Ottawa University                         |
| • Argosy University                       | • Park University                           |
| • Arizona Christian University            | • Prescott College                          |
| • Ashford University                      | • Regis University                          |
| • Benedictine University at Mesa          | • Strayer University                        |
| • Capella University                      | • Touro University Worldwide                |
| • Chamberlain College of Nursing          | • Trine University-Peoria Campus            |
| • Colorado State University-Global Campus | • Union Institute and University            |
| • Columbia College Chicago                | • University of Advancing Technology        |
| • Columbus College of Art and Design      | • University of Maryland University College |
| • DeVry University                        | • University of New Mexico                  |
| • Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University    | • University of Phoenix                     |
| • Empire State College (SUNY)             | • University of Texas at El Paso            |
| • Excelsior College                       | • Upper Iowa University-Mesa Center         |
| • Grand Canyon University                 | • Wayland Baptist University                |
| • Kaplan University                       | • Weber State University                    |
| • Middlesex University                    | • Western Governors University              |
| • New Mexico State University             | • Western International University          |
| • Northcentral University                 | • Western New Mexico University             |
|   | • Westminster College-Mesa Campus           |

Subject to change - Please refer to [maricopa.edu/transfer/partners](http://maricopa.edu/transfer/partners) for the most current information.

## Top Spots for Transfer Information



Visit the Online Transfer Center at [maricopa.edu/transfer/partners](http://maricopa.edu/transfer/partners) to learn more about dozens of college and university transfer options including local, out-of-state, public, private, online and onsite degree programs.

- Compare universities by location, size, tuition, and more
- Explore degree programs and transfer pathways
- Find helpful transfer guides for your major
- Access university sites designed for MCCC graduates
- Connect with academic advisors

AZTransfer helps students make every credit count. Visit [AZTransfer.com](http://AZTransfer.com) for everything you need to plan a smooth and seamless transfer to ASU, NAU, or UA without losing your hard-earned credits!



- Enter course numbers in the Course Equivalency Guide to learn exactly how they are accepted for credit at ASU, NAU, and UA.
- Access step-by-step guides to help you move to the university with ease.
- Learn what courses offered at your community college fulfill general education requirements and transfer as a block to the university.

The Shared Unique Number (SUN) System is Arizona's college course numbering system that clearly identifies courses that transfer with direct equivalency among Arizona's public community colleges and three state universities.



- The SUN System includes over 100 of the most commonly transferred courses statewide
- SUN courses are listed in your college class schedule, catalog, and online at [www.azsunsystem.com](http://www.azsunsystem.com)
- SUN courses are a subset of the tens of thousands of courses that transfer among Arizona's public colleges and universities

On [my.maricopa.edu](http://my.maricopa.edu), you'll find everything you need to get started and stay on track at any of the Maricopa Community Colleges. Log in to:

- Apply for admissions
- Search for classes ("Find a Class" feature, including in-person, online, hybrid, and honors options)
- Read course descriptions
- Drop and add courses
- Check your progress toward a degree
- Access your grades, placement test scores, schedule, financial aid status, charges and payments, contact information, transcripts, and more



MARICOPA  
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COLLEGES®

Your community college website will provide even more information on transfer advisement and other student services at your campus. For community college websites, start at [maricopa.edu](http://maricopa.edu) and click on the college of your choice.



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Argosy University, Phoenix also accepts ACE credits for military training and College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits for transfer. Find out if Argosy University, Phoenix is right for you. Contact one of our admissions representatives today and learn how we can help you achieve your educational goals.

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# Ottawa University



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## *Fast Track to Your Baccalaureate*

- Save money with a special tuition rate only for Maricopa graduates
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### Here's how:

1. Call an Ottawa Transfer Advisor at 602-749-5190
2. Choose from 25 online or on-campus Bachelor's degree programs
3. Graduate in as little as a year

For more information on special tuition rates and other benefits as a Maricopa graduate, go online to [www.TransferAdvantage.com/Maricopa](http://www.TransferAdvantage.com/Maricopa)

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# Your Transfer Pathway



## Begins Here



Students have many choices when it comes to degree pathways. Earning an associate's degree that aligns with your academic and career goals will keep you on-track toward earning your bachelor's degree when you transfer to a university. Academic advisors at the Maricopa Community Colleges can help you identify the degree pathway that will work for you.

### Associate in Arts (AA)

The Associate in Arts degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors in the Liberal Arts or programs of study other than business or science, and will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona's public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGECA (Arizona General Education Curriculum - Arts) is a component within the AA degree. The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts is offered as a customized pathway within the AA requirements, with specific versions for Dance, Art, and Theatre.

- Offers flexibility while preparing students for transfer
- Minimum math requirement: MAT140 or 141 or 142 - College Mathematics
- 60 credit minimum

### Associate in Business, General or Special Requirements (ABUS-GR, ABUS-SR)

The Associate in Business, General Requirements and Special Requirements degrees are designed for students who plan to transfer to Arizona's public universities into a variety of business majors and for students who plan to complete lower division

course work toward a bachelor's degree program at other four-year colleges or universities. Generally, these degrees will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona's public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGECS (Arizona General Education Curriculum - Science) is a component within the AS degree.

- The ABUS-GR degree is for all business majors except Computer Information Systems
- The ABUS-SR degree is for Computer Information Systems majors
- Minimum math requirement: MAT212 or 213 - Brief Calculus
- 62 credit minimum

### Associate in Science (AS)

The Associate in Science degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in a variety of science-related majors. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors with more stringent mathematics and mathematics-based science requirements. Generally, the degree will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona's public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGECS (Arizona General Education Curriculum - Science) is a component within the AS degree.

- Minimum math requirement: MAT220 or 221 - Analytic Geometry & Calculus I
- Students must meet science requirements with one of the following 8 credit course sequences: BIO181 and 182 - General Biology I and II OR CHM151/151LL and 152/152LL - General Chemistry I and II OR PHY121 and 131 (or 115 and 116) - University Physics I and II

- Includes a "subject options" requirement of 6 credits with a restricted list of science and math options
- 60 credit minimum

### Associate in Arts, Elementary Education (AA-EE)

The Associate in Arts, Elementary Education degree is designed for students planning to transfer to an Elementary Education, Early Childhood, Multicultural/Multilingual, or Special Education program at an Arizona public higher education institution and/or for student who plan to become a classroom instructional aide. Generally, the degree transfers as a block without loss of credit to Arizona's public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGECA (Arizona General Education Curriculum - Arts) is a component within the AAEE degree.

- Minimum math requirement: MAT140 or 141 or 142 - College Mathematics
- 60 credit minimum

### Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

The Associate in Applied Science degree is recommended for students who wish to gain a depth of technical expertise by completing one of the district's occupational programs. There are over 200 AAS degree programs available. Some are offered at multiple colleges in the district, while others are college-specific. The AAS degree does not include an AGECA, however general education courses are required (specific courses vary by degree). Although students planning to transfer are generally advised to pursue one of the AGECA-based degrees listed (e.g. AA, AS), AAS to BAS pathways are available to students, and much coursework within an AAS can be applicable to a bachelor's degree program. Completing an AGECA is often recommended if students pursuing AAS degrees are considering transferring (and may not have been originally).

- Minimum math requirement: MAT102 Mathematical Concepts (overall-BUT higher math courses are required for some AAS degrees, depending on major)
- AAS check sheets are updated online monthly to reflect curriculum changes
- 60-105 credit minimum, depending on specific degree (usually approx. 65 credits)

### Associate in General Studies (AGS)

The Associate in General Studies degree is recommended for students whose educational goals require flexibility. The AGS allows students to select courses numbered 100 or above, transferable or not, to complete the degree. Therefore, this degree may be less appropriate for students who intend to transfer to a four-year college or university. When a specific major and/or transfer university is selected by an AGS student, it is usually advisable to consider alternate degree pathways more closely aligned with university requirements.

- Minimum math requirement: MAT102 Mathematical Concepts
- Unlike transfer degrees (AA, AS, ABUS, AAEE), one of the two required natural science courses does not require an accompanying lab
- 60 credit minimum

For a complete list of degree policies and requirements, refer to:

[www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/viewALLDegrees.php](http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/viewALLDegrees.php)

Course information is based on the 2013-14 catalog year and is subject to change.

# Transfer Pathways to ASU

## A Strong Transfer Partnership with Arizona State University

The Maricopa Community Colleges and Arizona State University have a long history of working together to support transfer student success. If you are interested in attending ASU, then the Maricopa Community Colleges have a pathway for you. Whether you are interested in teacher education, business, nursing, graphic design, or another area of study, there is a clear path to ASU that will help maximize your community college credits, saving you time and money.

## Start at a Maricopa Community College

The Maricopa Community Colleges provide an affordable way for you to progress toward a bachelor's degree. You can complete a degree at a Maricopa college near you and then transfer to ASU. You will save money, learn from highly qualified faculty, and get to know yourself as a student by starting at a Maricopa Community College.

## Maricopa to ASU Pathways Program (MAPP)

If you know your major, then the MAPP is designed for you. You will follow a prescribed sequence of course work at a Maricopa Community College that meets the lower-division course requirements for an ASU major. When you complete your MAPP, you will have met the requirements for an associate's degree. MAPP benefits also include guaranteed admission to ASU, eligibility for the Tuition Commitment Program, and the assurance that when you transfer, you are right on track to earn your bachelor's degree. **Sign up for a MAPP with your community college advisor.**

## Exploratory Pathways

Still looking for the major that is right for you? ASU's Exploratory Pathways are perfect for students like you. These pathways will help you learn more about ASU majors, career options, and university pathways that help you transfer to ASU. You will get

access to supportive academic advisement, student success workshops, and online resources to help you as you decide on your academic and career goals. **Sign up for an Exploratory Pathway with your community college advisor.**

## RN to BSN Pathway Program

If you are currently pursuing an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in nursing at one of the Maricopa Community Colleges to become a registered nurse, you can maximize your career opportunities by following the RN to BSN Pathway to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at ASU. Students on this pathway are guaranteed admission to the program at ASU, may transfer up to 75 credit hours, and are also eligible for the Tuition Commitment Program. **Sign up for the RN to BSN Pathway with your community college advisor.**

## Associate of Applied Science (AAS) to Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)

If you want to earn a degree in a specific field of study, prepare for a career or job advancement, and keep the door open to transferring to ASU, the AAS-BAS pathway may be for you. This pathway allows students who have earned an AAS degree from a Maricopa Community College to transfer credits into the BAS degree at ASU in areas such as health sciences, operations management, and technology. **To request information regarding transferring up to 75 credit hours, please visit [transfer.asu.edu/aastobas/contact](http://transfer.asu.edu/aastobas/contact).**

## General Transfer

You can transfer to ASU at any time and complete a bachelor's degree in one of more than 250 academic programs. New pathways and transfer opportunities for students are continuously being added.

**Please visit [transfer.asu.edu/maricopa](http://transfer.asu.edu/maricopa) for a complete and updated listing of all available pathways and degree programs at ASU**

## Tool Kit for Transfer



### Degree Search

Explore ASU majors and minors to find a degree program that matches your talents, interests, and your ultimate career goals. Search by keyword, area of interest, or campus location. **[asu.edu/degrees](http://asu.edu/degrees)**

### Transfer Credit Guide

Learn how credits from other colleges and universities that you have attended will transfer to ASU. Search for ASU course equivalencies or request a transfer course evaluation. **[transfer.asu.edu/credits](http://transfer.asu.edu/credits)**

### My ASU

Students on the MAPP or RN to BSN Pathway can follow the "Maricopa-ASU Alliance" link from **[my.maricopa.edu](http://my.maricopa.edu)** to access My ASU to view individualized transfer and university information that will assist you in your transition from the community college to ASU.

### Pathway Tracker

Students on the MAPP or RN to BSN Pathway can track progress toward completion of their pathway through the Pathway Tracker. See how courses taken fulfill pathway requirements. From the My ASU portal, click on the "Transfer Pathways" link.

### Maricopa Career Planning System

Deciding on a major and career goal helps you select the right courses and maximize your transfer credit. Explore majors and career options at **[maricopa.edu/student-services/career.services](http://maricopa.edu/student-services/career.services)**.

### Educational Plan

Meet with an academic advisor or faculty advisor at your Maricopa Community College to discuss your short- and long-term goals and develop a semester-by-semester plan that aligns with your goals.

## Gabriela DeSantiago

Estrella Mountain Community College  
Graduate & Arizona State University  
Transfer Student



ASU Sun Devil Gabriela DeSantiago has found a way to take what was once her weakness and has made it into her strength.

"I am from Cordoba, Veracruz, Mexico. I came to the United States when I was 19-years-old. Years ago, (after moving to the United States) I started

taking classes at Phoenix College, where I enrolled in English classes on a part-time basis."

DeSantiago graduated with honors from Estrella Mountain Community College with her Associate of Arts degree, prior to transferring to ASU in Fall 2012 as part of the Maricopa to ASU Pathways Program.

She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education Diversity in Language and Learning. She carries a 3.6 GPA. While living in Mexico, DeSantiago worked as an assembly line operator soldering circuits at Adflex. She met her husband, who was from Bisbee, and they relocated to Phoenix.

"I would have liked to have begun my college career at a University, but I had the challenge of English not being my first language. I had not taken SAT or ACT tests in high school. I would not have been accepted, so I had to earn my way into ASU."

She also was a member of Phi Kappa Theta.

"I enjoyed the small campus atmosphere (at Estrella Mountain Community College) and the fact that many of the students were like me—older, parents, and looking for a second career. The professors were very helpful and accessible and there were many programs in place to help me succeed."

Upon graduating from Estrella Mountain Community College, DeSantiago said that becoming a Sun Devil was an easy decision to make. Because ASU was close to her home, her studies also fit her schedule.

DeSantiago is looking forward to her May 2014 graduation.

Being a Sun Devil has been a great experience for DeSantiago, especially for overcoming her own obstacles.

"Even when language prevents you from learning and explaining yourself effectively, you should not use it as an excuse to not pursue an education."

Throughout her life, DeSantiago has been inspired by her own children to be an educator and someday, a school administrator.

"My children have inspired me to teach. I love teaching them and spending time with them while watching them learn. I enjoy showing others how to do things and get great satisfaction when someone learns what I am trying to teach them."



# A partnership that brings your education to a whole new level



Now Maricopa County Community College District students have a better way to earn a higher degree, thanks to a special partnership with Southern New Hampshire University. The only university on Fast Company's 2012 World's Most Innovative Companies list, we offer more than 180 transfer-friendly programs and a wealth of academic resources. The best part? Once you've completed your associate degree, **you can save 10% on tuition for your bachelor's degree.** See yourself succeed. Call or visit us online today.

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888.327.7648  
[www.snhu.edu/transfer](http://www.snhu.edu/transfer)

**snhu.edu**  
*See Yourself Succeed.*

# Think Red & Blue



**M**aricopa Community College students now have one more way to get connected to the University of Arizona's campus before they transfer, through the new UA Bridge program. UA Bridge is a partnership between the Maricopa Community Colleges and the University of Arizona that provides a path to an associate's degree from MCCC, and completion of your bachelor's degree at UA. To find out more information and apply for the program, visit <http://admissions.arizona.edu/transfer/ua-bridge>.

Don't forget that assistance can be found right here in Maricopa County. We are excited to announce that we now have 3 transfer admissions representatives based in Phoenix that can help you find your way when deciding if it's time to transfer. For central Maricopa County, Brenna Secore, is located at Paradise Valley Community College (PVCC) and can be reached at (602) 390-3895 or [brennac@arizona.edu](mailto:brennac@arizona.edu). For the West Valley, Lisa Rodrigues, will be located at Glendale Community College (GCC) and can be reached at (520) 460-6969 or [rodrigues@email.arizona.edu](mailto:rodrigues@email.arizona.edu). For the East Valley, Sarah White, is located at Mesa Community College (MCC) Red Mountain and can be reached at

(520) 237-4423 or [white88@email.arizona.edu](mailto:white88@email.arizona.edu). Stop by and see them today!

## Applying to the University of Arizona

The University of Arizona application accomplishes three things in one. The application is for admissions, scholarships, and your application for the Honors College. You can apply online, or print a paper application at <http://admissions.arizona.edu/transfer/transfer-applications>.

Once you submit an application, you can pay the non-refundable application fee of \$50 for residents or \$65 for non-residents by check, money order, credit card, or eligible fee waiver. To complete the application process, you need to submit official college transcripts from all colleges attended, and an official high school transcript if you are under the age of 22 at the time of application. The application usually takes four to six weeks to process, so apply early. To track the status of your application, create a MyUA account at <https://arizonaug.askadmissions.net/vip/>. After you are admitted, you can take your next steps to enrolling at [nextsteps.arizona.edu](http://nextsteps.arizona.edu).

## UA Transfer Events & College Visits

Make connections with admissions and college representatives by attending an event, taking

a campus tour, or meeting face-to-face with an admissions counselor at your college. The UA hosts numerous transfer events throughout the year and we also participate in college fairs every semester. For details to find out where we are going to be next and how to register for any of our programs, check out our Calendar of Events at <http://admissions.arizona.edu/transfer/events/month>.

**Community College Visits:** Sometimes, you can't make it to our campus for an event. But, we may make it to yours! UA Transfer Admissions Counselors visit community colleges all over Arizona. We participate in college fairs, host presentations, and can even schedule one-on-one appointments with students.

**Saturday Transfer Round-Up:** This program is a chance to learn about the UA admissions process and take a peek at what life on campus is really like for our transfer students. Learn the best study spots, where to find the perfect cup of coffee, and other insider tips. Following the tour, staff members are available to assist and answer questions from tour-goers as well as anyone looking for some admissions help!

**Transfer Open House:** This all-day visit is designed to introduce future students to our outstanding colleges, programs, services, and campus. Attending this event will give students the opportunity to engage with their prospective college, familiarize themselves with the campus community, and customize their visit for their needs.

**Transfer Tuesdays:** Designed for prospective and recently admitted transfer students, Transfer Tuesdays are half-day events, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the University of Arizona campus. Attendees will have an opportunity to receive an expedited decision and a campus tour, along with information about the Next Steps Center,

financial aid, and student services.

**Wildcat Wednesdays:** For Maricopa County students, Wildcat Wednesdays are the best way to get a taste for campus without leaving the Phoenix area. Held on one of the local community college campuses, the events give students an overview of admission guidelines and financial aid, as well as information about the Next Steps Center and an opportunity to receive an expedited admission decision.

## Once you are here

The UA Transfer Student Center, part of the Student Transitions Department, works with the Office of Admissions to help your transition to UA go as smoothly as possible. The Transfer Student Center is located in the Student Union Memorial Center, Room 402, and is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can get more information about their services by visiting [transfer.arizona.edu](http://transfer.arizona.edu) or contact them at 520-626-6463 or [uofatransfer@gmail.com](mailto:uofatransfer@gmail.com).

The Advising Resource Center (ARC) provides advising contact information for new and continuing UA students. ARC is also located on the fourth floor of the Student Union Memorial Center, Room 411. Visit [advising.arizona.edu](http://advising.arizona.edu) for access to academic advisor contact information and major guides. Contact ARC at 520-626-8667 or [advising@email.arizona.edu](mailto:advising@email.arizona.edu).

The Student Vets Center is the central hub of information and a meeting place for student veterans and veterans looking to enter the UA. The Center is located in the Student Union Memorial Center, Room 404-O, and is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The website, [vets.arizona.edu](http://vets.arizona.edu), has information about resources for veterans and you can contact the Vets Center directly at 520-626-8380 or [VETSoFc@email.arizona.edu](mailto:VETSoFc@email.arizona.edu).



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## CLASSES START SOON





# MAKE EVERY CREDIT COUNT

Visit [AZTransfer.com](http://AZTransfer.com) to learn how to transfer from your community college to ASU, NAU, or UA without losing your credits!



[VISIT AZTRANSFER.COM](http://VISIT.AZTRANSFER.COM) TO LEARN MORE

*AZTransfer is paid for by Arizona's public community colleges, three state universities, and the Arizona Legislature.*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF YOU

# The Connection:



## Meet Kathryn: A 2NAU Rock Star

This is 21-year-old Kathryn Dean of Phoenix.

She just won Northern Arizona University's \$1,000 Maricopa Transfer Scholarship and the \$2,000 2NAU - Joint Admission Scholarship.

Kathryn definitely worked for it, maintaining a nearly 4.0 GPA while at Chandler Gilbert Community College. Now she has \$3,000 to put toward her NAU bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

"Both of my parents completed their bachelor's degree and always furthered their education," she says. "I'm striving to become an elementary education teacher, just like my mom."

Kathryn, a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, expects to graduate (with honors) in May 2015.

Sign up for 2NAU and be a rock star like Kathryn. Apply at [www.nau.edu/2NAU](http://www.nau.edu/2NAU) or by calling 1-800-426-8315.

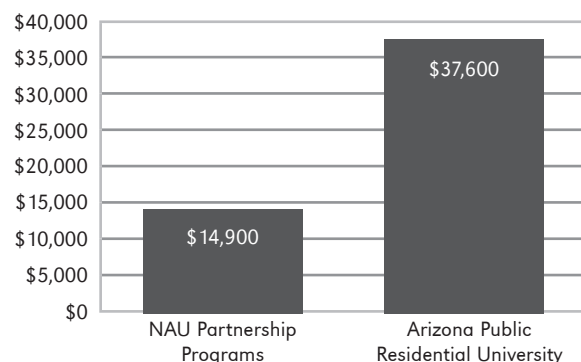


## 2NAU: The Right Degree At The Right Price

**W**hen you make the move from a Maricopa Community College to Northern Arizona University through the 2NAU joint-admission program, you can save up to 60% on the total cost of your education.

No other university—online or in person—offers a more convenient or more affordable way to earn your bachelor's degree.

### Average Cost of a Bachelor's Degree



Shows average 2012/2013 full-time tuition and fees for all three state universities versus average costs to attend a community college before transferring to NAU-Extended Campuses.

### Accredited Degree Programs Employers Respect

Prepare to work in one of Maricopa County's fastest-growing job fields, including:

- Business Administration
- Diagnostic & Medical Imaging
- Education (multiple majors)
- Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Justice Administration
- Medical Assisting
- Paramedic Care
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Management
- Respiratory Care **HOT JOB!**
- Surgical Technology Assisting **HOT JOB!**
- Technology Management **HOT JOB!**

### \$2,000 2NAU scholarships available.

### Other Benefits of 2NAU

- Pursue your degree at one of 10 Maricopa locations, online or in Flagstaff.
- Get dual advising so you don't waste time/money in the wrong classes.
- Enjoy a seamless transfer process with no application fee.



**Amparo "Daisy"  
Ballesteros**  
B.S., Public  
Management, 2013

To apply: [www.nau.edu/2NAU](http://www.nau.edu/2NAU)  
Questions? 1-800-426-8315



# BE THE FUTURE OF HIGH TECH



Are you a college student in a technology, computer science, engineering or business program? The **Avnet Tech Games** competition is the perfect opportunity to put your skills to work, add credibility to your resume, network with business leaders and earn scholarships.

In its ninth year, the Avnet Tech Games is an annual college technology competition that provides students with an opportunity to apply educational knowledge to real-world scenarios in the rapidly changing technology landscape.

Register today at **[www.avnettechgames](http://www.avnettechgames)** to participate and transform the future of high tech.

**Arizona onsite competition – April 12, 2014**  
**The University of Advancing Technology, Tempe, Ariz.**

Find us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter: @AvnetTechGames

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— U.S. News & World Report

Westminster College is proud to count **Andrew Kuhn, Mesa Community College's former student body president**, as part of our campus community.

Westminster is for students like Andrew – who want to make an impact on campus, in the lives of others, and in their future professions. We're for those who not only want to make the most of college, but the most of themselves.

Westminster delivers a global, nationally ranked education with campuses in Fulton, MO. and Mesa, AZ. Visit [westminster-mo.edu/go/mesa](http://westminster-mo.edu/go/mesa) or schedule a visit to our Mesa campus by calling 480-747-3863.

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# Academic Advising:

## Successful educational planning relies on teamwork

**A**cademic advisement is a vital resource for students at every stage of their college education. Truly effective advising is a partnership between advisors and students, both pre- and post-transfer. In this collaboration, there are some fundamental responsibilities to consider...

### Your advisor should:

- Provide professional, friendly, and courteous service.
- Clearly communicate program requirements, institutional policies and procedures.
- Maintain a broad knowledge base and continuously work to keep up-to-date.
- Listen effectively, and ask questions to understand your needs.
- Provide appropriate referrals to campus resources.
- Work collaboratively with you to develop a clear and comprehensive educational plan (sometimes referred to as a program of study or a semester-by-semester plan).
- Encourage and guide you in defining and developing realistic goals.
- Help you explore your interests, abilities, and goals as they relate to academic majors.
- Inform you about online resources for academic information and support services.
- Be realistically accessible to you: in-person, by telephone, email, or web access, and respond to reasonable requests in a timely manner.
- Help you gain the ability to assume responsibility for your educational choices and achievements, and learn from your mistakes or setbacks.
- Maintain confidentiality in accordance with the institution's policies and federal and state laws.

### As a student, you should:

- Meet with your advisor each semester (or as often as your college recommends) to discuss your progress. Depending on the size of your

college and how much you are able to do on your own after initial visit(s), sometimes email or phone advisement is more efficient.

- Come prepared. The first time you see an advisor, bring your placement test scores, unofficial transcripts from other institutions attended, and/or any documents you think may be helpful that are not already in your college's computer system. If in doubt, call ahead and ask what you should bring. For subsequent advisement sessions, bring degree check sheets, transcripts, and any other materials your advisor provided at prior meetings.
- Take notes during your advisement sessions. Make sure you and your advisor are clear on any follow-up tasks you need to do.
- Use what you learn from your advisor to better help yourself. Advisors are teachers, and want to empower you to lead the way with your education. Work together on completing tasks and gathering information in order to become more self-reliant as a student. The advisor can assist you with more complex enrollment or academic issues, and you won't need to wait for them to do things you can do on your own. Still, you should feel free to double-check with your advisor if you are unsure about something.
- Ask questions, and honestly answer your advisor's questions. Understanding each other builds trust in your partnership, which will support your overall educational experience.
- Research college and program information to increase your knowledge on requirements, policies, and procedures. Being informed will help you make good decisions and know what you need help with.
- Be engaged in the conversation and accept responsibility for your actions as a student. Your advisor wants you to succeed, but cannot make you succeed. Even if you are unsure of yourself or your goals, your advisor needs to know that you value your education and are ready to do your part.





# Transfer

## Checklist



**T**ransferring from a community college to a four-year college or university requires good planning. Before you transfer to a university, check into the following:

### Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) and Associate Degree:

- ☐ Have you selected a major with an Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)? If so, have you completed the requirements and requested AGEC certification on your transcripts?
- ☐ Have you met with an advisor to determine your eligibility to graduate at your community college?
- ☐ Have you submitted an application for graduation? Some colleges require separate applications for the AGEC and the associate degree.

### Major and University Requirements:

- ☐ Does your major have a second language proficiency requirement?
- ☐ Have you completed all the prerequisites for your university program?
- ☐ Will you meet the minimum cumulative GPA for admission into the university and academic program you want?

### University Application Process & Transcripts:

- ☐ Have you researched university admission priority dates and deadlines?
- ☐ Have you submitted your application(s) for admission and all of your official transcripts (and any AP and CLEP test scores) prior to transferring?
- ☐ Have you checked to see if high school transcripts and test scores are required?
- ☐ Have you requested that your final official transcripts (from each college attended) be sent to the university after your last semester is completed?

### Financial Aid/Scholarships:

- ☐ Have you submitted your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority date of your transfer institution(s)?
- ☐ Have you investigated tuition and fees at the university? Some programs may require a professional fee in addition to tuition.
- ☐ Have you researched scholarship opportunities? Be wary of potential scams, as search services should be free of charge.

### Living Arrangements:

- ☐ Have you decided whether you will live on- or off-campus? On-campus housing can be limited and is usually awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

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# Financial Aid Basics

for Students at the Maricopa Community Colleges

## Steps to Financial Aid

1. Get your PIN–Personal Identification Number (pin.ed.gov).
2. File your FAFSA–Free Application for Federal Student Aid (fafsa.ed.gov).
3. Apply to college (my.maricopa.edu), take placement tests, and enroll in classes.
4. Apply for scholarships–multiple websites, start with your college's financial aid website.
5. Submit all documents requested to financial aid office–check “to do” list and message center (my.maricopa.edu).
6. Read your award letter (my.maricopa.edu) by logging into your student center and clicking on “view financial aid” under the “finances” tab.
7. Accept or decline your award.
8. Complete Loan Entrance Counseling –only if receiving loans (dl.ed.gov).
9. Complete a Master Promissory Note (dl.ed.gov).
10. Receive funds– refer to your college's financial aid website and the Maricopa Student Refund Program (MSRP) program information (my.maricopa.edu/refund/).
11. Abide by satisfactory academic progress policies to maintain your financial aid eligibility.

## Tips for Students Getting Ready to Transfer

- Fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on January 1 or soon after, for the following academic year.
- Indicate your transfer school's financial aid code on your FAFSA. This can be found on your community college's financial aid website or the FAFSA website.
- Notify your lender that you will be transferring to a different institution.
- Complete a loan deferment form unless you plan to start paying back loans right away.

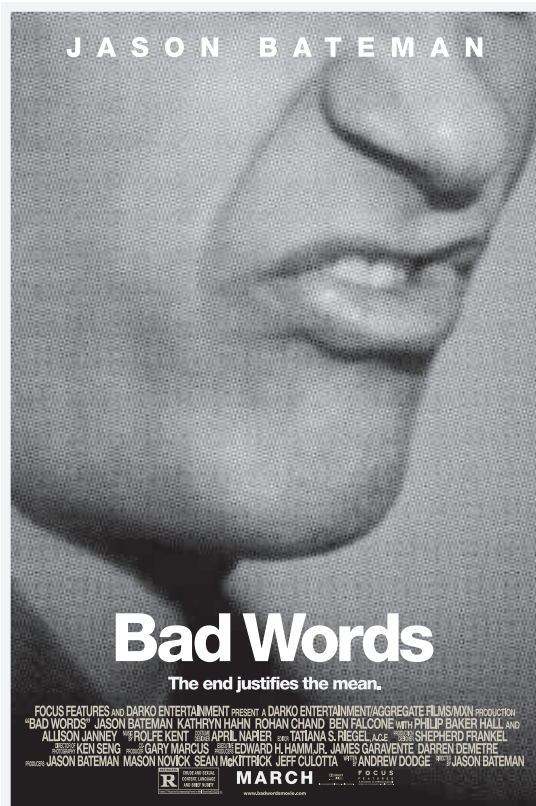
## Types of Aid

STUDENT AID	DESCRIPTION	NEED TO PAY BACK?
<b>Federal Pell Grant</b>	Based on financial need determined by federally-mandated formula. Students may be eligible when registered full- or part-time.	No*
<b>Federal Direct Loans</b>	<b>Subsidized</b> (U.S. Department of Education may pay interest while borrower is in school, and during grace and deferment periods.) Must be enrolled at least half-time and have financial need. <b>Unsubsidized</b> (borrower pays interest over the life of the loan). Must be enrolled at least half-time. Does not require financial need.	Yes
<b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</b>	Must be Pell Grant eligible and enrolled at least half-time. Awarded first-come, first served to students with exceptional need.	No*
<b>Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP) Grant</b>	Based on availability and eligibility. Awarded to AZ residents with highest demonstrated financial need. Must be enrolled at least half-time.	No*
<b>Federal Perkins Loan</b>	Low-interest loan to be paid back directly to the college. (Federal Perkins Loans are not available at all MCCCDC colleges)	Yes
<b>Direct PLUS Loan</b>	Available to parents of dependent students enrolled at least half-time. PLUS loans are unsubsidized, so borrower is responsible for paying interest. (Direct PLUS Loans are not available at all MCCCDC colleges)	Yes
<b>Work-Study Programs</b>	Need-based. Funds earned through part-time employment at the college. Level of funding and number of positions are limited, so early application is important.	No
<b>Scholarships</b>	Multiple sources. Start with your college's website (Check “financial aid,” “pay for college,” or similar links.) Others include: www.fastweb.com www.maricopa.edu/foundation	No

\* When in accordance with federal and state laws, as well as institutional terms and conditions.

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3/12	WED	7PM	Cleveland
3/19	WED	7PM	Orlando
3/21	FRI	7PM	Detroit
3/28	FRI	7PM	New York

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# Transfer FAQs

## What does it mean to transfer?

In a basic sense, transferring is switching from one college to another (which occurs for many reasons), but college or university transfer usually refers to completing your first two years at a community college, then transferring to a university or four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. Community Colleges offer associate's degrees (usually about 60 credits) and certificates (shorter programs) which include just lower-division (100 and 200-level) courses. Students transfer to universities or four-year colleges to complete about 60 upper-division (300 and 400-level) credits, and then graduate with a bachelor's degree (usually about 120 credits total). Associate's and bachelor's degrees comprise your undergraduate education. Programs beyond your bachelor's degree are considered graduate education.

## What are my transfer options?

There are many universities and four-year colleges to choose from, so start your research as early as possible—even before you start your first year at community college if you can. High school counselors, academic advisors at the colleges, and career services can help you explore program offerings at different institutions. Consider availability of your major and preferred degree, cost, convenience, family and housing needs, and whether you have a preference for online or in-person classes. Tours are available at most colleges, and can help you picture what to expect after you transfer. A couple of excellent websites for exploring transfer options are [aztransfer.com](http://aztransfer.com) and [maricopa.edu/transfer/partners](http://maricopa.edu/transfer/partners).

## What if I don't know my major?

The sooner you decide on a major, or area of study, the more specific you can be when selecting your courses. While you are deciding on your major, consult an advisor and online transfer resources to choose some versatile general education courses that may apply to a lot of majors. Taking a course or

two about a major you are considering can really help you think seriously about your career path. It might not seem worth it at the time, but think of it as an investment in your long-term career satisfaction. All ten Maricopa Community Colleges offer career services, such as assessments and internships, that can help you narrow down your options. For more information on Maricopa's career services, go to: <http://my.maricopa.edu/student-services/career-services>

## How long will it take me to complete a degree?

If you are attending college full-time, associate's degrees take about two years to complete, and bachelor's degrees take about four years (two in addition to your associate's degree) to complete. If you need to take developmental classes for college-level math, reading, and English, repeat withdrawn or failed courses, or attend part-time, it takes longer. It is important to take only what you can manage successfully in order to avoid overloading, and save time and money in the long run.

## What if I don't know if I want to transfer to a university?

Research the careers which you are interested in to check the level of education each requires. Some professions require graduate degrees, while for others, an associate's or bachelor's degree is sufficient. If you are even considering transferring someday, it is wise to select courses that not only meet your associate's degree requirements, but also fulfill or serve as prerequisites for university requirements.

## How do I know if my classes will transfer?

The Course Equivalency Guide on [aztransfer.com](http://aztransfer.com) displays how courses transfer between Arizona's public institutions, along with providing much more transfer information. Note that just because a course is transferrable, it doesn't mean it is applicable

to your program. However, if you want to take a course just for personal enrichment, work-related support, or to explore an area of study, it is perfectly acceptable. Since out-of-state and private universities are not listed on the Arizona Course Equivalency Guide, it is harder to know for sure which classes will transfer. In order to get a rough idea of what will transfer and apply to your program, consult an advisor or admissions representative from the four-year institution, work with your community college advisor, and refer to university catalogs and transfer guides as available.

## Why are course numbers different at different colleges?

Colleges and universities organize their course offerings differently, which can sometimes be confusing. Based on the data in the Course Equivalency Guide and mandated by state legislation, Arizona's public colleges and universities worked together to develop a new course numbering system to facilitate course transfer in Arizona. This system is called SUN (Shared Unique Numbering). Learn all about SUN and how it can help you plan your education and ensure successful transfer of course credits at [azsunsystem.com](http://azsunsystem.com)

## When do I start the transfer process?

Submit your university application(s) online about a year before you plan to transfer. You'll have a good chance of getting the classes you want and have ample time to get everything else done, such as providing transcripts, updating immunizations, deciding on housing plans, buying a parking permit, applying for financial aid, and attending transfer student orientation programs. When you meet with an advisor at the community college to develop or check your semester-by-semester education plan, include notes on when to apply for your associate's degree and when to apply for admissions to your transfer university in order to stay on-track.





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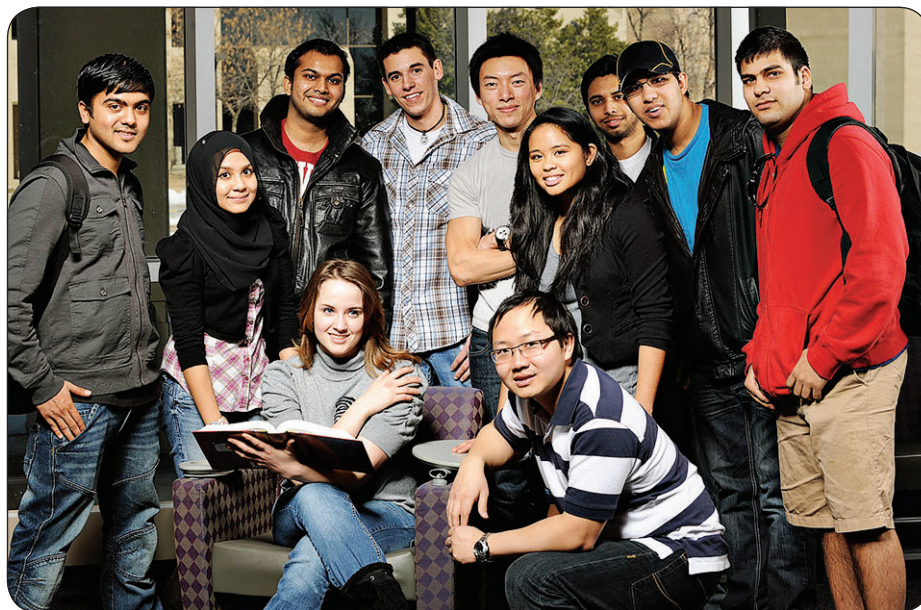


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## New Student Orientation-

### Get Off to a Good Start



**Y**ou wake up late, realizing you forgot to set the alarm on your cell phone. After a three-minute shower, you throw on some clothes and rush out the door; hoping traffic isn't too bad on the way to your first day of college. When you get there, parking is more of a challenge than any exam you'll ever take in a class. You finally find a space after practically stalking students who just got out of class the period before yours. You pull your schedule and map out of your backpack and wonder why the letters on the buildings seem random ("Why is my psychology class in the BP building?"). When you finally find the classroom, you rush in to take your seat just before class starts, only to walk into a full classroom of silent students working on what looks like a test. A few of the students take their papers up to the front and turn them in to the instructor. You ask yourself, "Am I in the right room?" "Is this the right class?" "Why are they taking a test?" "ISN'T THIS THE FIRST DAY???" You grab your schedule to try to make sense of it all, and when you check the dates, you realize you have missed the first half of the semester. Could things get any worse? You wake up in a panic, realize this was just a nightmare, and sigh in relief. Your first semester of college is still a few weeks away. In fact, after work today, you're headed to New Student Orientation at the college.

The ten Maricopa Community Colleges enroll about 260,000 students per year. For about forty percent of them, this is their first semester in college. New Student Orientation is provided district-wide, and, as of Fall 2013, became mandatory for students who are new to college. At one of the many Mesa Community College orientation sessions this semester, students were greeted by the Dean of Students, followed by a presentation from a representative from the Office of Student Life and Leadership. Throughout the presentation, students used "clickers" to respond to multiple choice questions to check their understanding of material presented and convey information to the presenters. Instant results popped up on the screen, so students were able to see how their responses compared with those

of others. At this session, the clickers revealed that cost was the primary reason students chose to go to MCC. At \$81 per credit for in-state tuition, students can prepare to transfer to a university, prepare for a career, or take classes for personal enrichment at a more reasonable cost than at many other institutions.

Alysha Thomas, a freshman at MCC, said she received an email telling her orientation was mandatory, but is glad she attended. She said she learned a lot about [my.maricopa.edu](http://my.maricopa.edu), the main website for students at the colleges to register for classes, pay tuition, receive college email, check grades, and much more. She said even though her parents helped her register for her classes this time, she feels confident that what she learned at orientation will prepare her to register independently next time.

Along with learning how to use [my.maricopa.edu](http://my.maricopa.edu), New Student Orientation at the Maricopa Community Colleges provides students with the opportunity to become familiar with support services on campus including free tutoring, veteran services, and disability resources. Opportunities to participate in clubs and student government, study abroad and work on campus are also described at orientation. Studies of college students have historically shown that when students use support services and participate in school activities outside of class, they earn higher grades and are less likely to drop out of college. Campus tours often follow New Student Orientation sessions, and can definitely help prevent the stress of getting around campus during the first week of classes. Some of the colleges offer an online version of orientation for those who prefer online delivery or are unable to attend in person.

Going to college is a momentous step toward your future, and it's important to get off to a strong start. Attending New Student Orientation will introduce you to support you may never have known about otherwise. Use the resources you learn about at orientation to boost your academic success and help you get the most from your college experience.





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[newcollege.asu.edu/graduate/](http://newcollege.asu.edu/graduate/)

## ASU transfer pathways

**Meet with your community college advisor and sign up for an ASU transfer pathway.**

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[transfer.asu.edu/Maricopa](http://transfer.asu.edu/Maricopa)



# Transfer Options Available

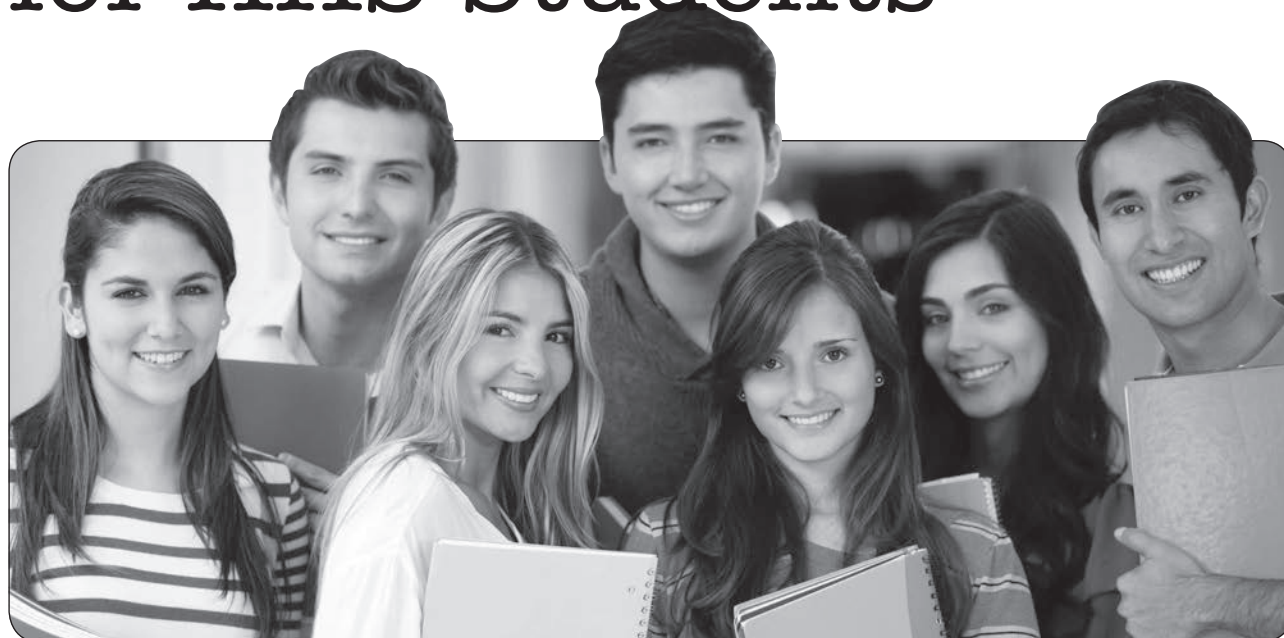
## AAS TO BAS DEGREE PATHWAYS

### Things to Keep in Mind...

- Familiarize yourself with your degree requirements. Detailed course lists are online at [maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/programsbycollege.php](http://maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/programsbycollege.php)
- Meet with an academic advisor or faculty advisor at your Maricopa Community College to discuss your short- and long-term goals and develop a semester-by-semester educational plan. The plan will be based on your placement test scores, how many courses you can successfully complete within a semester, the recommended sequence of the courses, your life outside of college, and more. Your advisor will ask you a lot of questions to help you sort out your degree options.
- Research BAS degree options and requirements. Details on the statewide transfer policy are found at [http://aztransfer.com/associates\\_degrees/aas\\_bas.html](http://aztransfer.com/associates_degrees/aas_bas.html), and degree offerings are listed on university websites.
- Arizona State University's online AAS to BAS tool at <https://transfer.asu.edu/communitycollege/AZ> allows you to click on your Maricopa college and AAS program to learn more about the corresponding BAS options at ASU.
- The Northern Arizona University-Maricopa Connection website at [maricopa.edu/connection](http://maricopa.edu/connection) lists local and online degree programs, including BAS degrees that complement your AAS from a Maricopa Community College.
- The University of Arizona's online degree search tool at [degreesearch.arizona.edu/](http://degreesearch.arizona.edu/) lists degree requirements for every major and identifies course equivalencies.
- Reach out to Maricopa's private and out-of-state college and university advisors to explore transfer options. Some are more expensive per credit than public universities, but they often accept more credits and offer flexible scheduling. This search tool can help you narrow down what is important to you: [http://www.maricopa.edu/transfer/partners/partner\\_list.php](http://www.maricopa.edu/transfer/partners/partner_list.php) (Click on University Partner Search).



## for AAS Students



*Matt has worked at the same company for 12 years, and, although he is a hard-worker and his fellow employees consider him the "go-to" guy when they have questions, he hasn't been promoted. Without a college degree, he has been at a disadvantage when higher-level positions have opened up. Supervisors have encouraged him to go back to school to earn a degree.*

*Leah has work experience in web design, but she put her career on hold when she became a stay-at-home mom. Now, eight years later, she would like to become competitive in the job market, but technology in her field has changed a lot. She needs to update her skills to be qualified for the career she hopes to resume.*

*Marisa is a recent high school graduate. She wants to go to college to earn an associate's degree in dental hygiene. She would like to be able to start her career as soon as she can, but for now, she cannot picture herself in college for more than a couple of years. Still, she would like to have the option to eventually apply her credits toward a bachelor's degree.*

All of these students could accomplish their goals by earning an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree from the Maricopa Community Colleges. An AAS degree prepares students to work in specific fields by completing coursework centered on skills and knowledge applicable to the workplace. In addition, the AAS degrees include some general studies coursework to broaden students' educational experiences.

The Maricopa County Community College District offers over 300 AAS degrees based on specific areas of expertise, such as nursing, business, administration of justice, fashion merchandising and design, music business, biotechnology, and many more. While AAS degrees are primarily comprised of major-related (program specific) courses, along with a smaller group of general education courses, there are other associate degrees that offer the opposite—mostly general education coursework with a smaller portion of major-related coursework. These degrees are known in the Maricopa district as "transfer degrees," since they require the appropriate lower-division coursework to prepare students for upper-division coursework at a four-year college or university. These include the Associate in Arts, Associate in Business, Associate in Science, and Associate in Elementary Education degrees. Most majors fit into one of these pathways with proper guidance on course selection from academic advisors. It is critical to talk to an academic advisor early in your college experience to determine which type of associate's degree is best for you.

Since people want flexibility in their career choices, they need flexibility in the approach they take when deciding which degree path to follow. Years ago, students really needed to decide between an AAS

and a traditional transfer degree to avoid having to backtrack, repeat coursework, or even start over after changing their major or career goals. Now, it is possible to prepare both for work and for transferring to a university by earning an Associate in Applied Science, since many universities offer bachelor's degree programs designed especially for students with AAS degrees. Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees build on the foundation of the AAS by including coursework to advance students' knowledge within their chosen fields. Arizona's statewide transfer policy authorizes AAS students to transfer up to 75 credits from the community colleges, then earn 45 credits at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, or the University of Arizona to complete a BAS degree. Since most AAS degrees are 60-65 credits, students are able to complete the general studies courses beyond the community college requirements and have the credits transfer to the university. In some cases, a 60/60 split makes more sense to remain on track with course sequencing at the university. You and your advisor should develop an educational plan that reflects your educational interests and transfer timeline.

In addition, many of Maricopa's out-of-state and private university transfer partners will accept your AAS credits as a block, allowing you to be halfway, or even three-fourths of the way, to your bachelor's degree upon transferring. In general, the more closely the bachelor's degree program you select aligns with the content of your AAS, the less coursework you will have left to complete at the university.

If you want to earn a degree in a specific field of study, prepare for a career or job advancement, and keep the door open to transferring to a university, an AAS to BAS pathway may be for you.





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The hunt officially begins on the eve of ASU's spring semester and will continue until someone finds the certificate and brings it to our offices.

**Who:**

Anyone can participate. You don't have to flash your Sun Card or any other credentials proving you're enrolled at MCC or University of Phoenix, etc. All's fair in love and treasure hunts.

Visit [ecollegeimes.com](http://ecollegeimes.com) for official rules.

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# Strategies for Undecided Students

**H**aving a clear idea of the required courses for your degree program is critical to completing college in a time-efficient manner, which most college students set out to do. In addition to consulting academic and faculty advisors, using online resources like the college catalog, degree check sheets, and transfer guides will provide the information you need to stay on track toward your educational goals.

But what if you don't know what you want to study or which type of career to pursue? You don't need to wait to start college until you have decided on a major. There are ways you can get off to a good start, even when you're not quite sure where you want the road ahead to take you.

## Use career services

Countless resources to help you explore your options are at your fingertips and right on your college campus. All ten of the Maricopa Community Colleges offer career services to students, in person and online.

The Maricopa Career Planning System (<http://www.maricopa.kuder.com/>) delivers customized career planning guidance so you can set relevant academic and career goals that better allow you to plan for your future. You will be able to assess your personal career interests, skills and values, and explore occupations and major that could be a great fit for you. Once you are an admitted student, log in at to get started.

Match Careers to Your Major (<http://my.maricopa.edu/preparing/match-careers-your-major>) presents broad categories of majors, and breaks them down into more specific career fields and job titles. Related professional associations, job descriptions, and day-to-day expectations for careers are also plentiful on this tool.

Maricopa's career services staff also assist students with using other online resources, such as the Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>), a nationally recognized source for providing career and salary information, training and education requirements, job prospects, and much more. Career One Stop (<http://www.careeronestop.org/>), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, provides many career resources, including an easy-to-use search tool called Occupation Finder.

## Start with general education courses

Every college degree requires at least some general courses, which would apply to multiple majors; English, math, and science, for example. If you get started on these, and do research on career options in the meantime, you'll buy yourself more time to consider your decision on a major. Important to keep in mind, though, is that specific general education courses may also be required for the major you eventually select. For example, nursing majors are required to take specific biology courses, so

if they take astronomy or geology courses for science when they are undecided on their major, they will still need to take the required biology courses later. If you're even considering a major or two (or three), share this information with your advisor so he or she can help you enroll in courses that count for one or more of the majors you are considering and will meet general education requirements.

## Start with major-specific courses

You may be thinking, "Didn't I just read the opposite?" but a different and equally wise strategy for undecided students is to jump into what really interests you. Starting with introductory level courses in majors you are considering can be motivating, and may actually help you start to narrow in on your interests. In addition, your instructors are knowledgeable about career options within their disciplines. They can also give you an idea of what to expect in higher-level major courses, which may help you decide if you are interested enough in the major to pursue it further.

## Mix it up a bit

It can also be beneficial, particularly for full-time students, to take a combination of major-specific and general education courses in their early semesters. Once you decide on a major, there will often be sequenced courses that cannot be taken in the same semester. If you complete most or all of your general education courses first, it may be hard to build a full-time schedule of major-specific courses later, since you can't take all of them at the same time. Developing a one-to-two semester educational plan with an advisor, even if you don't know your major, is possible and can help prevent delays in completing your degree.

## Take a career exploration course

If you just don't know where to start on your quest for a major, the structure and support of a college course in career exploration or college success strategies is a great way to learn about resources available to you and receive professional guidance on using them. It also provides a set time for you to explore your interests and research careers—a task that may get set aside otherwise, when you get busy with your classes.

At the Maricopa Community Colleges, there are several courses to help you succeed in college and define your goals. Check descriptions, locations, dates, and times of these courses on [my.maricopa.edu](http://my.maricopa.edu):

- CPD102AB Career Exploration
- CPD115/AAA115 Creating College Success
- CPD150/AAA150 Strategies for College Success

## Jump into math

The majority of math courses must be taken one at a time, in a prescribed sequence. Many students need to take several math courses to reach the level required for their major. For efficient degree completion and transfer preparation, get started on math right away when you begin college. Taking a free placement test at your Maricopa Community College (once you are an admitted student) will determine your starting level. Again, discuss possible majors with your advisor to find out if specific math courses are required. If several majors are being considered, take the high road by following the highest math sequence among the majors. You may end up having taken higher math than required, but that will serve you better than falling short and having to try to pick up where you left off when you go back to meet any additional requirements.

## Follow your interests & build on your strengths

A good thing about college is that there are a lot of choices. However, so many choices can be overwhelming. When choosing courses, it may not be apparent if or how the content will translate into your career. Part of the college experience is becoming a well-rounded, educated person, and what you learn may come in handy when you least expect it. Think about what you were good at in high school or skills for which you have received recognition in the past. What are you curious about? Some college course offerings may be surprising; for example, you may not see how learning about banned books, rock music, or geologic disasters relates to your future. If you are intrigued by a course, consider taking it! It might fulfill a general education requirement (as do all three of the courses referred to above) or a major-specific requirement, depending on your eventual degree plan. It might also benefit you at work, enrich your life, or help you decide if you want to turn a strength or interest into a degree plan and career.

## Keep your options open

If you want to play it safe and take courses that apply to a wide variety of majors, select courses like "Introduction to Literature" over courses like "Literature of Southern Wyoming" (not really a class, in case you were wondering...). This is also helpful to remember if you are considering transferring out of state. If you select courses offered at most colleges and universities, it is more likely that they will transfer to other institutions and fit in somewhere on your degree plan. As your goals become more defined, the courses' transferability and applicability will become clearer.

## Get good grades

Don't create a past that will come back to haunt you, when it comes to your grades. Someday, when you apply to a competitive bachelor's degree program or graduate school, your chances for admission can be affected by poor grades in courses you didn't take seriously enough. If you are having trouble with a class, go to tutoring, communicate with your instructor, and be aware of course withdrawal and retake policies. Also, enroll in the number of courses you can complete successfully. A common mistake for new students is taking too many courses at once, in an attempt to move through college quickly. As you progress in school, you can take a heavier course load or speed things up by taking summer or winter session courses when you know what is realistic for you.

## Earn an associate's degree

As an undecided student, you can still follow a degree plan at the Maricopa Community Colleges. If you plan to eventually transfer to a university to earn a bachelor's degree, the Associate in Arts is a flexible degree that fulfills general studies requirements for Arizona's public universities, along with many private, online, and out-of-state institutions. When you begin to consider specific majors, consult an advisor to see if the Associate in Arts is still the best fit for you or if another type of degree, such as an Associate in Business, Associate in Science, or Associate in Applied Science, aligns best with your major requirements and transfer goals. Earning an associate's degree will formally recognize and celebrate your hard work, and can increase your marketability and earning power in the workplace. If you are going to transfer to a university to earn an additional degree, you will already be a college graduate while you continue to build on your success.

## Think of "for now," not forever

If you hold out on choosing a degree path until the perfect major comes along, you may just be in school forever, and that can get pretty expensive. While finding a rewarding career is very important, sometimes, moving forward with your education and working in a related (or even somewhat related) position for a while is the only way to know if you want to stay a career for years to come.

It makes sense to need time to do research and try different things to help you make a decision, so don't be too hard on yourself for being undecided on a major. At the same time, keep in mind that most people do not stay in the same job for their whole career. With every step you take toward a goal, you'll gain information to help you make future decisions.



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