



Achieving a College Education | Program Application

About the ACE Program

The Maricopa ACE (Achieving a College Education) Program is nationally recognized for its proven success in motivating students to complete high school and continue on to complete a college degree. The program helps students make smooth transitions between three facets of the educational pathway: high school, community college, and university.

ACE is designed to help students make a smooth transition from high school through the community colleges on to a university and completion of a bachelor's degree. ACE recruits high school students in their sophomore year to participate in the program during their high school junior and senior years.

ACE students are enrolled in concurrent college courses as high school juniors and seniors. Students attend college classes during the summer, on Saturdays during the fall and spring semesters, or online. Students can earn up to 24 college credits by the time they graduate from high school. Maricopa ACE now serves over 130+ high schools.

ACE Program Model

SOPHOMORE YEAR	JUNIOR YEAR	SENIOR YEAR
<p>Program recruitment, application, acceptance, and onboarding.</p> <p>Students begin their first courses the summer before junior year.</p>	<p>Student's first course begins the summer before their junior year in high school.</p> <p>Students can earn up to 12 college credits during the Summer, Fall, and Spring semesters.</p>	<p>Students can earn up to 12 college credits during the Summer, Fall and Spring semester.</p> <p>Program ends the Spring semester of students' senior year.</p>

The Application Process

- Submit a complete application to your college of choice consisting of:
 - Completed Application Form
 - Personal Statement
 - Parent Information
 - Education and Record Information Release form
 - Two (2) Completed Recommendation Forms
 - Unofficial High School Transcripts
- Your completed application will be evaluated per the selection criteria listed below.
- You will be notified by the college on the status of your application:
 - Accepted
 - Not Accepted
 - Alternate list
 - Incomplete application
- If you are accepted into the ACE Program, you will receive a scholarship offer.
- You will need to contact the college ACE Office to accept the scholarship.

Program Selection Criteria

The ACE program is looking for high school sophomores who have taken at least 6 high school credits at the time of application submission and who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- First generation to attend college
- Living in a single-parent home, foster care, or temporary housing
- Experiencing economic hardship
- Environmental factors, such as working while attending high school, or is a teen parent

Applications will also be evaluated based on the following: recommender responses and student essay, etc.

At the college's discretion, student interviews may be conducted as part of the application process.

This program is not restricted to participants on any protected basis, including race, color, or national origin. All individuals are encouraged to apply and participate.

11 ACE Programs at Maricopa Community Colleges

Chandler-Gilbert Community College

2626 E. Pecos Road, Chandler
(Pecos Road and Gilbert Avenue)
Contact: ACE office, 480.857.5142
myaceadvisor@cgc.edu

Estrella Mountain Community College

3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale
(Dysart Road and Thomas Avenue)
Contact: ACE office, 623.935.8900
aceprogram@estrellamountain.edu

GateWay Community College

108 N. 40th Street, Phoenix
(40th Street and Washington Avenue)
Contact: ACE office, 602.286.8195
ace@gatewaycc.edu

Glendale Community College

6000 W. Olive Avenue, Glendale
(59th Avenue and Glendale Avenue)
Contact: ACE office, 623.845.3094
aceplus@gccaz.edu

Mesa Community College

1833 W. Southern Avenue, Mesa
(Southern Avenue and Dobson Road)
Contact: ACE office, 480.461.6200
earlycollege@mesacc.edu

Paradise Valley Community College

18401 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix
(32nd Street and Union Hills Avenue)
Contact: ACE office, 602.787.7163
earlycollege@paradisivalley.edu

Phoenix College

1202 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix
(15th Avenue and Thomas Road)
Contact: ACE office, 602.285.7743
ecp@phoenixcollege.edu

Rio Salado College Adult ACE

Call the Adult ACE office for nearest location for Rio Salado College Bridge Pathways students 16 and older
Contact: AACE office, 480.517.8110
adult.ace@riosalado.edu

Rio Salado College

2323 W. 14th Street, Tempe
(14th Street and 52nd Street)
ACE for high school students
Contact: ACE, 480.517.8080
ace.puente@riosalado.edu

Scottsdale Community College

9000 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale
(Chaparral Road and Loop 101)
Contact: ACE office, 480.423.6450
acehoop@scottsdalecc.edu

South Mountain Community College

7050 S. 24th Street, Phoenix
(24th Street and Baseline Road)
Contact: ACE office: 602.243.8250
ace@southmountaincc.edu

District Office

Maricopa ACE Programs
2411 W. 14th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
ace.corp@domail.maricopa.edu

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit: www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination.



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STUDENT INFORMATION

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Please complete all of the following information.

Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home#: _____ Cell#: _____ Email: _____

Please use a personal email address. Your high school email account may block college emails.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Gender: Male Female

Ethnicity:

American Indian or Alaskan Native Black White Asian or Pacific Islander Hispanic Other

Tribal Affiliation (optional): _____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Career Goal: _____

Name of High School Attending: _____

High School ID#: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

High School Graduation Date: _____

Junior High/Middle School Attend: _____

What are your plans after high school graduation?

1st choice check one: Community College University Technical School Work

2nd choice check one: Community College University Technical School Work

Have you ever earned college credit: Yes No

If yes, how many credits have you earned? _____

RIO SALADO COLLEGE ADULT ACE PROGRAM ONLY

Name of School you Attend: _____

Years of High School Completed: _____ Last Year Attended: _____

Have you ever earned college credit? If yes, where? _____

Career Goal: _____

Please check those that apply. *I live with...*

Mother and Father One Parent Step Parent Guardian Foster/Group Home Spouse Other

Rio Salado Adult ACE candidates check the above only if it applies to you

FIRST GENERATION INFORMATION

Would you be a first-generation college student? (neither parent has completed a bachelor's degree or higher) Yes No

You are a first generation student if both parents or guardians (parent or guardian if only living with one) did not complete a bachelor's degree.

Highest education level for Parent/Guardian #1

- Middle School/Junior High High School College or beyond Other/Unknown

Highest education level for Parent/Guardian #2

- Middle School/Junior High High School College or beyond Other/Unknown

OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Are you currently working?

Yes/No: _____ Hours per week? _____ Where? _____

Are you involved in other activities?

- Community Service Hours Music Sports Other
Hours per week _____ Hours per week _____ Hours per week _____ Hours per week _____

ACE PROGRAM FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Have any family members participated in an ACE program? Yes No

If yes, please list them.

Name	Relationship	ACE Start Year	ACE College

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Tell us about yourself, your reasons for wanting to go to college, and how the ACE Program might help you with your college plans. The answers you give in this section will help the selection committee decide who might benefit most from the college preparation activities of the ACE Program. Please make sure that you follow the instructions for answering the questions.

Your essay must be TYPED on a separate sheet of paper, a minimum of 300 words, and included in your application packet.

ESSAY QUESTION:

How will participating in the ACE Program help you reach the dreams/goal you have set for yourself?

Be specific in your answer and take the time to read through this section. Include the following when crafting your essay:

- Your future career, education, personal goals, and why you are motivated to accomplish them.
- Any obstacle that may slow you down in reaching your goals
- Why you believe that college is important to you
- Your personal achievements
- Challenges that you have overcome
- A person, event, or endeavor that has significantly influenced your life while attending high school
- How attending a Maricopa Community College would help you reach your dreams/goals

INCOMPLETE APPLICATION PACKETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



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PARENT INFORMATION

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION

The following information needs to be supplied by the Parent(s) or Guardian(s).

Father/Guardian Name: _____

Day Contact Phone # _____ Email Address: _____

Mother/Guardian Name: _____

Day Contact Phone # _____ Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ ZipCode: _____

Annual Household Income: _____

List all family members living in your home, excluding the applicant.

Name	Age	Relationship	Highest Level of Education Completed	Occupation



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RELEASE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORMS

Please read and sign both sides of these form.

EDUCATION AND RECORD RELEASE

In order for the Maricopa ACE Program to meet the specific needs of our communities and to enhance their program elements, comprehensive student data needs to be collected and analyzed regularly. The compiled information is used for program evaluation, statistical reports required for funding proposals, and statistical analysis only. Individual student names, grades, test scores or other personal information WILL NOT BE disclosed to any party unassociated with the Maricopa ACE Programs, or not designated by the Maricopa ACE Programs management. Designated or associated parties include the Maricopa County Community College District ACE Programs, _____ Community College ACE PROGRAM, and potential program donors or other financial supporting/contributing organizations.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment of 1974, allows students attending an educational institution to control outside access to their education records. This federal law protects the privacy of student education records, both financial and academic. For the student's protection, FERPA limits the release of student education record information without explicit written consent from the student and/or a parent/guardian. All employees of the Maricopa ACE Program who work with student information receive FERPA training.

Below is a list of the variety of education records that the Maricopa ACE Programs may need to obtain or view for statistical, educational verification, and/or program evaluation purposes. The verification includes, but is not limited to, requests of the following:

- Official high school and/or college transcripts
- Proficiency test information
- Withdrawal grades and hours (if student withdrew before the end of the term)
- Test scores
- Attendance
- Related educational student records
- High school student file

In signing this form I have been informed of my rights in reference to the disclosure of education records and agree to the following:

- I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand this statement, and hereby authorize _____ Community College's ACE Program, or any of its representatives, to obtain the information as described above.
- I acknowledge that I may submit a subsequent notification in writing, directing my high school or college of past or present attendance to no longer release information to any or all of the individuals/agencies noted.

Printed Student Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____ High School ID Number _____

In signing this form I have been informed of my rights in reference to the disclosure of education records and agree to the following:

- I give permission for the exchange of my students education record including information between the participating institutions such as the current high school and/or former high school if the student transfers, Maricopa County Community Colleges and other officially designated partners or representatives of the Maricopa ACE Programs, or organizations conducting approved studies for or on behalf of the college district.
- I acknowledge that I may submit a subsequent notification in writing directing my student's high school or college of past or present attendance to no longer release information to any or all of the individuals/agencies noted.

Printed Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT OPTIONS

This program offers the unique opportunity to start college courses, while still attending high school, in order to meet your personal, educational, and career goals.

The next step is to submit a scholarship form to determine your eligibility for funding. There are two types of scholarships available to ACE students:

- Maricopa Grant Scholarship
- Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship

Students must provide evidence of lawful presence in the US by providing one of the following types of documentation:

- An Arizona driver license issued after 1996 or an Arizona non-operating identification license
- A birth certificate or delayed birth certificate issued in any state, territory or possession of the United States
- A United States certificate of birth abroad
- A United States passport
- A foreign passport with a United States visa
- An I-94 form with a photograph
- A United States citizenship and immigration services employment authorization document or refugee travel document
- A United States certificate of naturalization
- A United States certificate of citizenship
- A tribal certificate of Indian blood
 - A tribal or bureau of Indian affairs affidavit of birth
 - Tribal members, the elderly and “persons with disabilities or incapacity of the mind or body,” may submit certain types of documentation under Section 1903 of the federal Social Security Act (42 United States Code §1396b, as amended by Section 6036 of the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005)

Are you able to provide one of the above documents? Yes No

You may be eligible for the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I understand that completion of this application does not guarantee acceptance into the program or funding. Program acceptance and funding is subject to availability and eligibility criteria.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT (does not apply to Rio Salado College Adult ACE Program candidates)

As a parent or legal guardian, I give permission for the student to enroll in course(s) in the ACE Program. I agree to notify the ACE Enrollment Office at the college of choice regarding changes in enrollment, including dropping, adding, or changing classes. Failure to pay will result in the student being automatically dropped from class(es) without notification.

I understand that the student will be establishing a college academic record and will be required to report such enrollment to future colleges or universities. He/she will be subject to the course requirements, grading standards and attendance requirements established by the instructor in the course syllabus. I further understand that the student will be subject to all of the requirements, policies, regulations, and deadlines defined in the College Catalog and Schedule of Classes.

The college learning environment encourages critical thinking and promotes the examination of contrasting perspectives of the world. This is an environment of adult interaction where students will be exposed to concepts, lectures, and materials that are designed for adults and adult audiences. At the college, there is unrestricted Internet access.

COLLEGE/COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

- Concurrently enrolled students establish a permanent college academic record and transcript that may be required by future colleges or universities. This permanent academic record may impact eligibility for future financial aid. It is also understood that the student will receive college credit for successfully completed course work.
- Students are responsible to go online to their Student Center at maricopa.edu/students to obtain their college grades. Grades will not be mailed to the student's residence.
- All students are expected to be in compliance with all current published college policies, rules, and regulations. Students are subject to the same course requirements, grading standards and attendance requirements established by the course instructor in the course syllabus.
- Students will be treated like everyone else in the class.
- Students will be held to the same expectations as any other student in the classroom and will be expected to follow the course syllabus.
- The course content, delivery and assessments, will not be altered due to underage students enrolled in the course. Students may be exposed to adult language, discussion and/or themes in the classroom and on the college campus.
- Students are responsible to communicate with the instructor if there are any questions or concerns.
- Students are responsible to seek assistance for any special needs they have, such as disability services or tutoring.
- Students interested in transferring their college credit back to their high school for high school credit are responsible for meeting with high school officials to gain approval prior to registering for college courses. High school/high school district determines whether a college course may be used for a high school credit.
- Course instructors bear no responsibility for underage students outside of the classroom. Parents are responsible for the students before and after class. Campuses are open and parents are responsible for the supervision of minors outside of the classroom.
- Parent/legal guardian/student assumes responsibility and liability for the student.

If my scholar is accepted into the ACE Program, I agree that my scholar will:

- Take courses with college level competencies and content.
- Learn the importance of declaring a major or degree/transfer pathway.
- Be an official college student with all of the privileges and obligations of any other student enrolled at the college.
- Be responsible for requesting information regarding his/her academic progress and participating in ACE activities with family members.
- Be allowed to use college computers and internet services including email, which may permit my son or daughter to have greater access to internet sites than that authorized by the parent or guardian on their personal computers.

I also understand that:

- A parent or guardian must attend the initial ACE parent orientation as a condition of awarding the ACE tuition scholarship.
- Transportation to and from the college is the responsibility of my ACE scholar and family.
- The family will cover expenses (books, fees, supplies, etc) not covered by the ACE scholarship for my scholar's college classes each semester.
- I must attend information sessions and other ACE events connected with the program.
- The ACE scholarship will end for my scholar upon graduation from high school or if they are withdrawn from the program for any reason.
- I agree to the exchange of academic information between the participating institutions and partners of the ACE Program.
- My scholar is expected to enroll and attend a Maricopa Community College upon graduation from high school.
- All of the college credits may count towards general education, certificate, and/or degree requirements at the Maricopa Community Colleges. Credits earned while in ACE will be evaluated by the transferring university for application to the selected degree. Some of these courses may be counted as electives.

My scholar has my permission to attend Maricopa Community Colleges and take up to 6 credit hours (2 classes) during the summer and 3 credit hours (1 class) during the fall and spring semesters while the scholar is completing their junior and senior years in high school.

- I approve the enrollment in any Maricopa Community College course until the student turns 18 years old. I also acknowledge that I have read the Maricopa Tuition and Fees Policy (Section 2.2.9) and the Maricopa Refund Policy (Section 2.2.10).

I certify that I am the Parent/Legal Guardian submitting the form with the student.

Printed Parent First and Last Name

Parent Signature

TALENT RELEASE

- I authorize the Maricopa County Community College District, and those acting within its authority, to, at no charge:
- Record my participation, appearance or performance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph or any other medium.
 - Use my name, likeness, voice and biographical material in connection with these materials for educational and promotional purposes in any type of media.
 - Copy the recording, in whole or in part and distribute it, including through podcasts on the Internet, solely for educational purposes by the Maricopa County Community College District, and those acting under its authority, as they deem appropriate.

Printed Parent First and Last Name

Parent Signature

STUDENT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

- If I am accepted into the ACE Program, I commit to:
 - Attending all classes as designated by my ACE Program
 - Fulfilling all requirements as outlined in each class syllabus
 - Being responsible for paying fees and purchasing required course textbooks each semester
 - Being responsible for transportation to and from the college
 - Taking, completing, and passing the mandatory courses
 - Meeting with the ACE staff at least once a month
 - Attending all ACE enrichment activities
 - Consulting with the ACE staff regarding all schedule adjustments, absences, and withdrawals
 - Enrolling and attending a Maricopa Community College upon graduation from high school
 - Sharing information regarding my progress and activities within the ACE Program with my parents/guardians (minors only)
- I understand that I will be taking classes at the college while attending high school or Adult GED classes and that the first session is mandatory for new students. I will officially be a college student with all of the privileges and obligations of any other student at the college. Classes taken at the college will become a part of my permanent academic transcript with the college. If accepted, I agree to fully participate in all aspects of the ACE Program. I consent to participate in studies and surveys to help improve the program and agree to the exchange of academic information between participating institutions. I understand institutions will collect different types of information from my transcripts and related student educational records. The student data from ACE will be reported as a group and my information will not be identifiable. I also understand that I may decline to give consent without penalty to my status as an ACE Program candidate.

The benefit associated with ACE Program studies is that schools and colleges will have a better understanding of the impact of the ACE Program. There are no known risks associated with the studies.

My ACE scholarship will end once I have graduated from high school or discontinued the GED program before completion, or if I am withdrawn from the ACE Program for any reason.

Printed Student First and Last Name

Student Signature



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RECOMMENDATION FORM

ACE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION FORM

Student: Last Name _____
 First Name _____
 Middle Initial _____
 High School Name _____

ACE Program Candidate Instructions: This form is to be completed by an adult not related to the ACE Program candidate such as a high school counselor, teacher, employer, coach, or pastor (at least one must be a current teacher).

- Allow your recommender at least one week to complete the form
- Ask your recommender to place the form in a sealed envelope
- Submit the sealed recommendation envelope with all other application documents by your specified deadline

Recommender: The student listed above is in the process of applying to one of the Maricopa County Community College District Achieving a College Education (ACE) Programs. ACE is designed to help students in their transition from high school/GED to community college and university.

The student's present grades may not reflect his or her potential. Your feedback will help us determine whether this candidate has the potential to benefit from the ACE Program.

Recommender Name: _____
 Professional Title (subject taught, if applicable): _____
 School/Community Organization: _____
 Email: _____ Contact Number: _____

How long have you known the candidate? _____ Months _____ Year(s)

Character and Personality	Not Applicable	Low	2	3	4	High
1. Shows respect towards adults	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
2. Respects other students	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
3. Respected by others	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
4. Politeness and manners	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
5. Leadership traits	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
6. Personal initiative	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
7. Organization/time management	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
8. Accepts constructive criticism	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
9. Positive attitude	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
10. Accountability	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
11. Dependability	n/a	1	2	3	4	5

Academics	Not Applicable	Low	2	3	4	High
1. Motivation to learn	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
2. Self-discipline in the classroom	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
3. Completes assignments on time	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
4. Neatness of assignments	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
5. Punctuality	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
6. Overall attendance	n/a	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment on the student's potential and personal characteristics.

What else should the selection committee take into consideration when assessing this candidate's application packet (strengths, challenges, extracurricular activities that may impact quality of work)?

Recommendation: Do you recommend this student for enrollment in the Maricopa ACE Program while attending high school?

Circle one below

Yes

Some Concerns

No

Please provide a brief comment below if Some Concerns or No is circled.

Recommender Signature: _____

Place the Recommendation Form in an envelope, seal, sign across the seal, and return to the student when filled out.



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 First Name _____
 Middle Initial _____
 High School Name _____

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7. Organization/time management	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
8. Accepts constructive criticism	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
9. Positive attitude	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
10. Accountability	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
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3. Completes assignments on time	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
4. Neatness of assignments	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
5. Punctuality	n/a	1	2	3	4	5
6. Overall attendance	n/a	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment on the student's potential and personal characteristics.

What else should the selection committee take into consideration when assessing this candidate's application packet (strengths, challenges, extracurricular activities that may impact quality of work)?

Recommendation: Do you recommend this student for enrollment in the Maricopa ACE Program while attending high school?

Circle one below

Yes

Some Concerns

No

Please provide a brief comment below if Some Concerns or No is circled.

Recommender Signature: _____

Place the Recommendation Form in an envelope, seal, sign across the seal, and return to the student when filled out.