



ONE-YEAR PROGRAM - 350-hour program IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



- Craft amazing and fun foods using flames, knives, and creative chemistry.
- Create and serve cuisine in a modern commercial kitchen preparing appetizers, soups, entrées, and desserts in a bistro setting.
- Express creativity as part of a team that designs menus, prepares meals, organizes catered events, and develops unique dining experiences.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS*

- Current Sophomore and Junior students may apply (early graduates may not apply)
- **Grade 10:** Placement into college-level English, Reading, and Math by taking either all 3 EdReady or all 3 Accuplacer college placement tests.

·EdReady English Placement: 80 or higher

·EdReady Critical Reading/Critical Thinking Placement: 90 or higher

·EdReady Quantitative Reasoning: 70 or higher

OR ·Accuplacer Next Gen Reading: 249 or higher

·Accuplacer Quantitative Reasoning: 263 or higher

·WritePlacer: 5 or higher

[Click Here For College Placement Testing Guide](#)

- **Grade 11:** All juniors with a GPA below 3.0 on an unweighted 4.0 scale must take one group of the qualifying tests listed **above** or:
 - ACT Score: 22 or higher **OR** SAT Score: 510 or higher
- Copy of unofficial transcript
- Proof of residency in West-MEC district boundaries
- Copy of birth certificate and immunizations/State Exemption Form due at the time of college enrollment
- Student State-issued ID, driver's license, or driver's permit due at college enrollment
- Transportation is not provided by West-MEC. Families are responsible for providing transportation to and from West-MEC.
- Parent Proof of Citizenship & 1 year of Arizona residency due at enrollment (non-resident is responsible for the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition)

*Program requirements are subject to change per industry age restrictions, certification requirements, and administrative discretion.

The Accuplacer and EdReady tests are available at no charge at:

**Estrella Mountain Community College Testing Center - 623.935.8860

**Glendale Community College Testing Center - 623.845.3000

For resources to help with Accuplacer or EdReady, visit: <https://www.estrellamountain.edu/students/testing-services>

Meeting program requirements does not guarantee enrollment.

COST REQUIREMENTS

Upon acceptance into the program:

- \$150.00 non-refundable registration fee includes enrollment processing & lab fees. Registration fees are non-refundable.
- College textbooks - \$100.00. Prices for textbooks are approximate and may change due to college requirements.
- Uniform (2 chef jackets, 2 chef pants, 2 beanie hats, 2 aprons, white t-shirts, black shoes, & socks (above ankle), \$300 in total) purchased by the student. Prices are approximate and may change.

Optional Costs:

- It is recommended students have access to a personal computer and reliable internet outside of class to occasionally complete assignments and projects.

Tuition:

- Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) recipients are responsible for tuition West-MEC is an approved vendor.
- Student Tax Credit (STO)/Private School Scholarship recipients are responsible for tuition.
- Obtains a General Educational Development (GED) certificate while in a West-MEC Program
- Student is a Foreign Exchange student.
- Students who reside outside of West-MEC boundaries are responsible for tuition.
- Will graduate from high school as a senior before completing their West-MEC program
- Details regarding tuition costs are available at [Tuition Fees](#).

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION

If eligible, students will have the opportunity to test for the following credentials.

FEES PREPAID BY WEST-MEC; It is the responsibility of the student to maintain copies of all earned credentials.

- This industry credential is required for employment in the field a majority of the time
 - ServSafe Food Handlers Card
 - ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification

Proof of Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency may be required for credential testing. Students with a documented disability may request credential testing accommodations through the individual testing entity.

Program information may change as West-MEC strives to provide the best opportunities for students. Refer to www.west-mec.edu for most current information. Program is taught by industry certified instructors. West-MEC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations.



Culinary Arts



CAREER PATHWAYS

- Cook, caterer, restaurant chef, restaurant manager*
- Entry-level salary range: \$14.70- \$20.63 per hour**

*with additional education in this pathway | **Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment & Wages

LOCATION & HOURS

Estrella Mountain Community College
Agave Hall, Room 109
3000 N. Dysart Road
Avondale, AZ 85392

Monday - Thursday
1:00 PM – 3:45 PM

NOTE: Community College & high school calendars do not align & all transportation is provided by the student/parent.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

- Acceptance into West-MEC programs is competitive.
- Students may only be enrolled in **one** West-MEC Central Program at a time.
- The order for filling seats is by highest rubric Sophomores and Juniors
- Applications are ranked in part by attendance, GPA, discipline, and career choice (ECAP)
- Copy of birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunizations/State Exemption Form due at time of registration enrollment.
- Program hours are not excused for participation in extracurricular activities, athletics, vacation, or employment.
- West-MEC's priority application submission date is in the beginning of the second semester. Contact your counselor for your school's Priority Application Deadline.
- West-MEC students served under an IEP/504 will need to self-advocate for reasonable accommodations through the Estrella Mountain Community College Disability Resource Office. Approved accommodations may differ from those provided in the high school. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires institutions of higher education to provide reasonable accommodations to those with documented disabilities, provided an undue hardship is not created. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Disability Resource Services (DRS) Office directly of his or her need for accommodation(s).

STUDENT SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Strong interest in chosen career pathway.
- History of good attendance and discipline, and on track for graduation.
- Ability to work well with others and cooperate with the instructor.
- Ability to work accurately/follow procedures to an industry-standard.
- Strong technical reading and study skills; the textbook for this course is written at a college reading level.
- Uniforms are reviewed to meet professional industry standards. Dress code requirements are addressed before the start of classes.
- Able to perform physical activity.
- Conformance to the Culinary Workspace industry safety standards.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	A	B	C*	D**	F
Percent	90%-100%	80%-89%	70%-79%	60%-69%	59% or below

*An 70% grade or better is required for each Culinary course in order to obtain college credit and be eligible to progress to the next level course.

**A 60% grade or better is required to obtain high school credit.

CREDITS ISSUED BY WEST-MEC

- High School - 2.5 elective credits (1.25 credits per semester)
- This program satisfies AZ universities' admissions requirements. (AZ Board of Regents CTE/Fine Arts credit)
- A student who withdraws during the West-MEC program may receive concurrent enrollment college credit based on the number of completed courses. (see post-secondary opportunities)

EARLY COLLEGE PATHWAYS (OPTIONAL)

West-MEC offers a faster way forward through early college pathways, and we strive to provide robust post-secondary opportunities for students. For more information on Early College Pathways is available on our website:

- [Early College Pathways](#)



The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA 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.

MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Revised 10/21/2025



Culinary Arts

West-MEC
2026-27



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.



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