Culinary Arts

West-MEC 2027-28



TWO-YEAR PROGRAM - 900-hour program

- 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, Junior, and Senior students may apply
- One credit of English with a C or better
- One credit of Math with a C or better
- A Rubric Score of 42 or above (70 points possible). Rubric scores are calculated by the student's high school counselor.
- 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 enrollment
- Transportation is not provided by West-MEC. Families are responsible for providing transportation to and from West-MEC.

*Program requirements are subject to change per industry age restrictions, credentials requirements, and administrative discretion.
*Students who do not meet program requirements or have a rubric score of 41 or below will be placed on a Student Success Action Plan (SSAP). High School counselors will work with the student to develop an SSAP for consideration of acceptance at the end of semester two, based on program availability.

Meeting program requirements does not guarantee enrollment.

COST REQUIREMENTS

Upon acceptance into the program:

- $300.00 Registration Fee: Includes enrollment processing, supplies, CTSO Membership, & uniform shirts. Other uniforms/supply requirements are the responsibility of the student. Registration fees are non-refundable.
    - CTSO Leadership Development: Training is embedded through membership and participation in the Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) | FCCLA.

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 requirements apply to the following students. Details regarding tuition costs are available at Tuition Fees.

- Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) recipients. West-MEC is an approved vendor.
- Student Tax Credit (STO)/Private School Scholarship recipients.
- Junior applicants who will become a senior in a two-year program
- Will graduate from high school before completing their West-MEC program
- General Educational Development (GED) recipients
- Foreign Exchange students
- Residents outside of West-MEC boundaries

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.

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

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.

Revised 07/23/2026

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LOCATION & HOURS

West-MEC Southeast Campus:
3300 N 93RD Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85037
623.278.9100

Monday - Friday
1st Year Students
Session 1: 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Session 2: 1:00PM - 3:30 PM
2nd Year Students
Session 1: 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Session 2: 1:00PM - 3:30 PM

NOTE: West-MEC & 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 provides accommodations and modifications identified in the IEP/504 for high school students. Students who graduate from high school or have a GED will not be eligible for IEP services. Graduated students will need to self-advocate for reasonable accommodations that are aligned with industry certifications.

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

CREDITS ISSUED BY WEST-MEC

- High School - 6 High School Elective Credits (3 credits per year)
- 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)

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