Culinary Arts

West-MEC 2027-28

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

CULINARY ARTS

- 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 (Seniors and 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
- 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 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.
- Student 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)
- If you are a high school student from outside the U.S. and plan to attend a Maricopa Community College in Arizona, you must have an **ACTIVE** F-1 Student Visa. The U.S. government requires that foreign nationals who wish to study in the U.S. for academic credit — including associate degree programs — must have an F-1 (F student) visa. (CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION)

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

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.
- All students must have a cell phone to access and authenticate their college accounts for course content, assignments, and testing.

Optional Costs:

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

Tuition requirements apply to the following students. Details regarding tuition costs are available at Tuition Fees on the West-MEC website.

- 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.

ACCREDITED cognia

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 09/22/2026

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CAREER PATHWAYS

- Cook, caterer, restaurant chef, restaurant manager*
- Entry-level salary range: $14.70- $20.63 per hour**
- Median salary range is $18.69 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 High School 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

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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.

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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