Artificial Intelligence

West-MEC 2027-28

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM - 900-hour program

- Explore the foundations of Artificial Intelligence by learning about emerging technologies, key AI domains such as machine learning and natural language processing, and how AI is shaping industries like healthcare, agriculture, and entertainment.
- Develop critical thinking skills by applying systems thinking methods, examining the ethical and societal implications of AI, and understanding its impact on jobs, privacy, and culture.
- Engage in hands-on projects that include data science activities, AI project cycles, and real-world labs to build problem-solving skills and create a portfolio connected to industry careers.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS*

- Current Sophomores or Juniors may apply
- One credit of English with a C or better
- One credit of Algebra I 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:

- $150.00 non-refundable 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 | FBLA
- It is recommended students have access to a personal computer and reliable internet outside of class to complete assignments and projects.

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 CREDENTIALS

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 often preferred for employment in the field. Candidates with this industry credential are likely to be given priority in hiring.
  - Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate
  - Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals (AI-901)
  - Certiport Information Technology Specialist: Python

CAREER PATHWAYS

- AI Technician, Machine Learning Technician, Data Analyst, Computer Vision Technician, Natural Language Processing Technician, AI Project Assistant, AI Support Specialist, Entry-Level AI Practitioner, and CTE Teacher*
- Entry-level salary range: $32.17- $41.00 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 09/30/2026

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West-MEC 2027-28

LOCATION & HOURS

West-MEC Northeast Campus:
1617 W Williams Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85072
623.435.4920
Monday - Friday
1st Year: 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
2nd Year: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

West-MEC Southeast Campus:
3300 N 93RD Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85037
623.278.9100
Monday - Friday
1st Year: 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
2nd Year: 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM

NOTE: West-MEC and high school calendars may 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 by grade level is as follows:
  - Current Sophomores
  - Current Juniors
- Applications are ranked in part by attendance, GPA, discipline, and career choice (ECAP)
- Program hours are not excused for participation in extracurricular activities, athletics, vacation, or employment.
- West-MEC priority application submission date is in the beginning of the second semester. Contact your school counselors for your school's Priority Application Deadline.
- Contact school counselor for earlier deadlines for submitting applications to high school
- 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 which are aligned to 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.
- Familiar with computer terminology, operating systems, networks
- Ability to practice all procedures with each other

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 per year)
- This program satisfies AZ university's admissions requirements. (AZ Board of Regents CTE/Fine Arts credit)

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

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