Drone Technology

West-MEC 2027-28

DRONE TECHNOLOGY

ONE-YEAR PROGRAM - 450-hour program

- Build, program, and fly unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to perform various missions.
- Fly using various software programming platforms designed to integrate with onboard sensors, autopilots, and GPS.
- Analyze, troubleshoot, and maintain instrumentation and control systems used in constantly evolving drone technology.

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 enrollment into the program:

- $150.00 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) | Skills USA.

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.

TEST 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.
    - FAA - UAG Unmanned Aircraft General - Small
    - TRUST - UAS Recreational Safety Test

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

- UAS Operator, Surveying, and Mapping Technician, Cartographer and Photogrammetrists*, Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronics Technologist and Technicians, CTE Teacher*.
- Entry-level salary $19.85-$31.41**

*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 11/06/2026

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West-MEC 2027-28

LOCATION & HOURS

West-MEC Career Academy @ Agua Fria
920 N Dysart Road
Avondale, AZ 85323
623.278.9090

Monday - Friday
Session 1: 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Session 2: 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

NOTE: West-MEC & high school calendars may not align and all transportation is provided by the student/parent.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

- Acceptance into West-MEC programs may be 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 Juniors
    - Current Sophomores
    - Current Seniors
- 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 February. Contact your school counselor for your school's application deadline.
- West-MEC provides accommodations and modifications identified in the IEP/504 for 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

- History of good attendance and discipline, and on track for graduation
- Strong interest in chosen career pathway
- Strong hand-eye coordination with fine motor skills and stamina
- Manual dexterity and physical ability to use tools, equipment, and machinery
- Ability to get along with other students 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 the college reading level

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 - 3 High School Elective Credits (1.5 per semester)
- This program satisfies AZ university's admissions requirements. (AZ Board of Regents CTE/Fine Arts credit)

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