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Want to get your bachelor’s degree?

Get your associate’s degree at a Maricopa Community College, then transfer to one of our 40+ University partners.

Save Money.
Enjoy Small Class Sizes.
Receive Individual Attention.
Learn From Experts in Their Fields.
Choose From 10 Colleges Valleywide.
Participate in Athletics, Performing Arts, and Student Clubs.
Have Fun.
Succeed.
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Visit the Online Transfer Center at maricopa.edu/transfer/partners to learn more about dozens of college and university transfer options including local, out-of-state, public, private, online, and on-site degree programs.

- Compare universities by location, size, tuition, and more.
- Explore degree programs and transfer pathways.
- Find helpful transfer guides for your major.
- Access university sites designed for MCCC graduates.
- Connect with academic advisors.

AZTransfer helps students make every credit count. Visit AZTransfer.com for everything you need to plan a smooth and seamless transfer to ASU, NAU, or UA without losing your hard-earned credits!

- Enter course numbers in the Course Equivalency Guide to learn exactly how they are accepted for credit at ASU, NAU, and UA.
- Access step-by-step guides to help you move to the university with ease.
- Learn which courses offered at your community college fulfill general education requirements and transfer as a block to the university.

The Shared Unique Number (SUN) System is Arizona’s college course numbering system that clearly identifies courses that transfer with direct equivalency among Arizona’s public community colleges and three state universities.

- The SUN System includes over 100 of the most commonly transferred courses statewide.
- SUN courses are listed in your college class schedule, catalog, and online at www.azsunsystem.com
- SUN courses are a subset of the tens of thousands of courses that transfer among Arizona’s public colleges and universities.

On my.maricopa.edu, you’ll find everything you need to get started and stay on track at any of the Maricopa Community Colleges. Log in to:

- Apply for admission.
- Search for classes (“Find a Class” feature, including in-person, online, hybrid, and Honors options).
- Read course descriptions.
- Drop and add courses.
- Check your progress toward a degree.
- Access your grades, placement test scores, schedules, financial aid status, charges and payments, contact information, transcripts, and more.

Your community college website will provide even more information on transfer advisement and other student services at your campus. For community college websites, start at maricopa.edu and click on “locations.”
The Maricopa Community Colleges provide an affordable way for you to progress toward a bachelor's degree by completing your associate's degree at a Maricopa college near you and then transferring to a four-year college or university. You will save money, learn from highly qualified faculty, and get to know yourself as a student by starting your college education at a Maricopa Community College.

What do I need to take?
Whether you are decided or undecided about a major, if you know that you will eventually transfer to a university, it’s best to begin with the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC). AGEC is a 35-semester-credit, general education program of study that fulfills lower-division general education requirements. Completion of the AGEC with a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale guarantees assured admission to any of the Arizona state public universities if you are a resident student.

Once you complete the AGEC, you are more than halfway to completing an associate's degree. Meet with an academic advisor to determine if an AGEC is appropriate for your degree or program. If it is, an advisor can help you select the AGEC courses that apply toward your major.

Why should I transfer and earn a bachelor's degree?
Preparing for a successful career in a demanding job market requires advanced education. Benefits of completing a bachelor's degree include increased career opportunities, knowledge, and skills that keep you competitive in the job market.

The amount of education you receive also influences lifelong earnings. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the highest graduate earnings are coupled with the highest levels of educational attainment. Graduates who hold a bachelor's degree earn nearly twice the lifelong earnings of workers who have only a high school diploma.

What are my degree options?
If you are just out of high school, beginning or returning to college, or seeking lifelong education, you will find that the Maricopa Community Colleges offer a wide range of opportunities. The colleges offer academic associate's degrees that will prepare you to transfer to a four-year university. Specialized transfer options are also available for students who successfully complete Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees. AAS graduates are eligible for admission into a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) program at any Arizona public university offering the BAS degree.

It is important to work with a college advisor to determine which associate's degree is the best preparation for your university major and career goals.

Why should I earn an associate’s degree first?
Besides acknowledging your efforts and providing you with a sense of completion and achievement, your degree may offer you several of these advantages:

- Helps you qualify for a job or promotion.
- Guarantees admission into many Maricopa partner institutions.
- Meets transfer conditions for specific programs.
- Prepares you academically to enter university programs.
- Assures a smooth transition by maximizing the applicability and transferability of your academic credits.
- Helps you qualify for tuition discounts and scholarships at Maricopa partner institutions.
Your Transfer Pathway Begins Here

Students have many choices when it comes to degree pathways. Earning an associate’s degree that aligns with your academic and career goals will keep you on-track toward earning your bachelor's degree when you transfer to a university. Academic advisors at the Maricopa Community Colleges can help you identify the degree pathway that will work for you.

**Associate in Arts (AA)**

The Associate in Arts degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors in the Liberal Arts or programs of study other than business or science, and will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona’s public universities and other institutions with district-wide transfer agreements. The AGEC-A (Arizona General Education Curriculum–Arts) is a component within the AA degree. The Associate in Arts, Fine Arts is offered as a customized pathway within the AA requirements, with specific versions for Dance, Art, and Theatre.

- Offers flexibility while preparing students for transfer
- Minimum math requirement: MAT140 or 141 or 142 - College Mathematics
- 60-credit minimum

**Associate in Business, General or Special Requirements (ABUS-GR, ABUS-SR)**

The Associate in Business - General Requirements and Special Requirements degrees are designed for students who plan to transfer to Arizona’s public universities into a variety of business majors and for students who plan to complete lower-division course work toward a bachelor's degree program at other four-year colleges or universities. Generally, these degrees will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona’s public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGEC-B (Arizona General Education Curriculum – Business) is a component within the ABUS-GR and ABUS-SR degrees.

- The ABUS-GR degree is for business majors except for Computer Information Systems
- The ABUS-SR degree is for Computer Information Systems majors
- Minimum math requirement: MAT212 or 213 - Brief Calculus
- 62-credit minimum

**Associate in Science (AS)**

The Associate in Science degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in a variety of science-related majors. In general, the components of the degree meet requirements for majors with more stringent mathematics and mathematics-based science requirements. Generally, the degree will transfer as a block without loss of credit to Arizona’s public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGEC-S (Arizona General Education Curriculum – Science) is a component within the AS degree.

- Minimum math requirement: MAT220 or 221 - Analytic Geometry & Calculus I
- Students must meet science requirements with one of the following 8-credit course sequences: BIO181 and 182 - General Biology I and II OR CHM151/151LL and 152/152LL - General Chemistry I and II OR PHY121 and 131 (or 115 and 116) - University Physics I and II
- Includes a “subject options” requirement of 6 credits with a restricted list of science and math options
- 60 credit minimum
**Associate in Arts, Elementary Education (AA-EE)**

The Associate in Arts, Elementary Education degree is designed for students planning to transfer to an Elementary Education, Early Childhood, Multicultural/Multilingual, or Special Education program at an Arizona public higher education institution and/or for students who plan to become a classroom instructional aide. Generally, the degree transfers as a block without loss of credit to Arizona's public universities and other institutions with district-wide articulation agreements. The AGEC-A (Arizona General Education Curriculum – Arts) is a component within the AAEE degree.

- Minimum math requirement: MAT140 or 141 or 142 – College Mathematics
- 60-credit minimum

**Associate in General Studies (AGS)**

The Associate in General Studies degree is recommended for students whose educational goals require flexibility. The AGS allows students to select courses numbered 100-or-above, transferable or not, to complete the degree. Therefore, this degree may be less appropriate for students who intend to transfer to a four-year college or university. When a specific major and/or transfer university is selected by an AGS student, it is usually advisable to consider alternate degree pathways more closely aligned with university requirements.

- Minimum math requirement: MAT102-Mathematical Concepts
- Unlike transfer degrees (AA, AS, ABUS, AAEE), one of the two required natural science courses does not require an accompanying lab
- 60-credit minimum

**Associate in Applied Science (AAS)**

The Associate in Applied Science degree is recommended for students who wish to gain a depth of technical expertise by completing one of Maricopa’s occupational programs. There are over 200 AAS degree programs available. Some are offered at multiple colleges in Maricopa, while others are college-specific. The AAS degree does not include an AGEC, however, general education courses are required (specific courses vary by degree). Although students planning to transfer are generally advised to pursue one of the AGEC-based degrees (e.g., AA, AS), AAS to BAS pathways are also available to students, and coursework within an AAS can be applicable to a bachelor’s degree program. Completing an AGEC is often recommended if students pursuing AAS degrees are considering transferring (and may not have been originally).

- Minimum math requirement: MAT102-Mathematical Concepts (overall—but higher math courses are required for some AAS degrees, depending on major)
- AAS check sheets are updated online monthly to reflect curriculum changes
- 60-105-credit minimum, depending on specific degree (usually approximately 65 credits)

For a complete list of degree policies and check sheets: [http://goo.gl/Bx5GZh](http://goo.gl/Bx5GZh)

Course information based on 2014-15 catalog year and is subject to change.

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Meet solar power researcher and developer, **Jose Montero**.

Read his story: [http://goo.gl/zeAcUv](http://goo.gl/zeAcUv)
1. **plan**
Decide to transfer.
If you want to give yourself more career choices, a bachelor’s degree will help. But you have to start planning early. The classes you take today will affect when and how successfully you transfer.

2. **research**
Compare transfer options.
What are you looking for in a university: location? Certain major? Sports? There are many factors to weigh when choosing your next step. Remember: the best school for your major may not be the best fit for you.

3. **seek**
Ask for help.
Most four-year institutions have people on staff who just help transfer students. Your Maricopa advisor is an important resource and can answer many of your questions. Keep yourself informed too, because degree requirements can change often.

4. **visit**
Narrow your Options.
Visit any schools you are thinking about attending. Their website or admissions office will share enrollment requirements and deadlines. While you are on campus, take a tour.

5. **apply**
Get admitted.
Meet your deadlines. Missing one can delay your transfer. Check to see if you need to complete a separate application for your major. Follow admissions timelines and checklists, and talk to an advisor if you need help.

6. **submit**
Provide official documents.
You are responsible for providing official transcripts as part of your application. Maricopa may charge a fee to send transcripts, and most colleges and universities only accept materials by mail.

7. **admission**
Celebrate your new beginning!
The transfer school will look over your application and update your student file. Applying and sending transcripts early can speed up this process.

8. **connect**
Talk to your academic advisor.
It’s one of the most important steps to take so you can plan your graduation date, see how transfer credits will be applied, and learn about with your new institution. Be prepared with questions.

9. **engage**
Attend New Student Orientation.
Most schools have orientation sessions for transfer students. These sessions will introduce you to the services and culture and will help you adjust to your new surroundings.

10. **register**
Choose classes and pay tuition.
Choose classes that match your degree plan and graduation timeline. Making a financial plan is crucial to reaching your academic goals. Consider payment options, such as financial aid, scholarships, and loans.

*Adapted with permission from The University of Texas at El Paso.*
Transferring from a community college to a four-year college or university requires good planning. Before you transfer, check into the following:

**Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) and Associate Degree:**
- Have you selected a major with an Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)? If so, have you completed the requirements and requested AGEC certification on your transcripts?
- Have you met with an advisor to determine your eligibility to graduate at your community college?
- Have you submitted an application for graduation? Some colleges require separate applications for the AGEC and the associate’s degree.

**Major and University Requirements:**
- Does your major have a second language proficiency requirement?
- Have you completed all the prerequisites for your university program?
- Will you meet the minimum cumulative GPA for admission into the university and academic program you want?

**University Application Process and Transcripts:**
- Have you researched university admission priority dates and deadlines?
- Have you submitted your application(s) for admission and all of your official transcripts (and any AP and CLEP test scores) prior to transferring?
- Have you checked to see if high school transcripts and test scores are required?
- Have you requested that your final official transcripts (from each college attended) be sent to the university after your last semester is completed?

**Financial Aid/Scholarships:**
- Have you submitted your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority date of your transfer institution(s)?
- Have you investigated tuition and fees at the university? (Some programs may require a professional fee in addition to tuition.)
- Have you researched scholarship opportunities? Be wary of potential scams, as search services should be free of charge.

**Living Arrangements:**
- Have you decided whether you will live on- or off-campus? On-campus housing can be limited and is usually awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Meet Pilar Ramos
Associate Researcher at TGen, alumna of Glendale Community College and a Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation scholarship recipient.
Successful Educational Planning Relies on TEAMWORK

Academic advisement is a vital resource for students at every stage of their college education. Truly effective advising is a partnership between advisors and students, both pre- and post-transfer. In this collaboration, there are some fundamental responsibilities to consider…

Your advisor should:

- Provide professional, friendly, and courteous service.
- Clearly communicate program requirements, institutional policies and procedures.
- Maintain a broad knowledge base and continuously work to keep up-to-date.
- Listen effectively, and ask questions to understand your needs.
- Provide appropriate referrals to campus resources.
- Work collaboratively with you to develop a clear and comprehensive educational plan (sometimes referred to as a program of study or a semester-by-semester plan).
- Encourage and guide you in defining and developing realistic goals.
- Help you explore your interests, abilities, and goals as they relate to academic majors.
- Inform you about online resources for academic information and support services.
- Be realistically accessible to you: in-person, by telephone, e-mail, or web access, and respond to reasonable requests in a timely manner.
- Help you gain the ability to assume responsibility for your educational choices and achievements and learn from your mistakes or setbacks.
- Maintain confidentiality in accordance with the institution’s policies and federal and state laws.
As a student, you should:

- **Meet with your advisor each semester** (or as often as your college recommends) to discuss your progress. Depending on the size of your college and how much you are able to do on your own after initial visit(s), sometimes e-mail or phone advisement is more efficient.

- **Come prepared.** The first time you see an advisor, bring your placement test scores, unofficial transcripts from other institutions attended, and/or any documents you think may be helpful that are not already in your college’s computer system. If in doubt, call ahead and ask what you should bring. For subsequent advisement sessions, bring degree check sheets, transcripts, and any other materials your advisor provided at prior meetings.

- **Take notes during your advisement sessions.** Make sure you and your advisor are clear on any follow-up tasks you need to do.

- **Use what you learn from your advisor** to better help yourself. Advisors want to empower you to lead the way with your education. Work together on completing tasks and gathering information in order to become more self-reliant as a student. The advisor can assist you with more complex enrollment or academic issues, and you won’t need to wait for him or her to do things you can do on your own. Still, you should feel free to double-check with your advisor if you are unsure about something.

- **Ask questions,** and honestly answer your advisor’s questions. Understanding each other builds trust in your partnership, which will support your overall educational experience.

- **Research college and program information** to increase your knowledge on requirements, policies, and procedures. Being informed will help you make good decisions and know what you need help with.

- **Be engaged in the conversation** and accept responsibility for your actions as a student. Your advisor wants you to succeed, but cannot make you succeed. Even if you are unsure of yourself or your goals, your advisor needs to know that you value your education and are ready to do your part.
You don’t need to wait to start college until you have picked a major. You can get off to a strong start, even when you are not quite sure where you want the road ahead to take you.

Use career services
All ten Maricopa Community Colleges offer career services to students, in person and online. Here are some tools you can use by yourself or with an advisor:

- **The Maricopa Career Planning System** ([http://www.maricopa.kuder.com/](http://www.maricopa.kuder.com/)) helps you explore your personal interests, skills, and values so you can find your best career/major fit.
- **Match Careers to Your Major** ([http://my.maricopa.edu/preparing/match-careers-your-major](http://my.maricopa.edu/preparing/match-careers-your-major)) shows what you can expect in different careers, and provides job titles and descriptions.
- **Career One Stop** ([http://www.careeronestop.org/](http://www.careeronestop.org/)) offers an easy-to-use Occupation Finder.

Take some general education courses
No matter what you degree you want, you’ll need to take a few general courses. So it’s important to take them early, especially English, math, and science courses. If you have even a little idea about a certain major, tell your advisor so s/he can help you pick courses that count toward one or more of the majors you want.

Start with major-specific courses
You can also jump into whatever really interests you. Starting with introductory level courses in majors you are considering can be exciting, and may actually help you start to focus your interests. Your instructors can also tell you what to expect in higher-level major courses, which may help you decide if you want to continue in that major.

Or mix it up a bit
Take some major-specific and some general education courses. One benefit is that once you decide on a degree path, some of those classes can’t be taken at the same time. So creating a one- to two-semester plan with an advisor can help prevent delays in completing your degree.

Go explore
If you just don’t know where to start on your quest for a major, courses in career exploration or college success is a great way to start. It’s a structured way to explore your interests and research careers since it’s easy to set that aside once you get busy with classes. Check descriptions, locations, dates, and times of these courses on my.maricopa.edu (CPD102AB Career Exploration, CPD115/AAA115 Creating College Success, CPD150/AAA150 Strategies for College Success).

Jump into math
Many students need to take several math courses to reach the level required for their degrees. Since most math courses must be taken one at a time and in a specific order, it is important to start taking math your first semester in college. Free placement testing will determine the level at which you should start. Work toward completing
the highest level of math required for any majors you are considering, and when you decide on your major, an advisor can help you fine-tune your course selection.

**Follow your interests**
What are your favorite subjects? What do you wish you could learn more about? Some courses may surprise you. While you may not see how learning about banned books, rock music, or geologic disasters relates to your future, a new course could light a spark inside you.

**Keep your options open**
If you want to play it safe and take courses that can apply to a wide variety of majors, choose introductory classes. For example, “Introduction to Literature” will give you more flexibility than “Literature of Southern Wyoming.” (No, that’s not a course we offer). If you think you might continue your education out of Arizona, introductory courses are more likely to transfer.

**Get good grades**
Take all of your classes seriously and do your best. If you are having trouble with a class, go to tutoring, talk with your instructor, and be aware of course withdrawal and retake policies. Enroll in the number of classes you can complete successfully. You can always take a heavier course load or speed things up by taking summer or winter session courses when you know what is realistic for you.

**Earn an associate’s degree**
If you plan to eventually transfer to a university for a bachelor’s degree, the Associate in Arts is a flexible degree that fulfills general studies requirements for Arizona’s public universities, along with many private, online, and out-of-state institutions. Talk to your advisor to see if the Associate in Arts is the best fit for you or if another type of degree, such as an Associate in Business, Associate in Science, or Associate in Applied Science, may be better. An associate’s degree formally recognizes and celebrates your hard work, and can increase your marketability and earning power.

**Think of “for now,” not forever**
If you don’t choose a degree path until the perfect major comes along, you may just be in school forever. While finding a rewarding career is very important, sometimes, moving forward with your education and working in a related (or even somewhat related) area for a while is the only way to know if you want to stay in a career for years to come.

**Some final thoughts**
- Research degree requirements and career options to help you decide on the best major for you.
- Don’t be too hard on yourself for being undecided on a major.
- Don’t be afraid to move toward a goal just because you’re not sure how it will turn out.
Strategies to keep in mind when you are planning on transferring from a community college to a university.

Choosing a school that is a good fit with your goals and lifestyle is the first step in achieving college success. “You want to choose a university that will support you. Your goal is to get a great career, so that should be your university’s goal too! Find one that offers strong services, clubs and organizations.” —Sarah White, a Transfer Enrollment Counselor at the University of Arizona

Contacting university advisors before or while you are enrolled at the community college can help you learn about the services and opportunities that will be available to you when you transfer. “Be proactive. Contacting advisors early, so they can meet you and give you their undivided attention.” —Maureen Fray, Assistant Director of the Gateway Student Success Center at Northern Arizona University

Although admission periods vary by institution, consider applying for university admission early, January for a fall (August) start, and September for a spring (January) start. Many universities will accept applications up to a year before the projected starting semester. “The admission process (at NAU) can take six to eight weeks. Any delay in ordering transcripts can slow down enrollment and financial aid. The earlier you apply for admission, the better.” —Tanya Mure, Transition Coordinator at Northern Arizona University

Having realistic expectations about the time required to be successful in courses helps you adjust to your new surroundings and responsibilities at a university. “Don’t take too much on at one time since transferring can be overwhelming. Use the first semester to develop a comfortable routine. Build on that routine, and you will have a plan in place to succeed!” —Ashley Rubin, Academic Advisor at the University of Arizona

Organization and communication skills are key factors in student success. Be proactive and ask questions. “Know the university’s academic calendar so you don’t miss important deadlines. Take advantage of your professors’ office hours to get clarification on assignments or upcoming exams.” —Erica Mitchell, Senior Director at Arizona State University’s Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

Encourage students to take classes in their major and complete math requirements as much as possible while they are at the community college. “Take classes in your major before you transfer. Why? You don’t want to end up with a bunch of advanced math courses in one semester. It’s nice to have some variety for your junior and senior years.” —Michelle Howe, Advisor at Arizona State University’s School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
Have a successful transfer:

- Research your university of choice to make sure it is a good fit for you.
- Use advisors as a resource.
- Communicate with them and your instructors regularly.
- Apply for admissions and request transcripts early.
- Be realistic about the time you’ll need to dedicate to college.
- Know the university’s enrollment and drop/add deadlines.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Develop an education plan with a strategic course sequence (especially with math).
Moving forward without starting over

Josh is a psychology major at Northern Arizona University. Holly is a psychology major attending Phoenix College, and is planning to transfer to NAU after completing two years at PC. Both students are working toward the same goal, a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. By working with her academic advisor, Holly can parallel Josh’s pathway during her freshman and sophomore years of college, earn an associate’s degree from PC along the way, and be right on track to graduation when she transfers to NAU.

Right on track, that is, if the courses she takes are transferable and applicable toward her degree program, and these terms are often confused by students. Courses that are transferable from one college to another are evaluated by the receiving, or transfer, institution as being equivalent in academic content. Applicable courses count toward a student’s degree requirements. In other words, many courses are transferable between colleges, but whether or not they are applicable depends on the student’s specific major and degree requirements.

Kelly Robles, Senior Director for Community College Relations at Arizona State University, recommends the Maricopa to ASU Pathways Program (MAPP), an efficient and effective transfer pathway because “courses on a MAPP both transfer and apply to the specific major at ASU in which a student is interested. It takes all the guesswork out of the planning process while providing guaranteed admission to reputable degrees,” she said.

“Utilizing the Degree Search site (degreesearch.arizona.edu), students can pull up the AZ Transfer Course Equivalents tab for a side-by-side comparison of every class that they can take at the Maricopa Community Colleges that will transfer directly into their chosen degree program,” said Brenna Secore, UA Assistant Director of Transfer Enrollment.

“Do not guess or try to self-advice; talk to someone who can give you accurate information, provide advice, and give direction,” recommends George Ennis, an academic advisor and recruiter at Wayland Baptist University in Phoenix, who urges students to rely on professional advisors.

“Before committing to any school, request for the school to complete a degree plan for you so you know exactly what courses/credits will transfer and what you still need to complete your degree,” said Jasmine Khong, Executive Director of Student Success at Touro University Worldwide, an online university based in Los Alamitos, California.

Christina Yang, Director of Academic Partnerships at Excelsior College, an online university based in Albany, New York, said, “In order to get the most accurate assessment of where you stand, be sure to submit all of your transcripts to your transfer institution,” and added, “You don’t want to repeat coursework!”

Dr. David Bolman, Provost at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, said, “Building a program path that is both as straight as possible, while also giving room to explore interests as you grow in your degree preparation is a very satisfying approach.”

Choosing one transfer institution over another can play a big part in how many transfer credits can be applied toward a transfer program. Most universities will accept and apply 60-64 community college credits toward most of their Bachelor’s degrees. However, many institutions accept up to 90 community college credits for select programs, which leaves only 30 credits at the university to earn a Bachelor’s degree.
“However, students need to take the right credits to seamlessly transition (to a university),” said Doug Small, Director of Strategic Partnerships at Northern Arizona University, Extended Campuses in Maricopa County. He recommends connecting early with a university advisor to help select the best program to meet your personal and professional goals. Along with the number of acceptable transfer credits, be sure to consider the academic content, cost, convenience, support services, and program length of your transfer institution options.

Prior Learning is a credit source that’s often overlooked when choosing a transfer school. Prior Learning credits are awarded for knowledge gained outside a traditional classroom. Diana Hawkins is an academic advisor at SUNY Empire State College’s Center for Distance Learning in Saratoga Springs, New York. SUNY Empire accepts up to 96 transfer credits of classes or Prior Learning to use toward a bachelor’s degree. Hawkins discussed the value this option brings to her students.

“Prior Learning is as unique as every student I work with. When you think about it, we learn every day at work, in the community, through internships and volunteer work. Why not get credit for it?” she said.

Meet Patrick J. Harris
Air Force Veteran, transfer student, future teacher and a student of a Maricopa Community College.

Read his story: http://goo.gl/1ofGhk
According to *U.S. News & World Report*, about 30 percent of college students today will transfer to a different college. Students may decide to transfer for a variety of reasons – they may want to be closer to home, or they have decided to pursue a different major. Regardless of the reason, many transfer students are faced with common misconceptions regarding the transfer process.

**Myth:** I am going to transfer, so what I do now doesn’t matter. I can fail school and still get into another school.

**Truth:** Your grades always matter. Most four-year colleges and universities require a transfer student to have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) for admission. Plus, there may be a second set of criteria, such as grades in specific prerequisite classes used to be admitted into a specific degree program.

Your GPA at one institution does not affect your GPA at another institution, but it can definitely help or hurt your chances of getting in. If it is high enough, it may even help you qualify for a transfer scholarship.

**Myth:** My financial aid goes with me wherever I go.

**Truth:** It depends. If your financial aid is in the form of a merit-based scholarship, it may not be transferable. Each college or university will award scholarships based on different criteria. If your financial aid is in the form of a student loan, it may transfer. If financial aid plays a role in the decision to transfer, it is best to discuss the possibilities with financial aid representatives at both your starting school and your transfer school.

**Myth:** To transfer, all I need is an application.

**Truth:** Each college and university has different transfer requirements – students will always need more than an application. Fortunately, most institutions’ web sites have step-by-step guides for the transfer process. Online resources, along with guidance from college personnel, will help you keep track of your progress in meeting all requirements.

**Myth:** If I transfer, it will take forever to graduate.

**Truth:** With early planning and use of transfer resources, students can transfer and still graduate in the same length of time as those who started at that university. If you are planning on transferring, refer to articulation agreements and transfer guides between the two institutions. These agreements and guides explain what will transfer and how it will apply to a degree program. Web sites such as aztransfer.com (for Arizona’s public institutions) offer a wealth of information regarding course equivalencies, math and language requirements by major, general education course options, and much more. If you plan to transfer out-of-state, it can be more complicated. Work with

Meet transfer student and future psychologist, Jackie Perez.

Read her story: [http://goo.gl/cFe5VO](http://goo.gl/cFe5VO)
your community college and transfer institution advisors to match up the curriculum as much as you can. Make sure to discuss the type of accreditation both institutions hold to find out if they are transfer-compatible.

**Myth:** Community college credits are not accepted at the university.

**Truth:** Most community college credits are designed for transfer. It is very common for students to begin at a community college and transfer to a four-year institution when ready. Something important to keep in mind is that even if a course is transferable, it may or may not be applicable to your degree program. If you want to graduate in a timely manner, you will want to take classes that transfer and apply to your program.

**Myth:** There is no reason to take classes that are not required for transfer.

**Truth:** Most college students want to graduate as soon as they can, but sometimes it is good to take a class (or two, or three!) just to help you narrow your interests, decide on a career path, enrich your personal life, or increase your work skills. As a bonus, they just might count as elective credit toward your degree. But if not, don’t automatically count them out.

**Myth:** I can transfer whenever I want.

**Truth:** While you may make your decision to transfer at any time, it is wise to know how many credits could transfer and the minimum GPA the receiving college or university requires for admission. As a general rule, Arizona’s public universities accept up to 64 credits (roughly two years of full-time coursework), with some program-based exceptions when more coursework is accepted. Completing your lower-division general education requirements, program prerequisites, or an associate’s degree prior to transferring will usually facilitate a smoother transfer and greater applicability.

**Myth:** Every college is the same, so it doesn’t really matter where I transfer.

**Truth:** There are many different transfer options, and no two are ever alike! The unique programs and student life vary from one university to the next. Do research and talk to current students to get a feel for what it will be like to attend an institution. Other factors like program availability, mode of instruction, cost, location, student clubs and activities, athletic opportunities, class size, and housing options definitely should be considered.

—Adapted with permission from The University of Texas at El Paso.

About 30 percent of college students today will transfer to a different college — U.S. News & World Report
Transfer students may experience “sticker shock” with the noticeable difference in the cost of attending a four-year institution. Rest assured, there are various financial aid programs that can assist transfer students in continuing their education. U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens will be considered for some form of federal or state financial aid. Resident status and availability of aid differs from state-to-state, but students are likely to find some form of aid that fits their needs.

Financial aid includes scholarships, grants, work-study programs, and student loans. Scholarships are a form of financial aid that is often “merit based.” Students usually apply by submitting an application to the school’s financial aid or scholarship office. Grants, work studies, and student loans are “need based” forms of financial aid. To be considered for these programs, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.edu.gov. Each institution has a unique school code that allows them to receive students’ FAFSA information. Remember, most schools have priority dates or deadlines that must be met in order to be an early applicant and be considered for all financial aid programs.

These types of Financial aid are available to you

**Scholarships** — Financial aid that may or may not require financial need and may be based on grades, major, service hours, or various other criteria. Full-time enrollment is usually required. Contact the scholarship office or your institution’s financial aid web site for specifics on available scholarships.

**Grants** — Free money from federal and state sources. The largest grant program is the Federal Pell Grant. Grant amounts awarded are based on student enrollment status and the prior year’s tax information.

**Work-study Programs** — Part-time employment on campus for up to 19 hours per week, compensated at minimum wage. When a student’s accumulated gross earnings reach his or her Federal Work Study award, he or she stops working under the agreement.

**Student Loans** — Low-interest loans that do not need to be paid back as long as you are a part-time student taking six credits per semester. With a subsidized loan, the government will also pay the interest while you are in school. The government does not pay the interest on unsubsidized student loans. These loans are determined by dependency status, classification, other aid received, and course load – not need. After the application is received, the financial aid office will send an award letter or e-mail informing the student of the financial aid programs s/he is qualified for. Please be aware, work study and student loans have additional criteria for which to qualify and students may need to submit more information.

When receiving any form of financial aid, students must meet the institution’s Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements in order to continue receiving aid. These requirements include maintaining a minimum cumulative grade point average, completing a percentage of the hours attempted, and enrolling in a minimum amount of credit hours. For more information, see your school’s financial aid office, or check the policy on your school’s financial aid web site.

—Adapted with permission from The University of Texas at El Paso.
If you are interested in earning a bachelor’s degree, starting at a Maricopa college and transferring to a four-year university provides you with an affordable option. While you can transfer anywhere, the Maricopa Community Colleges have established transfer partnerships with quality, reputable colleges and universities. These university partnerships assist students in making a smooth transition from one institution to the next by maximizing your Maricopa credits. In addition, many university partners offer Maricopa graduates dedicated advisement and financial incentives such as transfer scholarships, waived application and/or textbook fees, and special tuition incentives for military personnel. The Maricopa Community Colleges have formal partnerships with the following institutions.

**Arizona Transfer System Partners**
- Arizona State University
- Northern Arizona University
- University of Arizona

**Private, Online, and Out-Of-State Transfer Partners**
- Albright College-Mesa Campus
- Argosy University
- Arizona Christian University
- Ashford University
- Benedictine University at Mesa
- Capella University
- Chamberlain College of Nursing
- Colorado State University-Global Campus
- College of St. Scholastica-Surprise Campus
- Columbia College Chicago
- Columbus College of Art and Design
- DeVry University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Empire State College (SUNY)
- Excelsior College
- Grand Canyon University
- Kaplan University
- Middlesex University
- New Mexico State University
- Northcentral University
- Ottawa University
- Park University
- Prescott College
- Regis University
- Saint Xavier University-Gilbert Campus
- Southern New Hampshire University
- Strayer University
- Trine University-Peoria Campus
- University of Advancing Technology
- University of Maryland University College
- University of New Mexico
- University of Phoenix
- University of Texas at El Paso
- Upper Iowa University-Mesa Center
- Wayland Baptist University
- Weber State University
- Western Governors University
- Western International University
- Western New Mexico University
- Westminster College
- Wilkes University-Mesa Campus

Subject to change - Please refer to maricopa.edu/transfer/partners for the most current information.

Meet transfer student and ASU Environmental Resource Management Major, Justin Hardy. Read his story: http://goo.gl/I2VmGF
Taking Your Education to the Next Level

Matt has worked at the same company for 16 years, and although he is a hard-worker and his fellow employees consider him the “go-to” guy when they have questions, he hasn’t been promoted in nearly as long. Without a college degree, he has been at a disadvantage when higher-level positions have opened up. Supervisors have encouraged him to go back to school to earn a degree.

Leah is an experienced web designer who put her career on hold when she became a stay-at-home mom. Eight years later, she wants to get back into the job market. Technology in her field has changed a lot, so she needs to build her skills so she can be competitive for today’s jobs.

Marisa is a recent high school graduate who wants to be a dental hygienist. She plans to start her career as soon as she can, but for now, she cannot picture herself in college for more than a couple of years. She wants the option of eventually applying her credits toward a bachelor’s degree.

Today, it is possible to prepare both for a job and for transferring to a university by earning an Associate in Applied Science.

The Maricopa County Community Colleges offer over 200 AAS degrees in areas including nursing, business, administration of justice, fashion merchandising and design, music business, and biotechnology. Traditionally, AAS degrees have focused on preparing students to enter the workforce, while “transfer degrees,” such as the Associate in Arts, Business, and Science, have focused on providing general education and introductory major-related coursework in preparation for transfer to a university.

Now, it is possible to prepare both for work and for transferring to a university by earning an Associate in Applied Science, since many universities offer bachelor degree programs designed especially for students with AAS degrees. Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees build on the foundation of the AAS by including coursework to advance students’ knowledge within their chosen fields. Arizona’s statewide transfer model authorizes AAS students to transfer up to 75 credits from the community colleges, then earn 45 credits at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, or the University of Arizona to complete a BAS degree. Since most AAS degrees are 60-65 credits, students are able to complete the additional general studies required by the universities before they transfer, and apply it toward their bachelor’s degree. In some cases, a 60/60 credit split makes more sense to be on track with course sequencing at the university. You and your advisor should develop an educational plan that reflects your educational interests and transfer timeline.

Many out-of-state and private university transfer partners will accept your AAS credits as a block, allowing you to be halfway or even three-fourths of the way to your bachelor’s degree upon transferring. Usually, the more closely the bachelor’s degree program you select aligns with the content of your AAS, the less coursework you will have left to complete at the university.

If you want to earn a degree in a specific field of study, prepare for a career or job advancement, and keep the door open to transferring to a university, an AAS to BAS pathway may be for you.
Things to keep in mind…

**Research**

Familiarize yourself with your degree requirements. Detailed course lists are online at [http://goo.gl/unm2SA](http://goo.gl/unm2SA)

**Meet an Advisor**

Meet with an academic advisor or faculty advisor at your Maricopa Community College to discuss your short-and long-term goals and develop a semester-by-semester educational plan. The plan will be based on your placement test scores, how many courses you can successfully complete within a semester, the recommended sequence of the courses, your life outside of college, and more. Your advisor will ask you appropriate questions to help you sort out your degree options.

**Degree Options**

Research BAS degree options and requirements. Details on the statewide transfer policy are found at [http://www.aztransfer.com/associates_degrees/aas_bas.html](http://www.aztransfer.com/associates_degrees/aas_bas.html), and degree offerings are listed on university websites.

**Private, Out-of-State, and Online Institutions**

Reach out to Maricopa’s private, out-of-state, and online four-year college and university advisors to explore transfer options. Some may be more expensive than the public universities, but they often accept more credits and offer flexible scheduling. This search tool can help you narrow down what is important to you: [http://www.maricopa.edu/transfer/partners/partner_list.php](http://www.maricopa.edu/transfer/partners/partner_list.php) (Click on University Partner Search).

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**Arizona State University**

Arizona State University's online AAS to BAS tool at [http://transfer.asu.edu/communitycollege/AZ/maricopa/aas-bas](http://transfer.asu.edu/communitycollege/AZ/maricopa/aas-bas) allows you to click on your Maricopa college and AAS program to learn more about the corresponding BAS options at ASU.

**Northern Arizona University**

The Northern Arizona University-Maricopa Connection website at [http://www.maricopa.edu/connection](http://www.maricopa.edu/connection) lists local and online degree programs, including BAS degrees that complement your AAS from a Maricopa Community College.

**The University of Arizona**

The University of Arizona’s online degree search tool at [http://degreesearch.arizona.edu/](http://degreesearch.arizona.edu/) lists degree requirements for every major and identifies course equivalencies.
A Strong Transfer Partnership with Arizona State University
The Maricopa Community Colleges and Arizona State University have a long history of working together to support transfer student success. If you are interested in attending ASU, then the Maricopa Community Colleges have a pathway for you. Whether you are interested in teacher education, business, nursing, graphic design, or another area of study, there is a clear path to ASU that will help maximize your community college credits, saving you time and money.

Start at a Maricopa Community College
The Maricopa Community Colleges provide an affordable way for you to progress toward a bachelor’s degree. You can complete a degree at a Maricopa college near you and then transfer to ASU. You will save money, learn from highly qualified faculty, and get to know yourself as a student by starting at a Maricopa Community College.

Maricopa to ASU Pathways Program (MAPP)
If you know your major, then the MAPP is designed for you. You will follow a prescribed sequence of course work at a Maricopa Community College that meets the lower-division course requirements for an ASU major. When you complete your MAPP, you will have met the requirements for an associate’s degree. MAPP benefits also include guaranteed admission to ASU, eligibility for the Tuition Commitment Program, and the assurance that when you transfer, you are right on track to earn your bachelor’s degree. Sign up for a MAPP with your community college advisor.

Exploratory Pathways
Still looking for the major that is right for you? ASU’s Exploratory Pathways are perfect for students like you. These pathways will help you learn more about ASU majors, career options, and university pathways that help you transfer to ASU. You will get access to supportive academic advisement, student success workshops, and online resources to help you as you decide on your academic and career goals. Sign up for an Exploratory Pathway with your community college advisor.

General Transfer
You can transfer to ASU at any time and complete a bachelor’s degree in one of more than 250 academic programs. New pathways and transfer opportunities for students are continually being added.

Please visit transfer.asu.edu/maricopa for a complete and updated listing of all available pathways and degree programs at ASU
2NAU: The Right Degree at The Right Price

When you make the move from a Maricopa Community College to Northern Arizona University through the 2NAU joint-admission program, you can save up to 60% on the total cost of your education.

No other university—online or in person—offers a more convenient or affordable way to earn your bachelor’s degree.

$2,000 2NAU scholarships available

- Pursue your degree at one of 10 Maricopa locations, online or in Flagstaff.
- Get dual advising so you don’t waste time/money in the wrong classes.
- Enjoy a seamless transfer process with no application fee.

To apply: www.nau.edu/2NAU

Questions? 1-800-426-8315

Meet Kristin: A 2NAU Rock Star

This is Kristin Chapman of Phoenix.

She just won Northern Arizona University’s $1,000 Maricopa Transfer Scholarship. Kristin worked hard to earn it, maintaining high grades at Glendale Community College while working locally as a preschool teacher. Now she has $1,000 to put toward her NAU bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. “I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember,” says Chapman. “This scholarship and earning my degree at NAU will help me get that job and become the best teacher I can possibly be.” Kristin expects to graduate from NAU in May 2016. Sign up for 2NAU and be a rock star like Kristin.

Apply at www.nau.edu/2NAU or by calling 1-800-426-8315.

Accredited Degree Programs Employers Respect

Prepare to work in one of Maricopa County’s fastest-growing job fields, including:

- Business Administration
- Diagnostic & Medical Imaging HOT JOB!
- Education (multiple majors)
- Hotel & Restaurant Management HOT JOB!
- Justice Administration
- Medical Assisting
- Paramedic Care
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Management
- Respiratory Care HOT JOB!
- Surgical Technology Assisting HOT JOB!
- Technology Management HOT JOB!
- Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Public Management
- Respiratory Care HOT JOB!
- Surgical Technology Assisting HOT JOB!
- Technology Management HOT JOB!
- Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Public Management
- Respiratory Care HOT JOB!
- Surgical Technology Assisting HOT JOB!
- Technology Management HOT JOB!

Average Cost of a Bachelor’s Degree

- NAU Partnership Programs: $14,900
- Arizona Public Residential University: $37,600

Shows average 2012/2013 full-time tuition and fees for all three state universities versus average costs to attend a community college before transferring to NAU-Extended Campuses.
UA: Your Transfer Destination

Maricopa Community College students now have one more way to get connected to the University of Arizona's campus before they transfer, through the UA Bridge program. UA Bridge is a partnership between the Maricopa Community Colleges and the University of Arizona that provides a path to an associate's degree from a Maricopa college, and completion of your bachelor's degree at UA. To find out more information and apply for the program, visit http://admissions.arizona.edu/transfer/ua-bridge.

Don’t forget that assistance can be found right here in Maricopa County. We now have three transfer admissions representatives based in the Phoenix area who can help you find your way when deciding if it’s time to transfer. For Central Maricopa County, Brenna Secore is located at Paradise Valley Community College (PVCC), and can be reached at 602-390-3895 or brennac@arizona.edu. For the West Valley, Lisa Rodrigues is located at Glendale Community College (GCC), and can be reached at 520-460-6969 or rodrigues@email.arizona.edu. For the East Valley, Sarah White is located at Mesa Community College (MCC) Red Mountain and can be reached at 520-237-4423 or swwhite88@email.arizona.edu. Stop by and talk to them today about the transfer process!

Applying to the University of Arizona

The University of Arizona application accomplishes three things in one. The application is for admissions, scholarships, and your application for the Honors College. You can apply online or print a paper application at http://admissions.arizona.edu/transfer/transfer-applications. Once you submit an application, you can pay the non-refundable application fee of $50 for residents or $65 for non-residents by check, money order, credit card, or eligible fee waiver. To complete the application process, you need to submit official college transcripts from all colleges attended, and an official high school transcript if you are under the age of 22 at the time of application. The application usually takes two-to-four weeks to process, so apply early. To track the status of your application, create a MyUA account at https://arizonaug.askadmissions.net/vip/. After you are admitted, you can take your next steps to enrolling at nextsteps.arizona.edu.

Experience Arizona

Make connections with admissions and college representatives by attending an event, taking a campus tour, or meeting face-to-face with an admissions counselor at your college. The UA hosts numerous transfer events throughout the year and we also participate in college fairs every semester. For details on where we are going to be next and how to register for any of our programs, check out our Calendar of Events at http://admissions.arizona.edu/transfer/events/month.

Arizona Experience - Transfer Open House: This all-day visit program is designed to introduce you to our outstanding colleges, programs, services, and campus. Attending this event will give you the opportunity to engage with your respective college, familiarize yourself with the campus community, and customize your visit for your needs.

Community College Visits: If you’re unable to join us at a transfer event, don’t worry! We’ve got you covered. UA Transfer representatives visit your campus to meet and talk with you as a prospective student. If you’re looking for more information on UA, check out the Transfer Admissions Calendar of Events and mark the date when we’ll be at your college.

Saturday Transfer Round-Up: Learn about the UA admissions process and take a peek at what life on campus is really like for our transfer students. Following the tour, staff members are available to assist and answer questions from tour goers as well as anyone looking for some admissions help!

Transfer Wildcat Express: Designed for prospective and recently admitted transfer students, Transfer Wildcat Express are half-day events held on the University of Arizona campus. Guests learn about student services, take a campus tour, and can qualify for an expedited admissions decision.

Wildcat Wednesdays: For Maricopa County students, Wildcat Wednesdays are the best way to get a taste of UA without leaving the Phoenix area. Get an overview of UA admissions and financial aid, among other valuable services. Guests can qualify for an expedited admissions decision.

Once you are here

The UA Transfer Student Center, part of the Transfer Enrollment Team, works with the Office of Admissions to help your transition to UA go as smoothly as possible. The Transfer Student Center is located in the Student Union Memorial Center, Room 402, and is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can get more information about their services by visiting transfer.arizona.edu or contact them at 520-626-6463 or uofatransfer@gmail.com.
Get started with your University Transfer Program today!

Meet transfer student and Political Science Major, Jordan Hibbs.

Read her story: http://goo.gl/mpFksk

maricopa.edu/transfer