



SENIOR NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024 EDITION



SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship Search Engines:

goingmerry.com fastweb.com
scholarships.com niche.com
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarships.php>
scholarshipowl.com

Local Scholarships:

[Achieve Pinal](#)
[Maricopa Community Foundation](#)

Other Scholarships:

[National Honor Society Scholarship](#)
[Dorrance Scholarship](#)

TRI-UNIVERSITY DEADLINES

Arizona State University

Priority Deadline Application: Nov 1, 2024
Regular Deadline Application: Jan 15, 2025
FAFSA Submission Deadline: May 1, 2025
[Click Here to Apply Now!](#)

University of Arizona

Regular Deadline Application: May 1, 2025
FAFSA Submission Deadline: May 1, 2025
[Click Here to Apply Now!](#)

Northern Arizona University

Rolling Admissions- No Deadline
FAFSA Submission Deadline: April 1, 2025
[Click Here to Apply Now!](#)

COLLEGE CRASH COURSE VIDEO SERIES

[How to College: Preview](#)
[To College or Not to College](#)
[How to Choose a School](#)
[How to Prepare for College](#)
[How to Apply to College](#)
[How to Pay for College](#)
[How to Choose a Major](#)

APPRENTICESHIPS

[Arizona Department of Economic Security Apprenticeship Program](#)
[ApprenticeshipUSA](#)
[Maricopa County Apprenticeships](#)
[APS Pre-apprentice Program](#)
[Arizona Western College Apprenticeship Programs](#)
[Arizona Builders Alliance Electrical Apprenticeship](#)
[Helicopter Pilot Training Program](#)
[Arizona Associated General Contractors Apprenticeship](#)

TRADE & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

[Arizona Automotive Institute](#)
[The Refrigeration School, Inc.](#)
[National Technical Institute Phoenix](#)
[East Valley Institute of Technology \(EVIT\)](#)
[Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology \(CAVIT\)](#)
[Conservatory of Recording Arts & Sciences \(CRAS\)](#)
[UEI College](#)
[Lifework Education \(formerly Arizona Medical Training Institute\)](#)
[Carrington College](#)
[Avalon Institute Beauty School](#)
[Pima Medical Institute](#)
[Vocational Training Institute](#)
[Universal Technical Institute \(UTI\)](#)
[Motorcycle Mechanics Institute](#)
[Southwest Institute of Healing Arts](#)

GOING ON A MISSION?

- Apply for colleges & scholarships before you leave for your mission.
- Apply for FAFSA before you leave on your mission even though you will not be using the funds you receive the following year.
- Once you accept a college's offer, call the school's Financial Aid Department to **defer** your admissions and scholarships.

MILITARY SERVICE

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will be offered to scholars this school year. Be on the lookout for sign-ups. Date/Time TBA. To learn more about the ASVAB, visit <https://www.officialasvab.com/applicants/what-to-expect/>

[Early Service Member Milestones](#)
[Education Benefits of Military Service](#)
[Finding the Right Job in Today's Military: A Step-by-Step Guide](#)
[Military Schools & Service Academies](#)

[In-Demand Military Roles](#)
[Requirements & Steps to Enlist](#)



MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

2025-2026 Academic Year Merit Scholarships

- Most public colleges offer merit scholarships.
- Merit scholarships can only be applied to tuition.
- Merit scholarships are renewable, meaning you'll receive merit scholarship funds each year you attend college.
- Merit scholarships are only for incoming freshmen. Dual enrollment does NOT affect your incoming freshman status, even if you earned an associate degree in high school.
- If you take too many community college courses after you graduate from high school, you may jeopardize your incoming freshmen status.
- **MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS DO NOT REQUIRE A SEPARATE APPLICATION AT ARIZONA IN-STATE UNIVERSITIES. ALL FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS. YOU MUST COMPLETE FAFSA BY THE DEADLINE TO BE CONSIDERED.**

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY NEW AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

President's Award
Provost Award
Dean's Award
University Award

[ASU First-Year Student Scholarship](#)

[Estimator](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA WILDCAT TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

TYPE OF AWARD	CORE UNWEIGHTED GPA RANGE	RESIDENT ARIZONA AWARD*
WILDCAT DISTINCTION AWARD	4.00	\$11,000
	3.75 - 3.999	\$8,000
	3.50 - 3.749	\$5,000
	3.25 - 3.499	\$3,000
	3.00 - 3.249	\$2,000

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	GPA (unweighted H.S. core*)	Annual amount
Lumberjack Scholars Award	3.75-4.0	Fixed at first year tuition
President's	3.5-3.74	\$9,000
Dean's with Distinction	3.4-3.49	\$6,500
Dean's	3.0-3.39	\$5,000
Opportunity	Admitted-2.99	\$2,500

Tuition scholarships do not apply to fees, additional tuition costs resulting from excess hours, or any other non-tuition charge. Scholarships will renew automatically for three additional years as long as students meet renewal criteria.

WHAT IS CORE GPA?

Not the GPA on your transcript--this GPA includes ALL high school classes!

- Four years of high school English
- Four years of high school math
- Three years of high school lab science (one year each from biology, chemistry, earth science, integrated science, or physics).
- One year of HS American History **AND** one year of another HS social science (world history, economics, psychology, government, etc).
- One year or a two-semester combination of high school fine arts.
- Two consecutive years of the same second language (not req'd for NAU)

[ASU Admissions Requirements](#)

[University of Arizona Admissions Requirements](#)

[Northern Arizona University Admissions Requirements](#)

HOW DO I CALCULATE MY CORE GPA?

1. Request your Heritage transcript from Miss Bocchinfuso.
2. Identify your grades in the courses listed to the left. If you have more years of qualifying classes than required in a subject, select your top grades in that subject (American history must be 1 for social sciences).
3. Go to <https://www.calculator.net/gpa-calculator.html>
4. Enter your grades for the required courses. If you received the same grade both semesters, enter 1 credit. If you received a different grade each semester, list the course twice (0.5 credit each) and enter your individual semester grades.
5. Click "calculate". **This is your CORE unweighted GPA.**
6. You can use the GPA planning calculator to determine the GPA you would need next semester to reach your GPA goal.

**FREE APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL STUDENT AID
(FAFSA)**

WHAT IS FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is an application for federal student aid. This form helps determine your eligibility for aid such as grants, work-study, scholarships, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free.

WHY COMPLETE THE FAFSA?

Information submitted on the FAFSA can qualify students for other non-federal grants-- from state governments, private entities, and colleges themselves. **Most colleges require the completion of the FAFSA.**

[2024-2025 Federal School Code List \(will be updated for 25-26 when available\)](#)

WHEN DOES THE 2025-2026 FAFSA OPEN?

The FAFSA typically opens on October 1 each year. However, due to the updates/changes made last year, the FAFSA will be available to all families **on or before December 1, 2024.**

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE? -- **CREATE YOUR FSA ID NOW!**

The FSA ID is a username and password that all contributors use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education websites including fafsa.gov, studentaid.gov, and studentloans.gov. The FSA ID is a student or parent's legal electronic signature. The FSA ID will be used every year to fill out the FAFSA.

Once an FSA ID is created, it can take 3-5 days to process. Therefore, you will not be able to create an FSA ID and complete the FAFSA on the same day. Prepare ahead of time and create your FSA now in order to be ready to complete the FAFSA when it opens on December 1.

ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FAFSA FORM MUST HAVE THEIR OWN FSA ID!

[Is My Parent a Contributor When I Fill Out My FAFSA Form?](#)

[Create your FSA ID Here!](#)

FAFSA CONTINUED

ASU Arizona State University
Federal School Code
001081

FAFSA
Submission
Deadline: May 1,
2025

NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
Federal School Code
001082

FAFSA
Submission
Deadline: April 1,
2025

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Federal School Code
001083

FAFSA
Submission
Deadline: May 1,
2025

Grants

Free money from schools or the government, based on financial need (you'll need to fill out a FAFSA® or CSS Profile). You do NOT have to pay them back.

Scholarships

Free money from schools or independent providers, usually based on eligibility requirements & an application (e.g. an essay). You do NOT have to repay them.

Loans

Loans provide you with money to pay for college (including non-tuition expenses), but you have to pay them back after graduation, with interest.

Myths

The FAFSA is only for loans. →

I won't qualify for aid. →

I can't submit the FAFSA if I haven't chosen a college. →

I only need to submit the FAFSA form once. →

I support myself, so I don't have to include parent information on the FAFSA. →

Facts

Not at all. In fact, the FAFSA form is one of the most widely used tools to access student aid, such as grants, work-study and scholarships.

Even if you don't qualify for free aid such as the Federal Pell Grant, many institutions require a FAFSA on file to grant access to any form of merit-based scholarships a student may have earned.

You can list up to 20 schools on your FAFSA. It's better to submit early, even if you haven't decided where you'll attend.

You have to fill out the FAFSA form every year you're in school to stay eligible for federal student aid, but filling out the renewal FAFSA form takes less time.

This is not necessarily true. Even if you support yourself and file taxes on your own, you may still be considered a dependent student for federal student aid purposes.

HELPFUL LINKS

[Student Aid Index \(SAI\) & Pell Grant Eligibility](#)

[2024-2025 Pell Grant Eligibility Tables](#)

[Understanding Loans: Federal vs. Private](#)

[Student Loans 101](#)

[Types of Federal Aid](#)

[Creating an FSA ID](#)

[College Ready AZ](#)

[Ask Benji- Digital FAFSA Assistant](#)

[Federal Student Aid Youtube Channel](#)

- According to a new analysis by the National College Attainment Network (NCAN), the high school class of 2023 left more than **\$4 billion in Pell Grants** on the table **by not completing the FAFSA**.
- In Arizona, the average Pell Grant awarded in 2023-2024 was **\$4,938**
- In Arizona, the total Pell Grant dollars left on the table by the Class of 2023 was **\$112,131,026**

REMEMBER: After completing the FAFSA form, you will receive a financial aid offer letter. **YOU** will decide which aid offers to accept. Just because aid, such as loans, are offered does not mean you are obligated to accept them!

All students who reside in Pinal County and graduate from a Pinal County high school are eligible for the Pinal Promise Program and *will receive two academic years of tuition* (fall/spring, fall/spring) covered by CAC and the CAC Foundation. There is no high school GPA eligibility required to apply. This is a last-dollar scholarship and **students must complete the FAFSA each academic year!**

PINAL PROMISE
Central Arizona College
Formerly known as Promise
for the Future

To be eligible, a student must:

- Begin the fall semester after graduation- Fall 2025
- Have completed 20 hours of community service ([Community Service Form](#)). Students who have not completed their community service hours may do so during their first year at CAC, but it is strongly encouraged that you complete these hours before high school graduation.
- Complete the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)!**
- Upon high school graduation, complete and submit the online [CAC Scholarship Application](#).
- Submit a copy of high school diploma OR an unofficial high school transcript with the date of graduation.
- Enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours but no more than 20 credit hours per semester.
- Pursue a CAC degree or certificate program.

To renew eligibility each semester, a student must:

- Maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA or above
- Enroll in a minimum of 12 or more credit hours per semester.
- Successfully complete a minimum of 9 credits each semester.
- Maintain continuous enrollment each semester (Fall/Spring, Fall/Spring. Not including summer semesters).
- Allow the Financial Aid office to verify and ensure student meets eligibility requirements at the end of each semester. If you are unable to meet requirements, you will **permanently** lose the tuition fund.

Great news! If you already have a student account with CAC because you've enrolled in dual enrollment or concurrent classes, you do not need to reapply! After graduation, simply send your final unofficial transcript **with your date of graduation on it** to admissions@centralaz.edu and ask to have the high school hold removed from your account!

Pinal Promise Contact Information-
Phone: 520-494-5111
Email: outreach@centralaz.edu

COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

Not sure what you want to do after graduation?

TAKE A CAREER INTEREST SURVEY!

1. Go to [My Future AZ](#)
2. Select register in the upper right corner.
3. Create an account and be sure to select "Heritage Academy Maricopa" as your school.
4. Once you log-in to your account, select "Take Career Interests Quiz" to begin.
5. Once you complete the quiz, you will be provided your top industry matches including information about average salary, education required, and supporting programs at various Arizona colleges and universities.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE VS. UNIVERSITY

Degree Type: Graduates of community colleges generally earn associate's degrees or professional certificates, while university graduates earn a bachelor's degree, or in some cases, a master's or doctoral degree.

Cost: Affordability is one reason why some student choose community college.

Admissions Requirements & Selectivity: Most community colleges have open admissions policies and will admit anyone who has graduated high school. Universities are more selective in their admissions process.

Class Size: Classes at community colleges are often smaller than comparable courses at universities.

Academic Resources & Options: Universities have a huge edge when it comes to academic resources and options. Universities offer a variety of programs you're unlikely to see at community college, like study abroad, etc.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Phoenix Metro Area

Maricopa Community College District

Chandler-Gilbert Community College- Campuses in Chandler, Mesa, and Sun Lakes, AZ.

Estrella Mountain Community College- Avondale, AZ

Gateway Community College- Campuses in Central/South Phoenix, AZ.

Glendale Community College- Campuses in Glendale and North Phoenix, AZ.

Mesa Community College- Five campuses and centers in East Valley, Mesa, AZ.

Paradise Valley College- North Phoenix, AZ

Phoenix College- Central Phoenix, AZ

Rio Salado College- Campuses in Tempe, AZ plus the Community in Surprise, AZ and online

Scottsdale Community College- Scottsdale, AZ

South Mountain Community College- South Phoenix, AZ

Southern Arizona & Tucson

Central Arizona College- Campuses in Coolidge, Casa Grande, Florence, Maricopa, Winkelman, Apache Junction, San Tan Valley, and Queen Creek, AZ. (See previous page for Pinal Promise info!)

Pima Community College- Eight campuses in Tucson, AZ.

Northern Arizona

Coconino Community College- Campuses in Flagstaff, Williams, and Page, AZ.

Diné College- Campuses in Tsaile, Tuba City, and Kayenta, AZ as well as a campus in Shiprock, NM.

Yavapai College- Campuses in Prescott, Sedona, Clarkdale, and Chino Valley, AZ.

Eastern Arizona

Eastern Arizona College- Thatcher, AZ

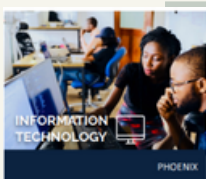
Northland Pioneer College- Campuses in Snowflake, Show Low, Holbrook, and Winslow, AZ.

Western Arizona

Arizona Western College- Campuses in Yuma, San Luis, Quartzsite, Wellton, Parker, and Somerton, AZ.

Mohave Community College- Campuses in Kingman, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City, and North Mohave, AZ.

Beginning in Fall 2023, the Maricopa Community College District began offering bachelor degree programs in the following areas:



New bachelor's degree programs in Fall 2025:

- Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Gateway)
- Business Administration--Accounting (Paradise Valley)
- Business Administration--Management (Scottsdale)
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (Chandler-Gilbert)

Cost of Attendance

Bachelor's Degree Programs

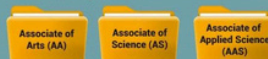
A quality 4-year education at a fraction of the cost

County Resident Base Tuition - Lower Division (100/200)	\$97.00 per credit hour
County Resident Base Tuition - Upper Division (300/400)	\$145.50 per credit hour
Estimated Tuition Range for 120 Credits 30-55 upper division credits	\$6,305 - \$8,730 100/200 \$4,365 - \$8,002 300/400
Fees	\$320
Books & Supplies	\$6,000
County Resident 4-Year Total Average Cost for 120 Credits	\$19,415 - \$20,627

4 MAIN COLLEGE DEGREE TYPES

1 ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE - Associate-level programs are commonly associated with community colleges and technical schools focusing on specific vocations. These degrees require a two-year investment in time.

This is an option many students use to save money. Common associate degrees include:



2 BACHELOR'S DEGREE - An undergraduate bachelor degree normally takes four years to complete. Enrolling in a bachelor's degree program requires students to choose a specific study major and follow that track.

Common bachelor's degrees include:



3 MASTER'S DEGREE - This is the first step in a postgraduate path. Master's degree programs allow students to specialize in a specific area of study. Normally, they take one to two years for completion.

Common master's degree types include:



4 DOCTORAL DEGREE - This level is the highest postgraduate education degree you can obtain. Also known as Ph.D. programs, these are the most advanced degrees possible and require extensive work to be admitted.

Common doctorate degrees include:



SO WHAT NOW?

[College Planning Checklist for Seniors](#)

[College Planning Checklist for Parents](#)

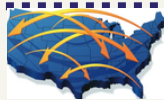
[College Essay Writing Checklist](#)

[10 Most Common Scholarship Essay Topics](#)

[A Guide to Writing the Best Personal Statement](#)

[Top Ten Strengths & Experiences Colleges Look For](#)

CONSIDERING GOING OUT OF STATE?



[A Guide to Scholarships for Out-of-State Students](#)

[Your Guide for Getting Financial Aid as an Out-of-State Student](#)

[Tuition Tracker- Comparing Cost of Colleges](#)

[College Board's BigFuture College Search and Quiz](#)

[Niche College Search and Rankings](#)

[Apply College Search](#)

[CollegeData.com College Search](#)

[The Princeton Review College Search](#)

You will need your unofficial high school and college transcripts (if you took any DE classes for credit) to self-report your grades on your applications. Colleges may also request an official transcript be sent directly from our school.

TRANSCRIPTS

Unofficial- Copies of your original transcript that have been opened, copied, or translated by a student.

Official- Official transcripts are sent directly to institutions and include a seal, date, and registrar's signature.

- To Request your **Unofficial** Heritage Transcript: Email michele.bocco@heritageacademyaz.com
- To Request your **Official** Heritage Transcript be sent to a college: Submit your request at <https://hamaricopa.com/transcript-request/>

Rio Salado Transcripts

Unofficial-

- 1) log in to your [Rio Salado student center](#)
- 2) Select the "Student Center" tab
- 3) Sign-in with your MEID and password
- 4) Select "Academic Records"
- 5) Select "Student Unofficial Transcripts"

Official- Directions for ordering official transcripts [HERE](#)

COMMON APP(S)

Common App is a non-profit organization that simplifies the college application process, allowing students to apply to more than 1,000 schools through one platform.

[What is Common App?](#)

[How the First Year Common App Works](#)

[College Application Dictionary](#)

[Materials Checklist for the Common App](#)

[How to Approach the Essay](#)

[Understanding Application Fees & Fee Waivers](#)

[Application Guide for First-Year Students](#)

[Explore Colleges that Accept the Common App](#)

Coalition Application- A newer common application platform accepted by 130 schools.

[Apply to Coalition App Schools](#)

[Colleges that Accept the Coalition App through Scoir](#)

Common Black College Application- This platform offers students a more convenient, affordable means of applying to 66 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with a one-time application fee.

[Instructions to Complete the Common Black](#)

[College Application](#)

[Tracking your Application Video](#)

Central Arizona College (CAC) Transcripts

Unofficial-

- 1) Follow [THIS](#) link and go to the "Student Portal Homepage"
- 2) Log in with your CAC account information
- 3) Select "Academics" from the menu on the left-hand side
- 4) Select "Unofficial Transcript"

Official- Order your official transcript [HERE](#)

University of Arizona Transcripts

Unofficial-

- 1) Log in to your UofA student portal [HERE](#)
- 2) At the top level navigation, select "Academic Record" and then "Academic Summary" from the dropdown menu.
- 3) Click the "unofficial transcript" box
- 4) Select the "University of Arizona" as the Academic Institution and "unofficial transcript" from the Information for Students dropdown.
- 5) Click "View Report" button.

Official- Order official transcript [HERE](#)

Behind you,
all your memories.
Before you,
all your dreams.
Around you,
all who love you.
Within you,
all you need.

Class of
2025
Senior