



# JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024 EDITION



## 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](#)

[College Planning Checklist for High School Juniors](#)  
[College Planning Checklist for Parents](#)  
[College Essay Writing Checklist](#)  
[A Guide to Writing the Best Personal Statement](#)  
[Top Ten Strengths & Experiences Colleges Look For](#)

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### Scholarship Search Engines:

[goingmerry.com](http://goingmerry.com) [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)  
[scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com) [niche.com](http://niche.com)  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>  
<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarships.php>  
[scholarshipowl.com](http://scholarshipowl.com)

### Local Scholarships:

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

### Scholarships Open to Juniors:

[The Coolidge Scholarship- Due 12/11/24](#)  
[Alexander Hamilton Scholarship- Opens in Dec 2024](#)  
[American Legion HS Oratorical Scholarship Contest- Opens Dec 2024](#)  
["Broad Horizons" Scholarship for HS Juniors- Due 1/31/25](#)  
[JumpStart Scholarship- Due 10/17/24](#)  
[JFK Presidential Library & Museum: Profile in Courage Essay Contest- Due 1/17/25](#)  
[Apex Hosting LLC Minecraft Scholarship- Due 7/31/25](#)  
["Scholar Dollars" Essay Scholarship for Black Students- Due 1/31/25](#)  
["Tuition Solution" Scholarship for STEM Students- Due 1/31/25](#)  
[American Welding Society Welder Training Scholarships- Opens Nov 2024](#)

## 7 COMMON SCHOLARSHIP MISTAKES

- Starting to research too late
- Missing deadlines
- Filling out scam applications
- Ignoring scholarship requirements
- Bypassing smaller scholarships such as local scholarships
- Leaving an application incomplete
- Making errors in an application



## SCHOLARSHIP HELPS

[10 Most Common Scholarship Essay Topics](#)  
[BigFuture Scholarships Powerpoint](#)  
[Searching for Scholarships Worksheet](#)  
[Answering "Why Do You Deserve this Scholarship?"](#)  
[How to Get Scholarships for College as a High Schooler Video](#)

## ADDITIONAL HELPFUL RESOURCES

[Do's and Don'ts for High School Juniors](#)  
[National Association for College Admission Counseling-- Guide to College Admissions Process](#)  
[NACAC November Virtual College Fair- 11/3/24 1-6 p.m.](#)  
[USNews- A Complete Guide to the College Application Process](#)

## 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.

# Begin Researching!

COMMUNITY COLLEGE VS.  
UNIVERSITY

## 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 below 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.

**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.

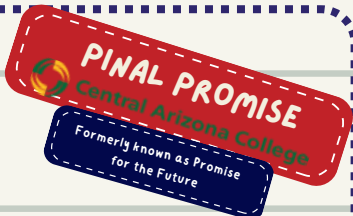
**Admissions Requirements & Selectivity:** Most community colleges have open admissions policies and will admit anyone who has graduated high school. Universities are more selective in their admissions process.

**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.



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!



### To be eligible, a student must:

- Begin the fall semester after graduation- Fall 2026
- 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 2025-2026 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](mailto: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](mailto:outreach@centralaz.edu)

## APPRENTICESHIPS

[Arizona Department of Economic Security Apprenticeship Program](#)

[ApprenticeshipUSA](#)

[Maricopa County Apprenticeships](#)

[APS Pre-apprentice Program](#)

[Arizona Western College Apprenticeship Programs](#)

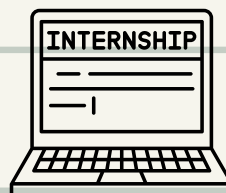
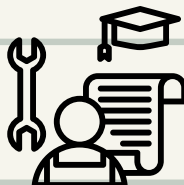
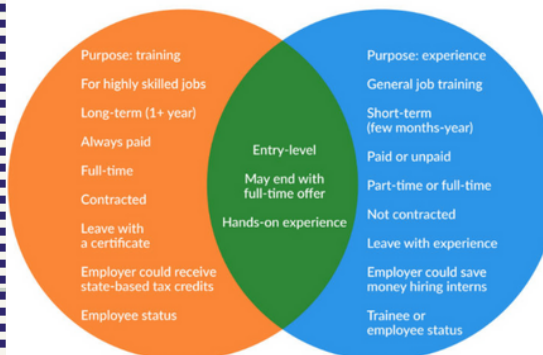
[Arizona Builders Alliance Electrical Apprenticeship](#)

[Helicopter Pilot Training Program](#)

[Arizona Associated General Contractors Apprenticeship](#)

# Continue Researching!

## APPRENTICESHIPS + INTERNSHIPS



## 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](#)

## 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](#)

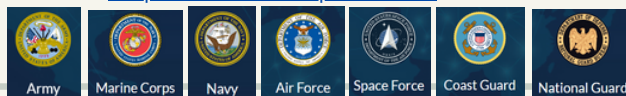
[Education Benefits of Military Service](#)

[Finding the Right Job in Today's Military: A Step-by-Step Guide](#)

[Military Schools & Service Academies](#)

[In-Demand Military Roles](#)

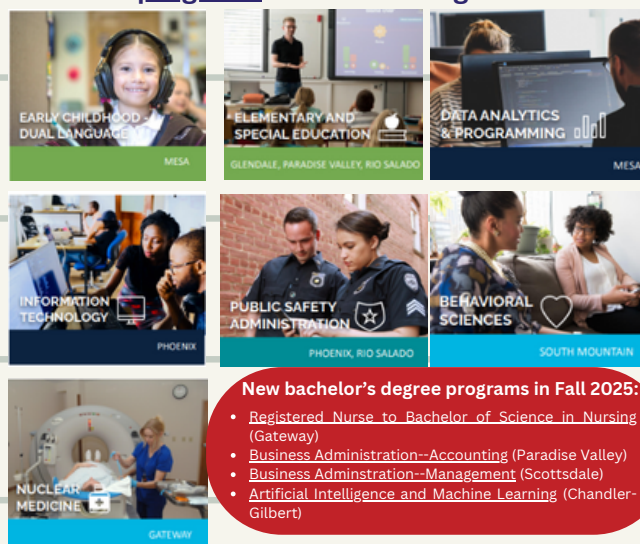
[Requirements & Steps to Enlist](#)



## 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.

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)

## 10 MOST COMMON TRADE SCHOOLS

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Business
- 3 Automotive
- 4 Culinary
- 5 Media & Digital Arts
- 6 Legal & Criminal Justice
- 7 Plumbing
- 8 Electrical
- 9 HVAC
- 10 Technology



## MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

### Arizona State School 2024-2025\* Merit Scholarships

\*subject to change each year

- 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
WILDCAT EXCELLENCE AWARD	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)

#### 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.

### Arizona State University Admissions Requirements

### University of Arizona Admissions Requirements

### Northern Arizona University Admissions Requirements



LOOKING FOR OTHERS  
OR 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

# What is FAFSA and why should I complete it my senior year?

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 after graduating high school for post-secondary education. 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.

[2024-2025 Federal School Code List of Colleges Requiring FAFSA](#)

## WHEN DOES THE FAFSA OPEN?

The FAFSA typically opens on **October 1** each year. Due to the updates/changes made in 2023-2024, the FAFSA will be available to all families this year on or before December 1, 2024. They expect that next school year's FAFSA (2025-2026) will be released by **October 1, 2025**.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE? -- Create your FSA ID over the summer or at the start of senior year.

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.

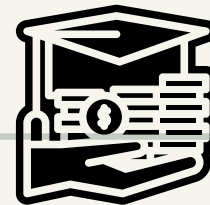
Once an FSA ID is created, it can take 3-5 days to process. Therefore, you will not be able to create an FSA ID and complete the FAFSA on the same day.

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

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



## Creating an FSA ID Types of Federal Aid



### 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.

- 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**

**MOST college require the FAFSA to be completed EACH YEAR-- even to receive university aid and scholarships!**

**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!