

# Eastern Arizona College GEAR UP

## Curriculum Framework Preparing for College

This curriculum framework is a valuable tool designed to guide you through the college and career preparation process. This framework includes the following elements:

- A. Career Fields
- B. Career Clusters
- C. Programs of Study
- D. Education and Career Action Plans (ECAP)
- E. Student Assessments
- F. Extended Learning Opportunities





# The Champion



*From an address given by President Mark Bryce, J.D.  
at the Camp of Champions at Eastern Arizona College*

A champion is a warrior who fights for a great cause, and wins! Now let me repeat that: A champion is a warrior who fights for a great cause, and wins!

A champion is George Washington kneeling in the snow at Valley Forge, then getting up and leading a rag tag group of farmers and shop keepers in defeating the greatest military power in the world.

A champion is Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves.

A champion is a Native American young woman who came to Eastern Arizona College. She came from a home where they did all of their cooking outside; they didn't have an indoor kitchen. When she came she had to be tutored in mathematics. By the time she left, she was a tutor in higher mathematics. She tutored calculus.

A champion is the Native American chief who had "an intense spirituality that fueled a constant quest for an understanding of the universe and of the ways in which he personally could bring its infinite powers to the benefit of his people."

Now to become a champion you must know at least three things: (1) The universe is full of opportunity; (2) Education is the rocket that will take you where you want to go in this Universe of Opportunity; and (3) Your character, decisions, and determination will provide the power, the direction, and the fire you need to succeed.

**THE UNIVERSE IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITY:** Many individuals fail to achieve their potential, because they do not realize the great opportunities that exist, and the immense power that is within them to be successful. When I was your age I worried about having opportunities. Then one day one of my cousins said to me, "if you prepare, the opportunities will come." Success is when preparation meets opportunity. So prepare, prepare, and if you will prepare, the opportunities will be there, and they will be greater than you can now imagine.

**EDUCATION** is the rocket that will make it possible to explore the Universe of Opportunity. Education is the acquisition of knowledge and skills, the enhancing of talents, the development of gifts, for the purpose of blessing and helping others for the purpose of being able to think more deeply and to enjoy life to the fullest.

The universe is out there and is full of opportunity, and your rocket can be on the launching pad ready to go, but you are nowhere unless you have the power, the right direction, and the fire to start the rocket burning.

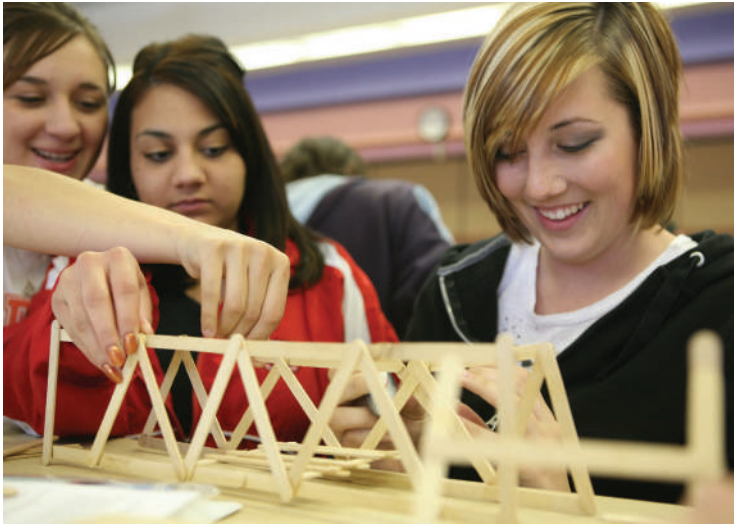
The power is the power of character to do the right things for the right reasons, and not do the wrong things. Make decisions. Make your own decisions. Don't let other people make decisions for you. Take responsibility for your life.

Determination and enthusiasm will light the fire that will power your rocket so you can go where you want to go. Now remember that along the way you are going to have obstacles to face. The champion expects opposition, but the champion, through strategy, planning, enthusiasm, and work expects to overcome the opposition. You will be criticized for trying to improve, trying to better yourself, but remember that you are doing all these things so that you can help and bless others.

My young friends go on to victory! Be champions!



# Curriculum Framework



## Clusters of Study

Clusters of study are the basic building blocks for the construction of curriculum. A career cluster is the grouping of occupations related to an industry or profession. Clusters of study provide a way to organize and tailor course work and learning experiences around areas of interest. They are designed to provide a seamless transition from high school to postsecondary education and/or to the workforce.

Each cluster has an associated list of suggested courses that are recommended for optimal preparation for the careers in that cluster. A career cluster may have several majors.

## Majors (Areas of Academic Focus)

Majors, or areas of academic focus, are the smaller curriculum units within a cluster. A career major consists of at least four required elective courses related to a specific profession plus complementary electives drawn from both academic and career-related courses that support the major. A major is designed to enable students to focus on an area of interest that motivates them to stay in school and to be better prepared for transitioning to postsecondary institutions and to the workplace.

Students may even change majors or even complete two majors. However, students are not required to complete a major in order to graduate. Some students may start a major and realize that they need to pursue a different area of study for a host of possible reasons. A student can change a major to fit his/her needs and interests, which avoids a costly curriculum change later on at the postsecondary level. To complete a major, each student must take at least four required units of study (electives) in a chosen area.

## Education and Career Action Plans (ECAP)

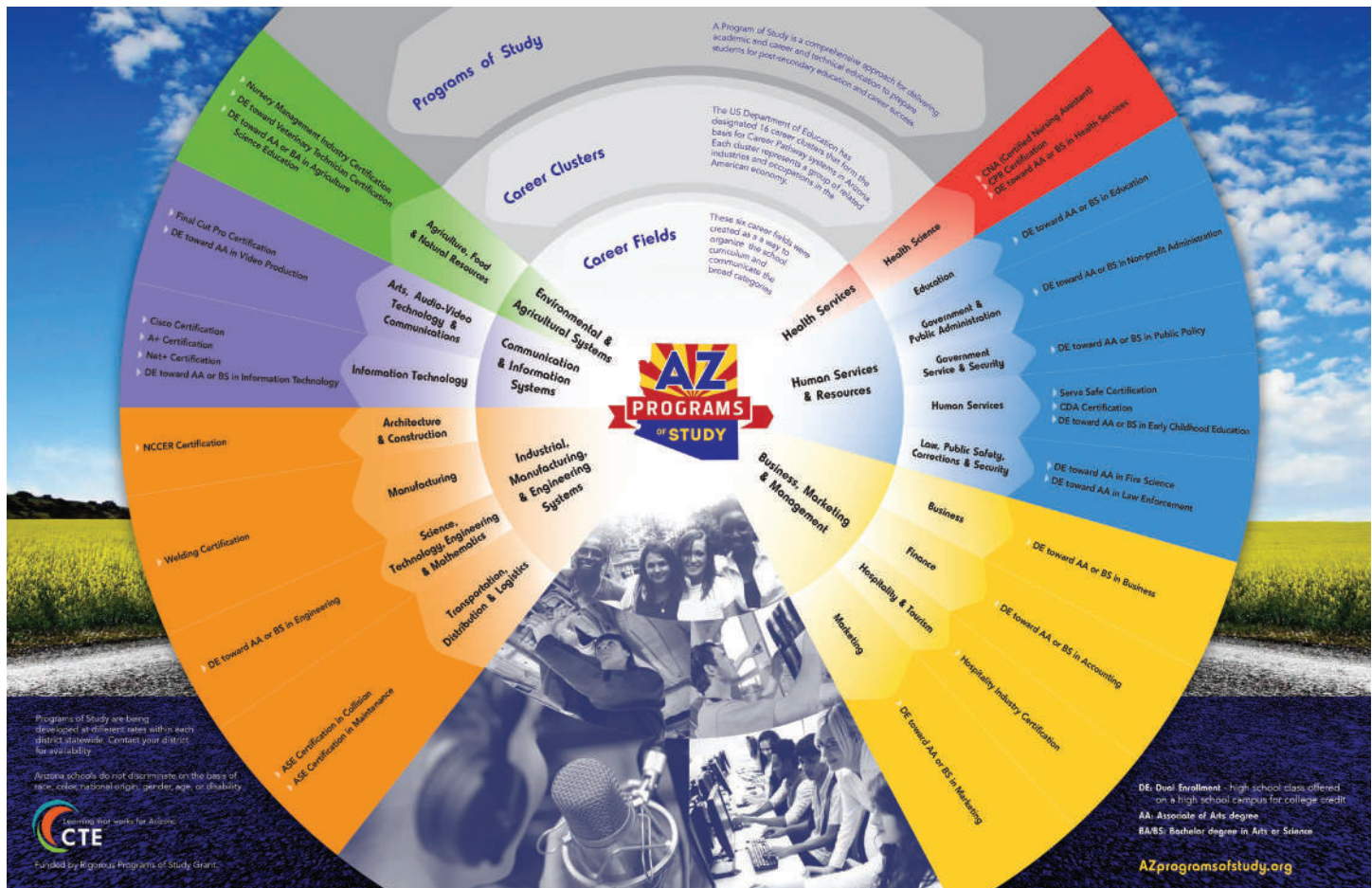
All students will have an Education and Career Action Plan. This plan will connect the relevancy of a student's academic planning to his/her career awareness, skills and interests, and educational and career aspirations. ECAPs will need to begin no later than the eighth-grade year and will need to be reviewed annually by the student, his/her parent or guardian, and a school representative. The ECAP process is an ongoing personalization of planning, achievement, and goal attainment that helps students assume greater responsibility for achieving their goals. The ECAP process should follow the American School Counselors Association national standards which are a measure of best practices in education and career planning.

## Extended Learning Opportunities

Students may also participate in learning experiences outside the classroom designed to make learning relevant and to give students an awareness of work associated with the major. Examples of extended learning opportunities include dual credit courses, shadowing, career mentoring, service learning, internships, cooperative education, apprenticeships, senior projects, and career-related student organizations.

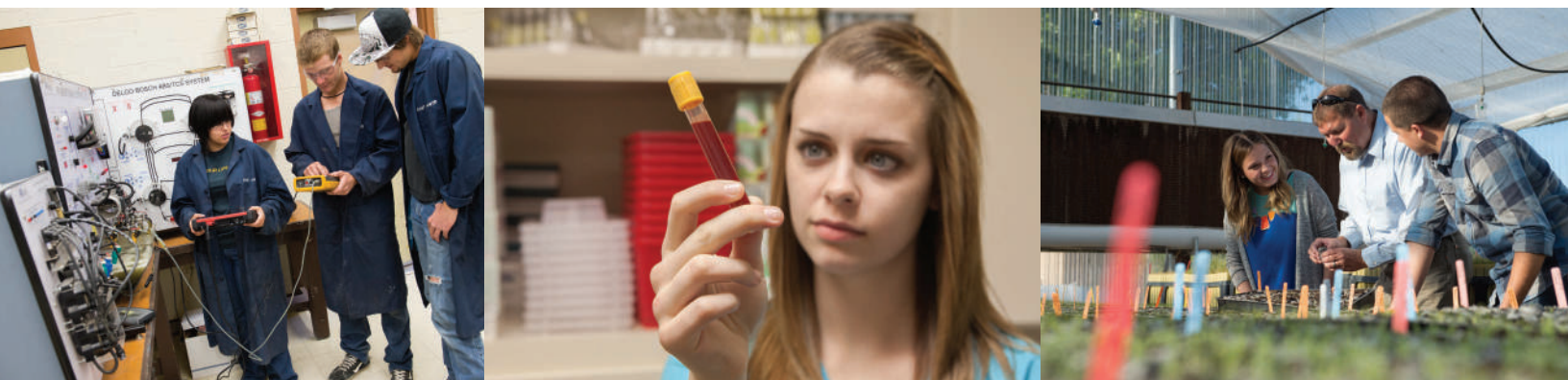
# Where do I begin in deciding my major?

**CAREER WHEEL:** This Career Wheel illustrates the relationship between the Arizona Programs of Studies' six career fields, the 16 national career clusters, and the programs of studies offered within each cluster. The wheel also shows examples of available certifications and dual enrollment opportunities.



## Where do I begin and what resources can I use?

**STUDENTS BEGIN** by taking an interest inventory and will choose one of the 6 color coded career field categories shown in the center of the career wheel. From their choice of interest students will choose one of the national career clusters aligned to the career field of their choice from the middle of the wheel. Then students will narrow down and choose the program (s) of study offered within their cluster and the certifications and/or dual enrollment available that may be of interest to them from the outside row of the career wheel.





# Why Do I Need a “Program of Study”?

**STARTING WITH “PROGRAMS OF STUDY”** can give you the opportunity to explore careers of interest and get college credit during high school. They also provide direction and help you avoid the expense of changing majors in college. Programs of Study are being developed at different rates within each district statewide. Contact your counselor for availability.

## **AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES**

- ☐ Agribusiness Systems
- ☐ Animal Systems
- ☐ Environmental Service Systems
- ☐ Food Products & Processing Systems
- ☐ Natural Resources Systems
- ☐ Plant Systems
- ☐ Power, Structural & Technical Systems

## **ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION**

- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Design/Pre-Construction
- ☐ Maintenance/Operations

## **ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS**

- ☐ A/V Technology & Film
- ☐ Journalism & Broadcasting
- ☐ Performing Arts
- ☐ Printing Technology
- ☐ Telecommunications
- ☐ Visual Arts

## **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION**

- ☐ Administrative Support
- ☐ Business Information Management
- ☐ General Management
- ☐ Human Resources Management
- ☐ Operations Management

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

- ☐ Administration & Administrative Support
- ☐ Professional Support Services
- ☐ Teaching/Training

## **FINANCE**

- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Banking Services
- ☐ Business Finance
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Securities & Investments

## **GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

- ☐ Foreign Service
- ☐ Governance
- ☐ National Security
- ☐ Planning
- ☐ Public Management & Administration
- ☐ Regulation
- ☐ Revenue & Taxation

## **HEALTH SCIENCES**

- ☐ Biotechnology Research & Development
- ☐ Diagnostic Services
- ☐ Health Informatics
- ☐ Support Services
- ☐ Therapeutic Services

## **HOSPITALITY & TOURISM**

- ☐ Lodging
- ☐ Recreation, Amusements & Attractions
- ☐ Restaurants & Food/Beverage Services
- ☐ Travel & Tourism

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

- ☐ Consumer Services
- ☐ Counseling & Mental Health Services
- ☐ Early Childhood Development & Services
- ☐ Family & Community Services
- ☐ Personal Care Services

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- ☐ Information Support & Services
- ☐ Network Systems
- ☐ Programming & Software Development
- ☐ Web & Digital Communications
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- ☐ Correction Services
- ☐ Emergency & Fire Management Services

- ☐ Law Enforcement Services

- ☐ Legal Services

- ☐ Security & Protective Services

## **MANUFACTURING**

- ☐ Health, Safety & Environmental Assurance
- ☐ Logistics & Inventory Control
- ☐ Maintenance, Installation & Repair
- ☐ Manufacturing Production Process Dev.
- ☐ Production
- ☐ Quality Assurance Marketing
- ☐ Marketing Communications
- ☐ Marketing Management
- ☐ Marketing Research
- ☐ Merchandising
- ☐ Professional Sales

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS**

- ☐ Engineering & Technology
- ☐ Science & Mathematics

## **TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS**

- ☐ Facility & Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- ☐ Health, Safety & Environmental Management
- ☐ Logistics Planning & Management Services
- ☐ Sales & Service
- ☐ Transportation Operations
- ☐ Transportation Systems/Infrastructure

## **PLANNING, MANAGEMENT & REGULATION**

- ☐ Warehousing & Distribution Center Operations

# Education and Career Action Plans (ECAP)

All students will have an Education and Career Action Plan. This plan will connect the relevancy of a student's academic planning to his/her career awareness, skills and interests, educational and career aspirations. ECAPs will need to begin no later than the freshman year and will need to be reviewed annually by the student, his/her parent or guardian, and a school representative. The ECAP process is an ongoing personalization of planning, achievement, and goal attainment that helps students assume greater responsibility for achieving their goals.

## The ECAPS Planning Process

Career guidance should begin long before a student enters high school. EAC GEAR UP defines what should occur at each grade level to prepare students for academic and career decisions.

## Education And Career Action Planning Process (ECAPS)



- Start an AzCIS account and begin exploring career and higher education options
- Develop good study and time management habits
- Study hard, take challenging courses, and make the best grades you can
- Start a savings account for college



- Participate in the Career Exploration program offered to 7th – 9th grades in school
- Explore career pathways reflecting the 6 career fields & 16 national career clusters and develop an ECAP using your AzCIS account
- Work with parents and counselor to select a Program of Study to pursue in high school
- Continue saving for college
- Look ahead to high school by planning courses, doing advanced reading, and visiting your new school.



- Explore careers in the CTE program aligned to selected Program of Study
- Declare a major/academic focus
- Meet regularly with counselor to stay on track or adjust schedule - review and update ECAP using your AzCIS account
- Raise your academic expectations
- Add extracurricular and volunteer activities (keep track of these activities so you'll have a record for college applications)
- Continue saving for college



- Acquire leadership skills in Career and Technical Student Organizations, like Future Business Leaders of America, reflecting selected Program of Study
- Take advantage of Work Based Learning Opportunities (job shadowing, internships) with Business/Industry Mentors
- Sign up for dual/concurrent enrollment credit opportunities in the courses that apply toward selected Program of Study
- Meet regularly with counselor to stay on track, update ECAP using your AzCIS account
- Continue saving for college
- Research college options and financial aid with special attention to “college match” and “college fit”
- Take college prep classes
- Take practices tests such as the PSAT (for the SAT) and Aspire (for the ACT)
- Tour college campuses
- Research financial aid
- Prepare for college entrance exams
- Take required tests such as the ACT or SAT
- In 12th grade take the required tests again if you think you can increase your scores.
- Apply to colleges
- Apply for financial aid

# Benefits of Career Fields, Clusters and Programs of Study



## **High Schools**

Clusters serve as tools for organizing instruction.

## **Community/Tech Colleges**

Clusters facilitate seamless transition to higher education.

## **Educators**

Clusters provide a curriculum framework for assessment/certification and professional development.

## **Guidance Counselors**

Clusters help students explore options for the future.



## **Employers**

Clusters prepare workers to adjust to change and progress careers.

## **Parents**

Clusters reassure parents their children are better prepared for college and work.



## **Students**

Clusters help students make better career choices and motivate students to reach higher academic achievement. They also help schools ensure that learners get the knowledge and skills they need for multiple career choices by matching what is taught in the classroom business and industry expectations.





## Extended Learning Opportunities

Students may also participate in learning experiences outside the classroom designed to make learning relevant and to give students an awareness of work associated with the major. Examples of extended learning opportunities include shadowing, career mentoring, service learning, internships, cooperative education, apprenticeships, senior projects, and career-related student organizations. Students may also participate in tutoring held before school, during school, afterschool during intercession and summer camp activities. Additional learning opportunities include dual credit courses, the online Khan Academy, cyber-mentoring, and youth leadership activities.

## Key Planning Elements—Student Assessments

Guidance counselors will use a variety of college preparation assessments. Students will be empowered to track their personal progress concerning their academic preparation for college by preparing for and taking assessments.

### ✓ ACT ASPIRE (GRADES 8-10)

Beginning in the eighth grade, students will participate in the ACT Aspire assessment, which is a longitudinal assessment system to fully connect student performance from elementary grades through high school. ACT Aspire will provide educators and parents with the insights they need to help students get and stay on track by better connecting assessment to teaching and learning. ACT Aspire will include summative assessments that measure how much students have learned over time, as well as aligned classroom-based assessments that help educators better understand students' learning needs in individual classes throughout the school year. The aligned assessments will inform teachers about students' progress toward specific learning standards, so they can better tailor their instruction and resources to help students learn.

### ✓ PSAT (GRADE 10)

The PSAT/NMSQT assesses the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students need for college and beyond. You can find out what the test is like and try practice questions. The assessment helps students become college ready. It provides detailed feedback on skills, access to scholarships and personalized online tools, and excellent practice for the SAT. The preliminary PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test introduces students to the organization and question types found on the SAT. Students gain test-taking skills and use their PSAT results to predict their scores on the SAT. The junior year scores are also used in selecting semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship awards.

### ✓ ACT OR SAT (GRADES 11 AND 12)

The ACT® college readiness assessment is a curriculum- and standards-based educational and career planning tool that assesses students' academic readiness for college. The ACT provides a measure of how well students can perform the skills necessary for college coursework. The ACT measures these skills in English, mathematics, reading and science. An optional writing test is also available. These areas are tested because they include the major areas of instruction in most high school and college programs. Each college sets its own ACT entrance benchmark.

The SAT is a globally recognized college admission test that lets you show colleges what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge. It tests your knowledge of reading, writing and math — subjects that are taught every day in high school classrooms. Almost all colleges and universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.

**High school grades are also very important. In fact, the combination of high school grades and ACT or SAT scores is the best predictor of your academic success in college.**

✓ **COMPASS, ASSET, OR ACCUPLACER (GRADES 11 AND 12)** are computer-adaptive college placement tests. They allow educators to evaluate incoming students' skill levels in reading, writing skills, writing essay, math, and English as a second language; place students in appropriate courses; and connect students to the resources they need to achieve academic success.

### ✓ ASVAB (OPTIONAL)

The Armed Services Vocational Assessment Battery (ASVAB) is a multi-aptitude test battery known as the Career Exploration Program administered by the Department of Defense. The ASVAB measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. The ASVAB comprises ten individual tests and gives composite scores in verbal, math and academic ability. The test is given by the military and is free to high school students.

# High School Graduation Requirements

## CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The below table summarizes the minimum credit requirements for high school graduation in Arizona for the graduating class of 2013 and beyond. Please note that school districts and charter schools may, at their discretion, establish additional graduation credit requirements for their students.

| Class of 2013 and beyond           |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| English                            | 4 credits         |
| Math <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> | 4 credits         |
| Science <sup>(3)</sup>             | 3 credits         |
| Social Studies <sup>(4)</sup>      | 3 credits         |
| CTE/Fine Art                       | 1 credit          |
| Electives                          | 7 credits         |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>22 credits</b> |

<sup>(1)</sup> Math courses shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (or its equivalent) and an additional course with significant math content as determined by district governing boards or charter schools. Students who have not earned formal credit in Algebra I and Geometry but who have covered the course content described in R7-2-302 are deemed to have met the requirement for graduation.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Algebra II requirement may be modified using a Personal Curriculum as outlined in R7-2-302.03. For questions specific to the Personal Curriculum, please contact either Suzi.Mast@azed.gov or Frankie.Sullivan@azed.gov.

<sup>(3)</sup> Three credits of science in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test.

<sup>(4)</sup> Social Studies shall consist of one credit of American History, one credit of World History/Geography, one-half credit of government and one-half credit of economics.

For more detailed information and to view the complete requirements as outlined in State Board of Education administrative rule R7-2-302.



## Testing Requirements (AIMS & Arizona's New State Assessment) are based on the current information from the Arizona Department of Education

### AIMS

As of February 20, 2015, passing AIMS Reading, Writing and Mathematics is no longer required for graduation from high school. For additional guidance distributed to school on February 23, 2015, go to [www.azed.gov/assessment/](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/).

### TRANSITIONING TO AZMERIT

Beginning in Spring 2015, students will take a new state exam, AzMERIT. Passing AzMERIT is not a state requirement for graduation. However, local schools may choose to develop their own academic requirements related to the AzMERIT assessment.

# Dual Credit/Concurrent Enrollment Learning Opportunities

High school students have a unique opportunity to expand their options for learning. The opportunities for students and high schools are: Students may take advanced level courses in English, mathematics and various other disciplines at their own high schools.

- Students may receive credit that fulfills both high school and college program requirements.
- Students from remote areas have the same options as students in districts in closer proximity to EAC, Diné, and Gila Community College.
- High schools will be able to provide broader course options for students with varied interests and goals.
- High schools will be able to fill unique courses that are often canceled because of low enrollment.



**INTENT**

To improve the transition from high school to college and career



**THE VEHICLE**

Dual Enrollment: High School class offered on a high school campus  
Concurrent Enrollment: College class taken on a college campus while attending high school for college



**THE RESULT**

Students graduate with a high school diploma and credits toward an Associate's and/or Bachelor's degree and/or industry credential





# Know Your Options

## TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

When it comes to planning your education after high school, you have a lot of options. Different types of educational institutions offer different experiences — and some will be a better fit for you than others. To get started in exploring your choices, it is important to understand that there are five main types of postsecondary institutions:

- ✓ **Public career and technical schools:** Career and technical schools offer training to help you develop skills that are in-demand in the workforce. Students often can complete these programs within six to 18 months. Graduates of these programs often receive certificates that document their knowledge or skills in a particular area. Often, students can complete these programs while still in high school or while working full- or part-time.
- ✓ **Public two-year colleges:** Public two-year colleges are funded, in part, by the State and Federal government. These colleges offer associate degree programs, which usually take two years to complete. Many also offer certificate programs. Public colleges are regulated and endorsed by the government. Because they receive government funds, tuition and fees usually are lower at public colleges and universities.
- ✓ **Public four-year colleges:** Like public two-year colleges, public four-year colleges are funded, in part, by the State and Federal government. These colleges offer bachelor's degree programs, which usually take four years to complete. Many also offer graduate programs, such as master's degree programs and doctoral degree programs. Public colleges are regulated and endorsed by the government. Because they receive government funds, tuition and fees usually are lower at public colleges and universities.
- ✓ **Non-profit private colleges and universities:** Non-profit colleges and universities are funded, in part, by private donations. These colleges and universities are managed primarily by boards of governors made up of community members. There are many types of non-profit colleges and universities offering a wide variety of degrees and programs. Although tuition and fees often are higher at non-profit colleges and universities, many are able to offer large scholarships through funds provided by their donors.
- ✓ **For-profit colleges and universities:** For-profit colleges and universities are businesses. They are managed primarily by shareholders and owners. For-profit colleges often offer programs in more convenient time frames or formats, but their tuition and fees often are higher. Additionally, many classes and credits offered by for-profit institutions are not recognized by other types of colleges — so these classes may not count toward a degree at another school if you decide to transfer.



## UNDERSTANDING DEGREES AND CREDENTIALS

When you complete an education or training program or earn a diploma, you are earning a “credential.” Credentials serve as documentation of your knowledge, skills, or qualifications. Some careers require very specific credentials to work in that field. For example, you must earn a medical degree (M.D. or O.D.) to work as a doctor. In other instances, credentials are more flexible and serve as symbols of advanced skills that help you compete in the workforce.

# Common Types of Degrees and Credentials

---

## CERTIFICATE

Signifies that a student has earned knowledge in a very specific area of study often focused on a vocational or professional subject. Typically does not involve taking general education courses and usually can be completed in days, weeks, or months, rather than years; often serves to enhance a student's field of study. For example, a student pursuing a bachelor's degree in education might also earn a certificate in special education.

---

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Traditionally a two-year degree program requiring students to earn approximately 60 hours of college credit; often awarded through community and technical or junior colleges.

---

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Traditionally a four-year degree program requiring students to earn approximately 120 hours of college credit; also known as a baccalaureate or undergraduate degree.

---

## MASTER'S DEGREE

A graduate degree, meaning it is typically earned after graduating from a bachelor's degree program (however, some can be earned simultaneously); usually takes two to three years to complete.

---

## DOCTORAL DEGREE

A terminal degree, meaning it is the highest level of education that can be completed in a particular field of study; typically takes five to seven years to complete and requires intensive academic study and research. Many doctoral programs require students to complete a master's degree first. Ph.D. programs are a common type of doctoral program.

---

## PROFESSIONAL DEGREE

A degree required to enter a specific profession; typically earned after completing a bachelor's degree program. For example, a Pharm.D. degree for pharmacy or a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) for practicing law.

---

## TERMINAL DEGREE

A general term, referring to the highest academic degree available in any particular field of study.

---



# The Right Fit

---

## KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT (AND WHAT'S NOT)

Finding the school or college that fits your needs and interests is incredibly important. It can be the difference between a positive and negative college experience — and whether or not you graduate.

### YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY CONSIDER...

#### ✓ Programs and majors

Does the college offer the program you want to pursue? Is their program known to be of high quality? How is the program taught — hands on, by lecture and research, online? How will your classes help you meet your goals?

#### ✓ Success rates

What is the school's graduation rate? How likely are its graduates to get a job in their fields? How likely are its graduates to default on student loans? How will the school help you succeed?

#### ✓ Academics

Will you be attending a college that will challenge you academically? What is the average GPA and/or ACT/SAT score for students at the college? How do those grades and scores compare to yours?

#### ✓ Environment

Do you feel excited to be on campus? Do you feel safe? Does the school offer opportunities for you to experience new things that interest you? Will you be able to focus on your education there?

#### ✓ Finances

How much will you pay to attend the college? Can you afford it? Keep in mind that financial aid options vary from school to school and student to student — so don't just consider "sticker price."

#### ✓ Location

Do you like the town and area where the school or college is located? How does the student body interact with the community? Do you want to explore new places, or do you want or need to stay close to home?

---

### YOU SHOULD MAYBE IGNORE...

#### ✓ Your friends' choices

Choosing a path for your future is a personal decision. Going to school with your friends might sound like fun, and it might make you feel more comfortable. But their choices might not be right for you. Think of it this way: if your friends suddenly backed out, would you still want to go?

#### ✓ Residence halls

Residence facilities should be safe, clean, accessible, and reasonably comfortable. Everything beyond that is a perk — not a necessity. Fancy residence halls, fitness facilities, and student lounges are nice, but these amenities shouldn't be deciding factors in choosing a college.

#### ✓ Sports records

Everyone likes to be part of a winning team, but unless you're a student athlete, choosing a school based on its sports records is a bad idea. Even if you are an athlete, the factors listed above should come first — and don't count on a sports scholarship until you've received an offer in writing.

#### ✓ Your nerves









Everyone gets nervous about starting college — it's a normal and healthy reaction. You should choose a college that will challenge you to push yourself, try new things, and step outside your comfort zone. However, if you're terrified, it might be time to reconsider your choice.

#### ✓ Sticker price

The amount of financial aid you may qualify for depends on your personal situation — and available aid varies from college to college. Before you rule out a college based on its cost, talk to a financial aid representative at the school.



# GEARUP program KEY PLANNING ELEMENTS — STEPS TO COLLEGE PLANNING SUCCESS

| When to Begin   | What to do   | How to do it   |
|---|--|--|
| Seventh Grade<br>        | Work hard to maintain good grades. Complete and turn in all of your homework assignments and study hard for quizzes and tests. Begin exploring a variety of career and higher education options.   | Meet your school counselor and EAC GEAR UP Site Coordinator. Ask them to help when you do not understand what you are learning.  |
| Eighth Grade<br>         | Select a high school course of study to explore and become familiar with college entrance requirements. Take Pre-Algebra. Start an AzCIS account. Take 8th grade ASPIRE college preparation assessment. Review results and, where needed, make academic improvements.  | Work with parents, teachers, and counselors to create an ECAP to satisfy your career and educational goals. Get involved at school and in your community   |
| Freshman Year<br>        | Update your ECAP and work to your academic potential. Take Algebra I. Continue career exploration activities. Continue using your AzCIS account to explore careers and colleges. Ask for help in core subjects (tutoring/coaching). Take 9th grade ASPIRE college preparation assessments. Review results and, where needed, make academic improvements. Maintain excellent grades (GPA).  | Continue to work with parents, teachers, counselors, and the EAC GEAR UP Site Coordinator to refine your ECAP. Try job shadowing. Stay involved in school and community activities.  |
| Sophomore Year<br>       | Investigate summer enrichment programs. Ask for help in core subjects. Take academically challenging courses including another higher level math class. Take 10th grade ASPIRE college preparation assessment. Review results and, where needed, make academic improvements. Maintain excellent grades (GPA).  | Meet with your counselor and GEAR UP Site Coordinator to plan for college. Consider job shadowing. Research for summer opportunities and other valuable information.   |
| Junior Year Fall<br>   | Take PSAT test. Review results and modify your ECAP. Take academically challenging courses including another higher level math class. Take dual credit courses. Investigate summer enrichment programs. Get help in core subjects.   | Collect information from EAC Career Day. During Career Day activities students have the opportunity to talk with admissions counselors from Arizona/other state colleges and universities. Explore colleges and careers in AzCIS and the internet. Focus on your school work and maintaining a good GPA. Seek help from your parents, teachers, counselors, and GEAR UP Site Coordinator. Visit colleges and universities. |
| Junior Year Spring<br> | Register for the SAT and/or ACT college entrance exams. List colleges you are considering and collect information including what placement test is required (COMPASS, ASSET, or ACCUPLACER). Register for the exam. Investigate summer enrichment programs. Continue to work to your highest academic potential and to be involved in school and community activities. Maintain excellent grades (GPA).  |  |
| Senior Year Fall<br>   | <p><b>Continue to take a full load of challenging courses.</b></p> <p>Compare the colleges on your list for college fit and match. Apply for at least five scholarships and apply to five different colleges of your choice. Retake SAT and ACT college entrance tests. If you have not taken the COMPASS, ASSET, or ACCUPLACER college placement exams, do it now.</p> <p>Get help to understand core subject areas to avoid remediation in college. Maintain excellent grades (GPA).</p> | Participate in Career Fair and Financial Aid Night. Continue visiting colleges/universities. Complete applications by early October. Check the web for scholarship opportunities. Complete scholarship applications. Observe deadlines. Work closely with your counselor, parents, teachers, and GEAR UP Site Coordinator to finalize your plans.  |
| Senior Year Spring<br> | Apply for financial aid in January or February by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  |  |

