



Press Release for Immediate Release

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GED Grads Earn College Credits at Maricopa Community Colleges New Pathway Program Helps Students Transition to College

(Tempe, AZ May 14, 2019) GED graduates who have successfully completed their College Ready and College Ready + Credit coursework and tests can bypass placement testing, remedial coursework and earn college credits as [Maricopa Community Colleges](#) students.

Made possible through a new partnership between the Maricopa Community Colleges District and [GED Testing Service](#), students can now use their GED scores to demonstrate college readiness and college-level skills.

The GED College Ready and College Ready + Credit scores are based on recommendations from the [American Council on Education](#) (ACE) Credit Program, the same program that backs CLEP and other advanced placement testing college credit recommendations. As is the case with these other programs, students may be eligible to receive college credit for courses aligned with GED test subjects.

“This is just one more way we can help students make the most of their time and resources—and increase their opportunities for college completion,” said Rio Salado Interim President Kate Smith.

The Maricopa Community Colleges District has joined a growing list of 225 institutions that have approved the GED College Ready score levels for college admissions.

“This new initiative is in perfect alignment with our adult re-entry programs, which are designed to help students learn the English language, prepare for successful GED completion and seamlessly transition to college,” said Smith.

[Rio Salado College](#), which is one of ten Maricopa Community Colleges, serves as the principal provider of GED test preparation programs for the District and the largest provider of adult basic education in the state of Arizona.

During the 2017-18 academic year, Rio Salado’s adult basic education departments served nearly 4,000 GED test prep students, and its testing centers administered 16,605 GED exams, serving as one of Arizona’s busiest GED testing centers.

Recent research has shown that GED programs are preparing grads for college programs. Since the launch of the enhanced GED program in 2014, a higher percentage of graduates are attending college programs, enrolling more quickly, and are more prepared than ever to succeed in college and beyond. Research conducted by GED Testing Service aligns with findings made by [the National Student Clearinghouse](#):

- 47% of GED grads enrolled in a college certificate or degree program within four years
- 35% of GED grads enrolled in a college within one year of earning a GED credential
- 90% of GED grads persisted by re-enrolling from one semester to the next

“The most recent numbers are very exciting, especially when you compare the 90 percent persistence rate to the pre-2014 rate of 29 percent,” said Randy Trask, President of GED Testing Service.

“Education and credentials beyond a GED diploma are the keys to unlocking opportunity for adult learners-- opportunities for new career pathways, higher wages, and better quality of life.”

More information about Rio Salado’s GED test prep program is [available here](#). Information about GED College Ready score levels are [available here](#). Information about credit hours awarded for GED test scores is [available here](#). Information about Rio Salado Testing is [available here](#).

About GED Testing Service

The GED test has opened doors to better jobs and college programs for more than 20 million graduates since 1942. The GED test is accepted by virtually all U.S. colleges and employers. As the creator of the one official GED test, GED Testing Service has a responsibility to ensure that the program continues to be a reliable and valuable pathway to a better life for the millions of adults without a high school diploma. GED Testing Service is a joint venture between the American Council on Education and Pearson.

About Maricopa Community Colleges

The Maricopa County Community College District includes ten regionally-accredited colleges – Chandler-Gilbert, Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Rio Salado, Scottsdale, and South Mountain – and the Maricopa Corporate College, serving more than 200,000 students with two-year degrees, certificates, and university transfer programs.

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