Since 1978, Rio Salado College has focused on making education accessible and equitable for all, especially working adults and parents. That journey began with classes at community centers and store fronts in the 1970s and evolved into online learning in the 1990s. Today, we serve students in 50 states with 24/7 support services, flexible Monday starts, more than 650 online classes, 143 programs, and more.

Rio Salado is recognized nationally as an innovative leader in online learning by making education accessible, flexible, and affordable. Rio Salado serves as one of 10 Maricopa Community Colleges and is headquartered in Tempe, Arizona.

VISION We empower learners everywhere through innovative education.

MISSION We redefine the educational experience by anticipating the needs of our students and future workforce. We support learners where they are and provide high-quality, flexible, and accessible education to empower individual goal attainment, foster partnerships, and strengthen communities.

VALUES Rio Salado College honors everyone’s unique qualities with respect and dignity. We value:

- Innovation and Learning
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Integrity and Stewardship
- Sustainable Practices
- Collaboration and Service

Commencement Student Speaker Jacqueline Elliot completed two degrees—an Associate of Applied Science in Addictions and Substance Use Disorders and an Associate in Arts with a 4.0 GPA—as a single mom who overcame significant challenges. She transferred to our partner, Ottawa University, to complete a bachelor’s degree with the plan of becoming a counselor for the recovery community. “As a working parent, attending classes on a college campus was out of the question. Rio was the difference between me being able to go to school or not.”

Our expert faculty and staff collaborate with local and national partners to develop programs that help students and employers fill high-demand jobs and meet the unique needs of the communities we serve.

Our programs, services, and caring employees help students earn stackable credits, microcredentials, certificates, associate degrees, credit for prior learning, professional certifications, and more. The college also serves as Arizona’s largest provider of adult education and dual enrollment instruction and works with local and national partners to create other programs, services, and lifelong learning opportunities.
We serve nearly 40,000 students annually including 19,000+ online learners and the following communities:

- Active military, veterans and their families
- Adult education students
- Business, community and government partners
- Dual enrollment students
- Incarcerated re-entry students
- International students
- Lifelong learners
- Transfer students
- Workforce students

**WHO WE SERVE**

**POPULATIONS**
- Dual Enrollment: **9,749**
- Adult Education: **5,507**
- Customized Educational Partnerships: **3,255**
- Veterans: **1,247**
- Incarcerated Re-entry: **1,552**
- Active-duty military: **171**
- Lifelong learners: **293**

**STUDENT SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS**

- Certificates of Completion: **2,889**
- Associate Degrees: **763**
- Arizona General Education Curriculum Awards: **401**
- Academic Certificates: **61**
- High School Equivalency Diplomas: **205**
- Transfer Students*: **7,280**
- Transfer Credit Hours*: **204,800**

**GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**
- Maricopa County: **77%**
- Out of State: **13.5%**
- In-state, Non-Maricopa: **9.5%**

**GENDER**
- Male: **58.3%**
- Female: **40.7%**
- Intersex: **0.02%**
- Unknown/Other: **0.9%**

**AGE**
- <19: **32.6%**
- 20-29: **39.3%**
- 30-39: **15%**
- 40-49: **81%**
- 50+: **5%**

**ETHNICITY**
- White: **47.3%**
- Hispanic/Latino: **29.8%**
- Black/African American: **8.6%**
- Other/Not Specified: **7.5%**
- American Indian/Alaska Native: **1.5%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **0.3%**
- Asian: **5.0%**

**HEADCOUNT: 39,116**
- For-Credit: **33,977**
- In-state: **29,464**
- Online: **19,662**
- Full-time student equivalent: **8,835**
- Full-time: **5,172**
- Out-of-state: **4,581**
- Non-credit workforce training: **55**

**PELL ELIGIBLE****
- Yes: **74.5%**
- No: **25.5%**

**FIRST GENERATION**
- Yes: **43.5%**
- No: **49.5%**
- Not Reported: **7%**

A record 309 dual enrollment high school students earned associate degrees including 113 Xavier College Preparatory graduates.

Many students attending other colleges take classes with us to save time and money— and stay on track.

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2022-23 data provided by Rio Salado College’s Institutional Research Department. *Includes students who transfer 12 or more credits from Rio Salado to a state university. **Total sum not representative of combined student populations due to the number of students who take credit and non-credit classes. ***Approved by Arizona Auditor General. ****Based on data from applications submitted.
HOW WE SERVE

PROGRAMS OF STUDY
• Academic Degrees (District-wide): **45**
• Associate in Applied Science Degrees: **27**
• Academic Certificates: **9**
• Certificates of Completion: **117**
• AZ General Education Curriculum Certificates: **3**

NEW CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES
• Emergency Medical Technology
• Financial Services Retirement Accounts: Customer Service
• Firearms (Law Enforcement Training)
• Sustainable Food Systems: Food Entrepreneur
• Sustainable Food Systems: Food Service

RECOGNITIONS
• Approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer two bachelor’s degree programs: a BA in Education with dual certification in Elementary/Special Education and a BAS in Public Safety Administration
• Named sub-grantee for a $4.6 million National Science Foundation grant to expand nanomanufacturing training for military affiliated students with ASU and Penn State
• Received a $2.9 million Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant to expand opportunities for underserved students (Avanzar Project)
• Received a $90,000 donation from American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact to fund an early childhood education program for dual enrollment students
• Established an agreement with Lake Michigan College Powered by Rio to add 20 Rio language courses
• Partnered with the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers to create a new associate degree pathway
• Selected as primary online education provider for employees of Master Electronics and State Farm
• Received MCCCD’s Diversity Advisory Council Award of Excellence for the Adult Education division’s DEIB training
• Received MCCCD’s League for Innovation, Innovation of the Year award for developing a career training model to upskill adult education students
• Received a $1.5 million Beyond Completion Challenge grant from the Strada Education Foundation and Taskforce on Higher Education to expand adult education services
• Launched the Workforce Skills Accelerator program with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce
• Partnered with the City of Tempe in the Good Jobs, Great Cities academy

TRANSFER OPTIONS
We have 40+ transfer partnerships with other colleges and universities including pathways to Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Our alumni association helps graduates stay connected, share news, and network. More than 103,000 alumni have earned more than 125,000 degrees and certificates since 1978.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
As America’s Online Community College® we are increasing access to under-served students across the country. Our partnerships with American Family Insurance, JBS, Master Electronics, State Farm, The Guild Career Opportunity Platform, and other collaborations are further expanding our efforts to increase online educational opportunities for working adults through company-sponsored tuition benefits.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
Rio Salado has 30+ years experience delivering customized educational services and programs to a variety of industries. We provide students access to workforce education and higher-learning pathways with these and other partnership programs:
• **Dual Enrollment**: 47 Maricopa County high schools
• **Corporate**: Cox Communications, USAA, State Farm Insurance, Salt River Project, and many other employers
• **Public Safety**: Arizona Department of Corrections, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Maricopa County Sheriff’s Department, and Phoenix Police Department
• **Incarcerated Re-entry**: Certificates and 3 degrees in Construction, Small Business Start-Up, and more

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
As Arizona’s largest provider of adult education, we serve more than 5,000 students with GED® test preparation, English language classes, and career training. Instruction is available online and in-person at six college locations and at West-MEC and South Mountain Community College partner sites. We partner with the Maricopa Community Colleges to offer unique pathways for adult education students to earn academic and occupational certificates and degrees—and provide scholarships, mentoring, and individualized support services.
WHERE WE SERVE

ONLINE AND VIRTUAL
Online portals and services give students the freedom to take college classes at a time and place that's convenient for them. Students have 24/7 access to courses, technical support, library services, and RioConnect to engage with other students, advisors, and instructors. Virtual and remote support services provide additional options for busy students.

LOCATIONS
1. Tempe Headquarters
   - Café at Rio
   - Conference Center
   - Dental Clinic
   - Radio Stations: K-BACH, KJZZ, and Sun Sounds of Arizona
2. Southern
3. Downtown
4. Avondale
5. Luke Air Force Base
6. Surprise
7. Northern
8. Thomas
9. Communiversity at Queen Creek

Hillary Broughton knows about the power of education. She completed our High School Equivalency program, which led to a promotion at work, was inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society, and was named Adult Education Student of the Year by the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning.

ON-AIR
Our award-winning public radio stations and services provide educational and enriching multi-media programs supported by thousands of generous members.

K-BACH 89.5 FM: Classical music, arts, and cultural programs.
KJZZ 91.5 FM: Local, NPR and BBC news, jazz, and other engaging programs.
SPOT 127: Youth media center teaching teens digital media and journalism skills.

Sun Sounds of Arizona: Information services for people who have difficulty reading print publications.

WE PLACE YOU AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO.

MINDFULNESS EMPATHY HAPPINESS RESILIENCE

KJZZ The Show hosts Mark Brodie and Lauren Gilger