

15-year-old graduates from Estrella Mtn. CC

by *Megan Gordon* - May. 20, 2010 12:00 AM
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Estrella Mountain Community College graduated one of its youngest students ever - 15-year-old Zachary Chia.

Zachary has no [high-school diploma](#) or general equivalency diploma.

The Litchfield Park teen was born in Phoenix but spent most of his childhood in Singapore. His father, who is in the Singapore military, was transferred to Luke Air Force Base in 2008. Zachary attended Millennium High [School](#) in Goodyear for a few months but wasn't challenged enough.

So his family sent him to college.

"I thought, 'Why not get a head start in life by going to college first?'" Zachary said.

He took placement tests and enrolled at the Avondale campus as a special-admissions student. Two years later, Zachary earned [associate degrees](#) in arts and business, keeping a 3.9 grade-point average.

Zachary graduated Friday evening, along with 378 of his peers, at a ceremony at Goodyear Ballpark.

He is moving to Tempe in the fall to attend Arizona [State University](#), with plans to major in business tourism and management.

"I don't have my driver's license yet, so I'm probably going to live on campus," he said.

The quiet teen isn't worried about fitting in at ASU because of his experience at EMCC.

"I'm younger than everyone here," he said, "but I've met new people and great friends."

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