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Estrella Mountain Community College serves up culinary bachelor's degree path

Estrella Mountain Community College and Northern Arizona University are cooking up ways for culinary students to earn a bachelor's degree.

Students who complete their first two years at EMCC can transfer up to 75 credits from their associate degree in Culinary Studies to the Hotel and Restaurant Management program at NAU. After entering the university's HRM program, transfer students from EMCC can take upper-division courses in person at the NAU campus in Flagstaff, at NAU on the Scottsdale Community College campus, or through NAU-Online.

"I have lived in Flagstaff my whole life and wanted to try something different. I knew both Scottsdale Community College and NAU are known for their great programs in the hospitality industry."

- Nicole Paothatat, a Hotel and Restaurant Management major and Connect2NAU student at Scottsdale Community College

EMCC's Culinary Studies — in operation for more than a decade — offers a 16-credit Basic Culinary Studies Certificate, a 23-credit Baking and Pastry Certificate, a 33-credit Culinary Studies Certificate and a 64-credit degree program resulting in an associate in arts degree.

"We will continue to offer all of these programs. What's new is that now our students will have the option of transferring smoothly into a four-year bachelor's program," said Steve Griffiths, director of the EMCC Culinary Studies Program. "This will allow our students to do as much as they can at EMCC, where they can benefit from flexible, cost-effective options for their basic education."

If you're a current EMCC student interested in the program, consult an EMCC advisor and you'll be provided with an individualized pathway for transfer. NAU's Connection partnership with the Maricopa Community Colleges streamlines the transfer processes for students to earn NAU degrees at local community colleges, online or in Flagstaff.

The EMCC program offers wide exposure to the culinary arts, including culinary theory, hospitality courses and hands-on lab work in its equipped kitchen and on-campus restaurant.

The program caters to students pursuing certificates or degrees by offering flexible formats and by cultivating partnerships with local high schools and food service businesses to provide educational and placement opportunities for graduates preparing for culinary-related careers. For information, visit http://www.estrellamountain.edu/occed/culinary

EMCC students with specific questions regarding transfer credits may consult an NAU Program Coordinator at scottsdale@nau.edu or call (480) 423-6461.

NAU - Extended Campuses in Maricopa County:

- Chandler-Gilbert Community College
- Communiversity @ Surprise
- GateWay Community College
- Glendale Community College
- Estrella Mountain Community College (NAU West Valley Campus)
- Mesa Community College
- Paradise Valley Community College
- Phoenix College
- Rio Salado College
- Scottsdale Community College
- and the NAU North Valley Campus (I-17 & Greenway)