



## GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NORTH

### Frequently Asked Questions about GCC North

#### **What is GCC North?**

Glendale Community College North (GCC North) presently is an extension site of Glendale Community College that opened its doors in fall, 2000. New facilities and complete degree programs became available fall 2008. GCC North is dedicated to serving the higher educational needs of the Northwest Valley.

#### **Where is GCC North located?**

The 75-acre site is located in Phoenix south of Happy Valley Road between 55th and 61st Avenues. The address is 5727 West Happy Valley Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310. GCC North's phone number is 623.845.4000.

#### **Why is GCC North important for the community?**

Northwest Valley community members have more convenient access to a higher education. GCC North provides university transfer courses; job related programs and work place upgrade opportunities through our course offerings and unique partnerships with ACE Plus, Silver Sneakers and Hoop of Learning.

#### **What educational courses and programs are offered?**

GCC North offers select college level courses leading to degree and certificate programs, university transfer and career training (Degrees AA, AGS, AAEE ATP and Certificates AGEC, CISCO, EMT).

#### **What does GCC North look like?**

Complex "A" (Agua Sal), which is the original facility, occupies 15-acres, and includes 20,000 square feet of single-story classrooms (101-119) and provides space for the Faculty Resource Center and College Safety. The newly constructed facilities include Building "B" (Beshbito), Library and Computer Commons; Building "C" (Chinle), Student Services; Building "D" (Dinnebito) Instruction and Building "E" (El Capitan), the Central Plant opened fall 2008. These four new buildings occupy an additional 13 acres providing 67,000 square feet of new single-story facilities. New and existing facilities blend in with neighborhood architecture, incorporate existing and planned desert landscaping, and minimize light pollution, making the campus an attractive addition to the community.

#### **What is the theme behind the Naming of the Buildings?**

The natural setting of the GCC North site is spectacular with indigenous desert vegetation bisected diagonally by an arroyo that enters the site from the northeast corner and exits at the southwest corner. As arroyos are found in every corner of Arizona and the arroyo serves as the site's major pedestrian mall, all building names will be named after arroyos in Arizona. The names of the buildings for Phase One of construction, the NE quadrant of the site, were taken from Native American and Spanish arroyo names in Arizona's northeast counties, Apache and Navajo counties. Each building (arroyo) name not only connects with Arizona's unique physiography, but also represents the unique services the facility provides to the students, staff and community. Future phases of construction will take building names from arroyos in the northwest, southwest and southeast counties in Arizona.

#### **What types of services are available at GCC North?**

- The A Complex provides - College Safety Services, a Faculty Resource Center and Copy Center services. In addition 17 general classrooms and 2 computer classrooms are housed at this location.
- Building B provides - Library and Media Services, study rooms, lounge space, study carrels, a Computer Center and technology support for students and employees.
- Building C provides - Fitness Center, Student Activity Room, Bookstore, Community Room, Game Room, Student Life, Café and Dining Center and several soft seating locations. Enrollment and Business Services are provided here as well and include Advisement, Registration, Cashier, Financial Aid, Counseling, Honors, Disability Student Resources and Testing (GED, ASSET, Accuplacer, make-up).
- Building D provides – three science laboratories (Biology, Chemistry and Physical Science) and three large lecture classrooms that seat 48 students each. One of the lecture rooms also serves as a computer classroom that provides 24 computer stations and printing capabilities. Tutoring services, soft seating and study spaces are also located in this building.
- Student Services that are limited or not available at GCC North are supported by the main campus through email, phone, videoconference or courier service provided by GCC North and GCC Main employees.

#### **What has been done to ensure that the campus is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood?**

All facilities are single story and color themes and materials used in construction complement the surrounding desert and neighborhood housing developments. Though the new buildings are not LEED certified, LEED design criteria and green technology and materials were critical considerations when planning and building the new facilities. The access roads, Central Plant and parking lots are located a sufficient distance from the neighborhood residents to prevent excessive noise; lighting is reduced after 10:00 p.m.; pre-existing and added landscape provides a pleasant buffer around the campus.

**What planning has been going on for this center, and how has the public been involved?**

One of the major premises in planning for GCC North is maintaining a "Good Neighbor" policy, specifically with regard to physical facilities and curriculum offerings. Planning has been going on since 1996 with community input at all phases. Extensive community suggestions have been incorporated into the planning of the new site, particularly with regard to noise, appearance, lighting, landscaping, location of transportation access and parking lots.

**How did GCC North originate?**

The 75-acre site at 57th Avenue and Happy Valley Road was purchased with monies approved in the 1984 Maricopa Community Colleges Capital Development Plan. In 1994, \$2 million from the Maricopa Community Colleges Capital Development Bond was allocated to provide initial site development such as sewer, water, electricity, and parking for the 20,000 square foot campus. In 2004, \$25 million from Maricopa Community Colleges Capital Development Bond was allocated to create a master plan and expand the GCC North site. Phase One of this GCC North Master Plan provided an additional 67,000 square feet of new educational space.

**Why is the HLC sending an evaluation team to GCC North?**

Every accredited organization must have its status reevaluated as services and course offerings increase. With the new facilities at GCC North, the site now provides comprehensive student services, and students may now complete a full two-year degree program without traveling to the main campus. Because of the growth that has occurred at GCC North, GCC was required to apply for an "Institutional Change" through the Higher Learning Commission (North Central Association), so that GCC North can be evaluated and considered as a comprehensive campus, rather than an instructional site. As part of this HLC process, an Institutional Change report was submitted July 2008, and the HLC will conduct a site visit November 3-4, 2008. This visit will help GCC ensure quality in executing our planning and strategy at GCC North.

**Is GCC North going to become a separate campus from GCC Main?**

GCC North is accredited through the GCC campus; GCC North is an extension of the main campus. Degrees will not be granted from the North campus, and some programs and services such as Athletics and Student Clubs will continue to be housed at the main campus.

**Where do I go to read the latest Institutional Change Report that was submitted to the HLC?**

<http://www.gccaz.edu/crs/NCA%20GCCN%20Request%20for%20Institutional%20Change%20May%202008.pdf>

**What can we expect the evaluators to ask?**

While we don't know for certain the exact questions the evaluators will ask, we do know they will want to meet with various campus groups ranging from administration, faculty, staff and students. We need to do our best to familiarize ourselves with all GCC North facilities and services. And be certain to mention that all student services that are not provided on a full time basis at GCC North are provided by the main campus. The main campus supports Student Services that are limited or available at GCC North on a part time basis via email, phone, courier or videoconferencing.

**How are faculty assigned to teach at GCC North?**

28 residential faculty and 70 adjunct faculty members currently teach at GCC North. It is important for GCC North to have a core of residential faculty who are master teachers and who are actively affiliated with their departments at the main campus. It is the responsibility of the Department Chairs at GCC main campus, in coordination with the GCC North Dean and Vice-Presidents, to ensure that highly qualified faculty members, both adjunct and residential, represent their departments at GCC North on a rotating basis.

**How is assessment managed at GCC North?**

GCC North students and faculty participate in all course, program and College Wide Academic Achievement assessment initiatives and the Noel-Levitz Satisfaction Survey, that are implemented at the main campus. Future assessment activities will continue to expand to ensure student outcomes are measured and both GCC main campus and GCC North are informed.

**What is the primary theme behind GCC North?**

GCC North promotes a student-centered environment. Throughout the development stages of the existing site and new facilities, student needs in all aspects of college life have been taken into consideration. Curriculum development, planning and flexible schedules are maintained by regular collaboration among the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Dean of GCC North and Department Chairpersons, by analyzing longitudinal enrollment data and by surveying student interests.

Extensive student study and relaxation spaces were added to the new facilities, and in addition a fitness center, a food court, a game room and tutoring space are available. Students also have access to a Library and Computer Center that has the capacity to hold 20,000 volumes of books and that offers over 40 computers for student use; small study rooms, current magazines, daily newspapers, media services, and television viewing areas make the Library and Computer Center a central hub for students to relax and learn.

Student Services at GCC North are based on a one-stop-shop-model, where students can easily access placement testing, advisement, registration, cashier services and the bookstore.