

Question	I can't live without having my phone with me at all times. Can I keep it during the day if I don't use it during class?
Answer	We know that your phones are important to you, but we also know that if you keep your phone you will talk/text on that and pay less attention to other people. Here we value your time with us and with other students, so we need you to turn your phones in when you arrive at school. They will be kept safe and you will get them back at the end of the day. No one here will use your phone or touch it while it is in our safekeeping. And you will find that you can have real conversations with people at school and get to know each other.
Sky Islands' student comments	<i>"Giving up your cellular device during school hours helps build a sense of community that you don't typically find at other school settings." Daisy</i> <i>"Out of sight, out of mind." James</i> <i>"It's actually a relief. I don't have to worry or even think about it. It's made me less dependent on my phone even when I have it!" Emme</i> <i>"Not having your cell phone is actually very convenient for every student. You are more focused in class and you learn more. Not just that—you get to have real friends in your life." Jennifer</i>
Question	Your school is very near Park Place Mall. Can I leave school during the day and go to the Mall? Or the Food Court for lunch?
Answer	The Mall isn't far, that's true. But when you're here it might as well be on another planet. We do not have an open campus but do provide good lunches here in the Blue Sky Café as part of our culinary—or Farm-to-Kitchen program. We need you in class and if you are not, we'll come find you. Just give us 9am to 3pm. And we'll give you a good education.
Sky Islands' student comments	<i>"Lunches are very good, healthy, and inexpensive--\$35 per month. No one needs or even wants to go to the Mall." Emme</i>
Question	How will I get to school? Do you provide any transportation?
Answer	Our location is very central and on major SunTran bus routes that cross Broadway and Wilmot. Many of our students come by city bus, some walk, and others are driven or drive themselves. We are not able to provide school transportation but we will help you with the bus routes and we always have bus fare if you need it.
Sky Islands' student comments	<i>"If you need help with transportation you can ask a friend for a ride." Vanessa and Savannah</i> <i>"Bus fare is available to all students who may need it. Students will also find people at our school who would willingly give them a ride if they need it. I enjoy giving my fellow classmates rides if they need it." Jessica</i>
Question	All my friends want to go to a big school and they think your school is too small. What do you say?
Answer	Well that depends on what you want your education to be. A smaller school will mean that your classes are smaller and you will have a better chance to learn at your own pace. You will be able to do things here that bigger schools don't offer—for example, field trips are a big part of the program here as are hands-on activities and projects. We build things and grow things and take care of chickens. And we listen to you and try to pay attention to what you are interested in.
Sky Islands' student comments	<i>"It's a tightly-based community. Students will typically know all their fellow classmates, which is something you won't find in other schools." Daisy</i> <i>"Everything is very hands-on. The campus is a good example of that. All the projects we do are great for visual learners like me. And the teachers genuinely care about every single one of us, without question." Emme</i> <i>"There is an absolute lack of bullying. One of my greatest pleasures has been to see new people come out of their shell and completely blossom." James</i>

Question	Can I get into college if I graduate from Sky Islands? Will I get the right classes?
Answer	Yes! Our graduation rate is very high—nearly 100% every year. We encourage our graduates to enroll at Pima so that they continue to have smaller classes and good teachers and lower tuition. After two years you will either have an Associate’s degree, a trade certificate, or an opportunity to transfer to a 4-year college and be ready for courses in your college major. Before becoming Director of Sky Islands I taught at the college and university level for 20 years, and we have designed your education here not only to prepare you to enter college but to do well and succeed.
Sky Islands’ student comments	<p><i>“This school is a great school to graduate from because the teachers and the administrators will try their hardest to get you to graduate on time. It’s a very understanding and helpful environment.” Jennifer</i></p> <p><i>“I would recommend Sky Islands to anyone who is looking for a serious education led by truly dedicated teachers.” James</i></p> <p><i>“Here you have teachers who are dedicated towards student success and view each student as an individual. It is an amazing feeling to wake up and be excited about school. Without this school I definitely wouldn’t be who I am today.” Jessica</i></p>
Question	I’ve been told that I need to go to an accredited school to get into college. Are you an accredited school?
Answer	No college will deny you admission based on whether your high school was accredited or not. If people tell you they will, it’s just not true. We have chosen not to align our program with a national accreditation organization because those programs do not recognize emerging areas of study in the sciences. At Sky Islands students study Ethnobotany, Astrobiology, and Environmental Chemistry; they do hands-on projects in Field Studies, in the Farm-to-Kitchen program, in the Ecological Restoration class, and in Urban Horticulture and Innovative Design classes. They emphasize problem-solving and critical thinking, as well as collaboration and design thinking—all core criteria for success at work and in college. Not all so-called ‘accredited’ schools or programs will give you an education. If you want more than a paper diploma, choose your high school carefully.
Sky Islands’ student comments...and UA Admissions	<p><i>“Your diploma from Sky Islands will be treated just as any other diploma from other high schools you may be considering.” Daisy, Class of 2019</i></p> <p><i>“Students who apply for admission from Sky Islands will be evaluated for admission just like all other high schools in the state and will need to meet our requirements set forth by the Arizona Board of Regents: https://admissions.arizona.edu/how-to-apply/abor-course-competencies.” Marisa, UA Admissions</i></p>