Palm Springs Campus Update – September/October 2026

A NEW CHAPTER TAKES SHAPE IN PALM SPRINGS

Picture a student stepping into a recording studio for the first time. An aspiring chef learning and practicing knowledge, technique and new skills in a professional teaching kitchen. Neighbors coming together for an exciting cultural event. Those are some of the experiences being built into College of the Desert's new Palm Springs Campus—and this fall's construction work brings them closer.

At the former Palm Springs Mall site, the September/October construction outlook points to a revealing stage of the project: glass, roofs and exterior finishes giving the buildings their character, while work inside prepares the spaces where students will learn, create and pursue their education, training and preparation for their next job, career and life opportunity. With a Fall 2027 opening targeted, the vision of a new campus is becoming easier to imagine.

The View Is Changing

For people following the project from nearby streets, this fall's work promises some of the most visible changes yet. September brings the Accelerator building closer to a weather-tight enclosure, along with continued glass installation, roofing and parking-area improvements. Each step helps turn the outlines of buildings into recognizable campus spaces.

Getting Ready to Power Up

> October's outlook includes an impact far beyond what passersby can see: permanent electrical power. Connecting campus buildings to permanent power opens the way to activating and testing the cooling systems, technology and equipment that will support daily campus life. The construction schedule targets this work in October, including the potential for power availability at the Academic Accelerator Building.
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> Roofing and exterior finishes at the Event Center are also targeted to advance in October. Its emerging form offers a glimpse of a future gathering place where education, hospitality, business and community activity can come together.

Imagine What Will Happen Inside

> Alongside signature programs in digital arts and media, healthcare, healthcare, hospitality and culinary arts, the Palm Springs Campus will offer general education classes. Students will be able to take courses that support progress toward a degree or university transfer, bringing more of their college education closer to home.
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> The campus is designed around experiential learning in real world job ready-work environments. Production and recording studios will give students room to develop their voices and technical skills. Screening rooms will bring creative work to an audience. Teaching kitchens will connect culinary learning with the region's hospitality industry. Flexible classrooms and labs will support collaboration and hands-on discovery. Healthcare simulation labs will give students a place to practice patient-care scenarios and build clinical judgment in a controlled learning environment. An AI Hub and virtual reality (VR) and extended reality (XR) learning spaces will open new ways to explore ideas, solve problems and practice skills through immersive experiences.

For Palm Springs, the possibilities extend beyond the classroom. These spaces can help residents prepare for a first career, build new skills or return to learning, while giving employers a closer connection to the talent their businesses need. The Event Center adds another way for educators, employers and the community to participate in the life of the College.

Built for a Desert Future

The all-electric campus is designed to put the desert's sunshine to work. Rooftop solar is intended to generate up to 56 percent of campus energy needs. Behind the scenes, high-capacity digital infrastructure will support technology-rich instruction and allow room for future growth. These features connect the campus's educational ambitions with the practical demands of operating in the desert.

Looking Toward Fall 2027

As exterior work progresses, attention will increasingly turn to equipment installation, interior finishes and the careful testing that makes buildings ready for use. A finished-looking exterior is one step in that process; opening preparations are on schedule.

What is taking shape now will bring a new rhythm to a familiar place: students arriving for class, ideas becoming projects, and residents discovering new reasons to connect with their college and community. Each construction milestone brings Palm Springs and the greater Coachella Valley closer to that day.

We can't wait to welcome you to your Palm Springs Campus in Fall 2027.

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS

Find out more at www.codpscampus.org.