Arizona State University is collaborating with the City of Phoenix to build a modern, vibrant university campus in downtown Phoenix as part of a larger plan to revitalize the city’s urban core and address the higher education needs of Arizona’s growing population. ASU is building a campus embedded within the city’s physical urban setting and embracing its 21st century cultural and socioeconomic vitality. The first phase of the campus opens for the fall semester in August, 2006, with three anchor colleges relocating from Tempe: the College of Nursing, the College of Public Programs, and the new systemwide University College, which will operate from the downtown site. In the next phase of development, the fourth anchor college, the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, along with KAET-TV (Channel E8ht), will move to Phoenix in 2008. (For more information, see individual catalog sections for each college.)

The Downtown Phoenix campus will reside on newly developed spaces in the University Center at 411 N. Central Avenue, the Nursing and Healthcare Innovation building on Third Street, and the Mercado at Fifth Street and Monroe Street. A Residential Commons will be the home for approximately 250 students. One distinctive example of the city and university partnership is the renovated use of the historic downtown post office, which will house offices for many ASU administrative and student support staff while continuing to serve the general community and campus with standard retail postal services. A dedicated bus shuttle between the Tempe and the Downtown Phoenix campuses has been planned to run every 30 minutes for faculty, staff, and students. More than 2,000 parking spaces within a 12-minute walk of the University Center have been acquired for use by campus faculty, staff, and students.

When fully developed, the new multiservice campus will serve the higher educational needs of 15,000 students, as well as potentially three times as many other community users through public academic programs, cultural events, K–12 pathways and bridge offerings, and other campus/community activities in a dynamic interactive environment. The master design plan anticipates completion of the Downtown Phoenix campus over a 10-year period.

An experienced staff of academic, administrative, and student affairs professionals, including a director of disability resources, is being assembled to implement the exciting New American University vision of an outstanding institution that is vitally connected to its community and setting. ASU at the Downtown Phoenix campus offers an exciting urban choice for achieving student success, midcareer development, and creative community and academic alliances.