

# History of Berkeley City College



Welcome to Berkeley City College. Berkeley City College, one of California's 114 community colleges, is located at 2050 Center Street between Shattuck Avenue & Milvia Street in downtown Berkeley, in one of the world's great education centers. In August 2006, the college moved to a newly constructed six-story, 165,000 square foot urban campus, only one-and-one-half blocks from the University of California at Berkeley. The college is part of the Peralta Community College District which includes College of Alameda, Laney and Merritt colleges. Model programs in American Sign Language, biotechnology, business, computer information systems, English Language and Literature, global studies, the liberal arts, multimedia arts, social work and human services paraprofessional, social sciences, and university transfer, place Berkeley City College on the cutting edge of community college education in California. Classes convene at the college's urban setting in downtown Berkeley and at the University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley City College also supports an Online Transfer College, which allows you to attend certain classes online.

As a Berkeley City College student, you form part of a thriving college community which mirrors the Bay Area's ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity. Your classmates include single parents, full-time workers, re-entry students, career changers and high school students. Working together with Berkeley City College faculty, you create a dynamic environment where interdisciplinary education and teamwork prepare you for many career options.

At Berkeley City College, your success is always our first priority. We continually adapt programs and services to meet your needs. Day, evening, online distance education, and Saturday classes ensure that you can finish any Berkeley City College job training or academic program in two years. Our exceptional partnership with UC Berkeley lets you complete a number of lower division transfer classes in the evening at its Berkeley campus.

A majority of Berkeley City College's classes are held at our main campus at 2050 Center St. (between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St.) in downtown Berkeley. The college also conducts outreach classes in community locations. BART and AC Transit stops are located just a half block away from the Center St. campus. Evening shuttle services provide direct access to BCC classes at UC Berkeley. Parking is available evenings and Saturdays at UC and in downtown Berkeley.

Academic and career counseling, combined with strong student support services, provide you with excellent preparation for transfer to public and private universities, and for success in today's demanding job market. Berkeley City College is one of the top transfer institutions to UC Berkeley.

A diverse student population adds to the richness of BCC's learning community. In spring 2017, approximately 6,900 students enrolled at Berkeley City College. They were 25% Caucasian; 15% African American; 25% Asian; 24% Latino; 7% Multiple Race/Ethnicity; 4% declined to state; and less than 1% Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native. Berkeley City College students' average age is 26 years, with more than half between 19 and 24 years of age.

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## History of the College

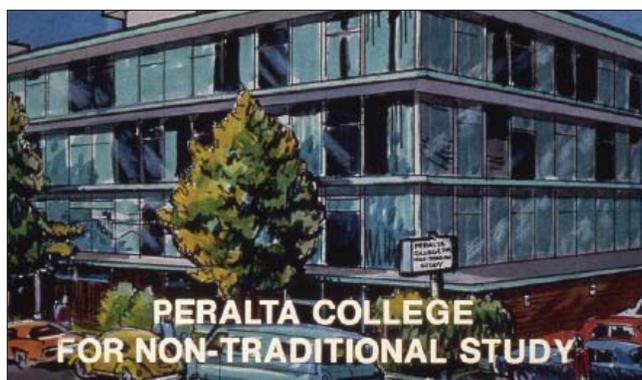
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Berkeley City College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges which is located at 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949; Phone: (415) 506-0234; FAX: (415) 506-0238; E-Mail: [accjc@accjc.org](mailto:accjc@accjc.org).

You may apply for admission via the Peralta Community College District's PASSPORT online registration system. Student Ambassadors who work in the college's 1st floor Welcome Center., 2050 Center St. in Berkeley, can help you to enroll. Call (510) 981-2852 or access <http://berkeleycitycollege.edu> for program brochures, class schedules and enrollment information.

Berkeley City College, formerly Vista Community College, was founded in April 1974 as the fourth of the Peralta Community College District's community colleges, replacing the existing North Peralta Community College. Its original name, the Berkeley Learning Pavilion, was changed in October 1974 to the Peralta College for Non-Traditional Study (PCNS) and its mission expanded to that of, "... a public community college offering alternative post-secondary educational programs and services for students of the [Peralta Community College District]. The college [was] expected to assess unmet learning needs, to devise flexible and diverse ways of responding to those needs, and thereby to increase access to educational opportunities." (*Educational and Resources Plans 2001–2016*)

Initially PCNS's charge was to provide degree and certificate programs to the northern cities of Alameda County—Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville. For the first three years of its existence, PCNS was a "college without walls" with widely dispersed locations, offering classes at sites throughout the service area, including the West Berkeley YMCA, Berkeley High School, the North Berkeley Community Center, St. Mary Magdalene School, the Summit Educational Center, and the Oakland Army Base. The college assumed the administration of courses offered through the Peralta External Program and the UC/North Peralta Experimental Program, a grant-funded endeavor the purpose of which was to provide a smoother transition to UC Berkeley for low-income, minority community college students. The grant afforded PCNS the use of UC



Berkeley facilities at times when they were minimally used, a facilities relationship that persists to this day.

PCNS also operated an outreach program, offering courses found at the other three Peralta colleges. By 1977, in response to requests from various businesses, community organizations and agencies, PCNS had established classes in over twenty locations throughout the district service areas.

Largely aimed at adults in transition, these alternative programs flourished, pioneering some of the first alternative delivery methods in the district, including telecourses. By 1979 the college was offering approved courses in over 100 locations throughout the community, and by 1981 the number of sites had grown to 200.

In 1976 the college applied for candidacy for initial ACCJC accreditation. This was granted in June 1977. In 1978, the district voted to change the college's name to Vista College. Candidacy was renewed in 1979, and the college was granted full accreditation in June 1981.

From 1981 to 1986, Vista continued to offer classes and programs at multiple off-campus sites, developing new services to meet public and private sector needs. It created the East Bay Small Business Development Center, the International Trade Institute, and the American Sign Language Program. The college directed programs offered through the Downtown Oakland Business Education Center at the Fruitvale Community Education Site, at business locations, and at community and senior centers. The college opened the first computer laboratory in the Peralta Community College District (PCCD). At this time, the college served more than 1,200 disabled students per year.

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## History of the College

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In 1987, in response to continuing budget pressures at the state and district level, the college's budget was substantially reduced and several of its programs transferred to other Peralta colleges. The Downtown Oakland Business Education Center was closed and the college reduced many of its off-campus classes.

The passage of Assembly Bill 1725 in 1987, which redefined the intent of the community college and the proportion of full-time to-part-time faculty, significantly impacted the mission and design of Vista College's classes and programs. The college's faculty and administration reviewed its programs and classes in order to shift resources away from alternative education and focus instead on the comprehensive mission of the California community colleges as we now know it. That year, the district's governing board approved the final modification of the institution's name to Vista Community College.

Even as it broadened its mission and offerings to reflect those of a more comprehensive California community college, Berkeley City College has continued, within that context, to follow its tradition of providing creative and innovative programs in response to community needs. It was the first college in the Bay Area to offer a guaranteed schedule that provides all classes necessary for the completion of degrees for its afternoon college and evening/Saturday college. College faculty designed a highly acclaimed American Sign Language program, which became a national model in the 1980s.

Berkeley City College's Program for Adult College Education (PACE) provided the first opportunity in Northern California for community college students with full-time jobs to find a suitable route to their educational goals. Its biotechnology program received state commendations when it was implemented in 1994. New programs that respond to community needs include biotechnology, multimedia arts, office technology, global studies, and social services paraprofessional.

In 1995, a group of community members signed a petition seeking to create the Vista Community College District out of a portion of the existing Peralta Community College District (PCCD) by "deannexing" the cities of Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville. This was done for a variety of reasons, including lack of a permanent site for the college and a lack of parity in resources.

In response to the community's deannexation efforts, PCCD proposed Measure A, a capital improvement bond initiative which allocated eight million dollars to construct a permanent college facility and also stipulated that \$7.5 million would be used from Measure B, a previous Peralta bond issue, to augment Measure A funds. Measure A passed in November, 1996.

Construction of the new facility is now complete. PCCD also allocated an additional \$36 million to build the site from Measure E, a bond measure that was passed in November 2000. Funds also are from state Proposition 47, passed in 2002.

In June 2006, Peralta Measure A was approved by Alameda County voters. Funds from Measure A have helped the college to expand and build new classroom space so that Berkeley City College's campus can fully accommodate up to 7,800 students. Also in June 2006, Vista Community College's name was changed to Berkeley City College.

To accommodate its growing student body, the college's 2017–18 expansion includes a facility at 2118 Milvia St., which was purchased in 2015 by the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees.

