

Transform Your Life!

Choose a Berkeley City College Learning Community to help ensure your college success!

What is a learning community and how can it help me?

A learning community is a cohort-based educational program. You take classes with the same group of people, get to know your classmates, and support each other, while your instructors and counselors work with you and with each other to help you succeed. Sometimes you might have overlapping homework in two or more classes or you might apply what you learn in a class to an internship or community service experience. Your learning community will help you to build valuable connections and experience as you prepare for jobs and/or transfer to a four-year university.

What is a cohort and how is it different from regular classes?

A cohort is a group of students, like you, who take many classes together towards a similar goal and ultimately succeed together! It provides you with many support services including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning. All help you to succeed and reach your college goals.

We are proud to introduce Berkeley City College's Learning Communities

PERSIST to College (Personal Initiative and Social Transformation – High School Students)

- **Who:** If you are a high school student who wants to start college before graduating from high school, PERSIST to College is for you.
- **What:** This cohort program provides you with a focused transition to college. You may be able to finish one year of college credit while you are still attending high school.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You learn to work smart, not hard. With advanced approval, the courses you take in PERSIST may be used to fulfill some of your high school courses and requirements.
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration for your first year as a full-time BCC student. This guarantees you access to the classes you want and need to take.
 - You take a College Success course and develop fundamental research, reading, writing and mathematics skills.
 - You work in teams on a semester-long project on how to improve your world.
 - You gain academic skills and insight about the problems facing our communities.
 - You identify your strengths and use them to develop communication and leadership skills. At the same time, you learn math, writing and critical thinking skills crucial to a certificate program or degree.
 - You successfully navigate certificate, transfer and Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways through PERSIST. You also identify your and your classmates' working styles. Then, you apply what you have learned in team-building and team management while using communication skills which are needed in a variety of jobs.
 - You participate in special events, including a program graduation.
 - You narrow your academic focus in your second semester and take courses that directly meet your academic and career goals.
- **How to Participate:**
 - Complete an orientation program.
 - Take courses part-time with a cohort of your classmates.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can enroll in fall or spring.

ESL Pathways (English as a Second Language)

- **Who:** If you are a high intermediate or advanced ESL student you can enroll in ESL Pathways.
- **What:** This program provides English as a Second Language classes and other support for non-native speakers who wish to transfer into the U.S. higher education system.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You become part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration in your first semester as a full-time BCC student after you finish ESL Pathways. This guarantees that you will have access to the classes you want and need.
 - You can use what you learn in ESL Pathways to advance in your job.
 - You can earn a Certificate of Proficiency in ESL in only one semester.
 - You can prepare for college/university transfer.
 - You can prepare for job and occupational training certificate programs.
 - You gain confidence in your use of everyday and academic English.
 - You learn more about U.S. culture and the American system of higher education.
 - You take workshops and classes to help you navigate the U.S. college admissions process.
 - You participate in special events including a program completion ceremony.
 - You will have the flexibility, in your second semester, to take courses that directly fulfill your specific academic and career goals.
- **How to Participate:**
 - Complete an orientation program.
 - Then, take courses full-time (minimum 12 units) with a cohort of your classmates.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - You can enroll in fall or spring.

PERSIST (Personal Initiative and Social Transformations)

Who:

- If you need a jump start toward a positive college experience, PERSIST is for you. This cohort will offer renewed motivation, vital success skills, and an accelerated path to transfer-level classes and program entry.

What:

- You join a nationally recognized program with extensive student support that prepares you for college success. PERSIST was designed to help you transfer to California universities and private colleges. It also allows you to quickly enter Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways in Multimedia Arts, Public & Human Services, and in TEACH.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You will receive an “inside-out” foundation that values your working style and helps you thrive in the academic culture around you.
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration for your second semester in PERSIST and in the first semester of your second year at BCC. This guarantees your enrollment in the classes you need.
 - You can take a series of courses that lead to a various Career and Technical Education pathways or, in as little as two years, earn your associate degree for Transfer.
 - You narrow your academic focus in your second semester and take courses that directly fulfill your academic and career goals.
 - You work with dedicated PERSIST counselors and create your Student Educational Plan. This lets you successfully complete transfer requirements for four-year universities and colleges.
 - You participate in special events including a program graduation.
- **How to Participate:**
 - If you score below 70 in reading and writing on BCC’s placement assessment, you may enroll in the program.
 - Complete an orientation program including an ACE foundations course.
 - Take courses full-time (minimum of 12 units) with a cohort of your classmates.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can enroll in fall or spring.

FYE (First Year Experience)

- **Who:** If you are a recent high school graduate who wants to attend BCC full-time to obtain an associate degree in two years then transfer to a four-year college, First Year Experience (FYE) is for you.
- **What:** This innovative cohort program provides intensive support and early planning to help you succeed in college. You may apply to this program if qualify for English 1A.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive priority registration during your second semester in FYE and for the first semester of your second year of college at BCC. This guarantees you access to the classes you need.
 - You take a series of courses that lead to an associate degree for transfer in a little as two years.
 - You narrow your academic focus in your second semester and have the flexibility to take courses that fulfill your academic and career goals.
 - You work with your counselor and create your Student Educational Plan. This lets you successfully complete transfer requirements for four-year universities and colleges.
 - You participate in special events including a program graduation.
 - You have the option of selecting the Global Studies track and enroll in both FYE and Global Studies concurrently.
 - You can choose service-learning opportunities.
- **Requirements:**
 - You may apply if you have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.3 or higher, or take the BCC assessment test and place in English 1A. You also must score 70 or above in reading and writing on BCC's placement assessment. If you are not eligible to apply based on your placement in English, you can register for the PERSIST learning community for one semester, then transfer into FYE.
 - Complete an orientation program.
 - Take courses full-time (minimum of 12 units) with a cohort of your classmates.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can enroll in fall and spring.

Global Studies

- **Who:** If you want to make a difference in your world through the study of areas such as history, globalizations, and socio-economic stratification, consider earning a Global Studies associate degree.
- **What:** This innovative cohort program provides you with extensive support for your success in college. If you are an entering, full-time college student who seeks a broad educational foundation rooted in social justice and issues of social equity, and want to transfer to a four-year college, choose Global Studies as your major.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration each semester of your four-semester program.
 - You engage in interdisciplinary studies with core courses that meet major transfer requirements in several disciplines.
 - You participate in shared assignments and curricula. These give you the opportunity to get to know your classmates, since you all take classes together.
 - You narrow your academic focus in your second semester, and have the flexibility to take courses that fulfill your academic and career goals.
 - You enjoy hands-on experience through service learning opportunities and the activist Global Studies student club.
 - You finish an associate degree in two years in Global Studies or related programs, including Anthropology, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. The major supports your transfer to the California State Universities, University of California campuses and private colleges.
 - You work with dedicated Global Studies counselors to create a Student Educational Plan and navigate the four-year college or university transfer process.
 - You participate in special events including a program graduation.
 - One cohort of FYE students have the option of selecting the Global Studies track and enroll in both FYE and Global Studies concurrently.
- **How to Participate:**
 - You may apply if you have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.3 or higher, or take the BCC assessment test and place in English 1A. You also must score 70 or above in reading and writing on BCC's placement assessment. If you are not eligible to apply based on your placement in English, you can register for the PERSIST learning community for one semester, then transfer into Global Studies.
 - Complete an orientation program.
 - Enroll in the two required linked-courses each semester for four semesters with a cohort of your peers.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can only enroll in the fall semester.

PACE Pathways (Program for Adult College Education)

- **Who:** If you are a working adult who is interested in completing an associate in arts degree, with or without transfer, PACE Pathways is for you.
- **What:** Currently the longest running learning community program in the Peralta Community College District, PACE Pathways has a great track record in helping working adults like you finish their associate in arts degrees and transfer into a four-year college by offering classes and services in the evenings, online and weekends.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration each semester. This guarantees you access to the classes you need.
 - You take a series of courses that lead to an associate degree (AA) or associate degree for transfer (AD-T) in as little as two years.
 - You take courses that directly fulfill your academic and career goals and a curriculum that is designed to support your transfer to the California State Universities, University of California campuses and private colleges.
 - You participate in special events, such as ones to help navigate the four-year college or university transfer process.
- **How to Participate:**
 - Complete an application.
 - Complete assessment testing and meet with a counselor. If you have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.3 or higher or take the BCC assessment test and place in English 1A, you are eligible to be in the program. If you are not eligible based on your placement in English, your counselor can recommend classes or programs to prepare you for transfer into PACE Pathways.
 - Commit to taking a minimum of two courses each of your first two semesters in the program. (In the first year classes are scheduled three evenings per week, with some course work online.)
 - Complete a fixed sequence of courses during your first two semesters and share some courses in your remaining three semesters. Take other courses, at times that are convenient for you, in your chosen academic path.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - Enroll in fall or spring.

Public and Human Services (P & HS)

- **Who:** If you are interested in a career in social and human services, this program is for you.
- **What:** This innovative cohort program focuses on non-traditional instruction, and incorporates internships and experiential learning opportunities in the fields of public, social, and human services.
- **Benefits for you:**
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration each semester. This guarantees you access to the classes you need.
 - You narrow your academic focus in your second semester, and have the flexibility to take courses that fulfill your academic and career goals as you choose from various pathways in P&HS.
 - You gain essential knowledge, cultural competence, case management skills, professional ethics and exemplary customer services skills.
 - You take a series of courses that lead to two certificates of proficiency, three certificates of achievement, and three associate in arts degrees:
 - Social Services Paraprofessional
 - Community Health Worker
 - Community and Public Service worker.
 - You work with a Public and Human Services job developer for volunteer work experience placements as well as gain pathways to employment.
 - You work with dedicated Global Studies counselors to create a Student Educational Plan and navigate the four-year college or university transfer process.
 - You participate in special events including a program graduation.
- **How to Participate:**
 - Complete an orientation program.
 - Then, you take courses full-time (minimum 12 units) with a cohort of your classmates for two semesters. You complete a fixed sequence of courses during your first two semesters and share some courses your remaining three semesters.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can enroll in fall or spring.

TEACH (Teacher Education Achievement)

- **Who:** If you are interested in a career in Elementary Education and wish to earn a bachelor's degree and teaching credential in four years, then the TEACH program is for you.
- **What:** This unique, groundbreaking program focuses on preparing future classroom teachers.
- **Benefits for you:**
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration each semester. This guarantees you access to the classes you need.
 - You take courses that lead to an associate in arts degree for transfer (AA-T) in Elementary Education and choose from various teaching credential pathways. These include a partnership with California State University, East Bay where you can earn your bachelors degree and a California state teaching credential in four years.
 - You work with dedicated TEACH counselors to create a Student Educational Plan and navigate the four-year college or university transfer process. The program is designed to support your transfer opportunities to the California State Universities, University of California campuses and to private colleges.
 - You participate in special events including a program graduation.
 - You engage in field experience as a volunteer in elementary schools.
 - You finish the requirements you need to apply to a teaching credential program before you transfer to CSU East Bay's four-year degree and credential program. This makes you a top tiered transfer candidate.
 - You engage in a variety of service learning opportunities.
- **How to Participate:**
 - If you have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.3 or higher or take the BCC assessment test and place in English 1A, you are eligible to apply. You must score 70 or above in reading and writing on BCC's placement assessment to apply. If you are not eligible to apply based on your placement in English, you can register for the PERSIST learning community for one semester, then transfer into the TEACH Program
 - You complete an orientation program.
 - Then you take courses full-time (minimum 12 units) with a cohort of your classmates for two semesters. You finish a sequence of courses until you complete the program.
 - Attend homework labs and tutoring sessions as directed.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can enroll in fall or spring.

SMI (Spanish Medical Interpreter Program)

- **Who:** If you are a Spanish/English speaking, bilingual/bicultural student who wants to become linguistically and culturally competent medical interpreters in areas such as health clinics, hospitals, doctor's offices, and other health care facilities, you can enroll in BCC's Spanish Medical Interpreter (S.M.I.) program.
- **What:** This unique program prepares you for a career as a professional Spanish medical interpreter. Internship opportunities in hospitals and clinics will be offered for your field and service learning experience.
- **Benefits for You:**
 - You are part of a learning cohort that provides the support services you need to succeed, including individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and educational planning.
 - You receive early priority registration each semester. This guarantees you access to the classes you need.
 - You work with dedicated counselors to create your Student Educational Plan, which leads to completion of your Spanish Medical Interpreter Certificate of Achievement.
 - Participate in special events including a certificate of achievement program completion ceremony.
 - You gain field and service learning experience with health care industry internships.
- **How to Participate:**
 - Complete an orientation program.
 - Complete required courses for three semesters with a cohort of your classmates.
 - Participate in a fieldwork internship during the second and third semester.
 - Complete program prerequisites: English 1A or higher; Spanish 2A/2B.
 - Demonstrate Spanish and English language proficiency by passing a language assessment interview.
 - Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
 - You can only enroll in the fall semester.