College Degrees & Certificates Organized by Interest Themes

Merritt College | Peralta Community College District

Picking a major becomes easier, if you organize your options into categories, or "Interest Themes"
*(**R**ealistic, **I**nvestigative, **A**rtistic, **S**ocial, **E**nterprising, **C**onventional)*

Each major listed below has been placed under its dominant Interest Theme, but keep in mind each of these majors crosses over into more than one theme. For example, Nursing's primary Interest Theme is *Social* (helping people) but Nursing also has *Investigative* (scientific) and *Realistic* (clinical/hands-on) elements to it, which is why its full 3-letter Interest Theme is SIR – *Social, Realistic, AND Investigative*. You may be interested in Nursing for the *Investigative* (scientific) part of it moreso than the *Social* (helping people) part. That's fine. You be you.

Keep in mind, your own Interest Theme (the 3-letter code you just discovered about yourself) does not have to match up exactly with the codes next to these majors. You are the final judge of what major you want to pursue, but at least now you know WHY you're interested in a particular major.

Since you're part of the Peralta Community College District, you can select majors from 4 different college campuses. We've included them all below, which means you have tons of options. But don't worry, regardless of which school offers your chosen major, you can still take the majority of your classes at Merritt!

BCC = Berkeley City College · COA = College of Alameda · LAN = Laney College · MER = Merritt College
When a college has an asterisk (*) after it, it means that particular college only offers certificates (not degrees) in that major.

R Realistic — "Doers"

Hands-on, physical, mechanical, technical, and outdoor work; prefer working with tools, machines, or nature

- Arboriculture (REC) - *MER*
- Auto Body & Paint (RCI) - *COA*
- Automotive Tech. (RIC) - *COA*
- Aviation Maintenance Tech. (RCI) - *COA*
- Carpentry (RCI) - *LAN*
- Diesel Mechanics (RIC) - *COA*
- Electrical/Electronics Tech. (RCI) - *LAN*
- Engineering (RIE) - *LAN*
- HVAC/Environ. Control Tech. (RCI) - *LAN*
- Fire Tech. (RES) - *MER*
- Landscape Horticulture & Parks (RCE) - *MER*
- Machine Tech. (RCI) - *LAN*
- Nursery Mgt. (RCE) - *MER*
- Welding Tech. (RCI) - *LAN*
- Wood Tech. (RCI) - *LAN*
- Environmental Studies (RCI) - *MER**

I Investigative — "Thinkers"

Analytical, intellectual, scientific inquiry; prefer researching, theorizing, and solving complex problems

- Analytical Chem. (IRC) - *BCC, COA**
- Anthropology (IAR) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Biological Sci. (IRS) - *BCC, COA*
- Bioscience/Biotech. (IRC) - *BCC MER*
- Computer Info. Sys. (ICR) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Computer Sci. (ICR) - *MER*
- Data Analytics/Sci. (ICR) - *BCC, COA*, LAN, MER*
- DevOps (ICR) - *MER*
- Geography (IRE) - *COA, LAN*
- Geology (IRE) - *COA*
- Mathematics (ICR) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Natural Sciences / Sustainability (IRE) - *MER*
- Philosophy (IAS) - *BCC, LAN*
- Physics (IRE) - *BCC, LAN*
- Science (General) (IRE) - *LAN*
- Economics (IEC) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*

A Artistic — "Creators"

Creative, expressive, imaginative; prefer unstructured activities involving art, writing, music, or performance

- Architecture (AIR) - *LAN*
- Cosmetology (AES) - *LAN*
- Landscape Architecture (AIR) - *MER*
- Landscape Design & Construction (ARI) - *MER*
- Animation & Game Design (ARI) - *BCC**
- Apparel Design & Merchandising (AER) - *COA*
- Graphic/Digital Design (ARE) - *LAN*
- Art (AIR) - *BCC, COA, LAN*
- Art History (AIS) - *BCC*
- Commercial Music (ARE) - *LAN*
- Creative Writing (AIE) - *BCC**
- Dance (AER) - *COA, LAN*
- Film Studies (AEI) - *BCC*
- Graphic Arts (ARE) - *LAN*
- Media Comm./Video Prod. (AER) - *LAN*
- Multimedia Arts (ARE) - *BCC*
- Music (AER) - *COA*, LAN*
- Photography (AER) - *LAN*
- Studio Arts (AIR) - *BCC, LAN*
- Theatre Arts (AES) - *LAN*
- Virtual Production (AER) - *BCC*
- Journalism (AEI) - *LAN*
- English (AIS) - *BCC, LAN*
- Humanities (AIS) - *COA, LAN*
- Liberal Arts: Arts/Hum. (AIS) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*

S Social — "Helpers"

Cooperative, empathetic, service-oriented; prefer working with, teaching, or helping people

- Kinesiology (SIR) - *COA*, LAN*
- EMT & Paramedic (SRI) - *MER*
- Dietetic Tech. (SIC) - *MER*
- Nutrition & Dietetics (SIC) - *MER*
- Amer. Sign Language (SAI) - *BCC*
- Chinese (SAI) - *LAN*
- Spanish (SAI) - *LAN*
- African-Amer. Studies (SIA) - *COA, LAN, MER*
- Chicanx/Latinx Studies (SIA) - *COA, LAN*
- Child Dev. (SAE) - *BCC, MER*
- Comms. Studies (SAE) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Comm. Social Svcs./COSER (SEC) - *MER*
- Dental Assisting (SRC) - *COA*
- Education/Teacher Prep (SAE) - *BCC*
- ESOL (SAE) - *BCC*, COA*, LAN**
- Ethnic Studies (SIA) - *LAN*
- Asian-Amer. Studies (SIA) - *LAN*
- Gender Studies (SIA) - *BCC**
- Global Studies (SIE) - *BCC, LAN*
- Health Sciences (SIC) - *MER*
- Liberal Arts: Cross-Cultural (SIA) - *MER*
- Medical Assisting (SCI) – *MER**
- Nursing (SIR) - *MER*
- Psychology (SIA) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Radiologic Science (SRI) - *MER*
- Social & Behav. Sci. (SIA) - *COA, MER*
- Social Sciences (SIA) - *LAN*
- Social Work & Human Svcs. (SEC) - *BCC*
- Sociology (SIA) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Admin. of Justice (SER) - *MER*
- History (SIA) - *BCC, COA, LAN*
- Liberal Arts: Social/Behav. Sci. (SIA) - *BCC, COA*
- Library Info. Studies (SCE) - *COA**

E Enterprising — "Persuaders"

Ambitious, energetic, competitive; prefer leading, managing, selling, and influencing others

- Construction Mgt. (ECR) - *LAN*
- Culinary Arts/Restaurant Mgt. (ERC) - *LAN*
- Banking and Finance (ECS) - *LAN*
- Business Admin. (ECS) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- General Business (ECS) - *BCC*
- Hospitality Mgt. (ECS) - *LAN*
- Law, Public Policy & Society (ESA) - *BCC*
- Mgt. & Superv./Entrepreneurship (ECS) - *BCC*, LAN*
- Marketing & Sales (ECA) - *LAN*
- Political Science (ESI) - *BCC, COA, LAN*
- Real Estate (ECS) - *MER*

C Conventional — "Organizers"

Detail-oriented, systematic, orderly; prefer working with data, records, information, and structured tasks

- Applications Security (CIR) - *MER*
- Infrastructure Security (CIR) - *MER*
- Paralegal Studies (CES) - *MER*
- Accounting (CEI) - *BCC, COA, LAN, MER*
- Business Info. Sys. (CIE) - *LAN*

Holland Code Interest Themes Explained

THEME	NICKNAME	PREFERENCES	TRAITS	EXAMPLE CAREERS
Realistic	*The Doer*	Working with hands, tools, machines, technology, physical things, and nature; being in the field.	Mechanically inclined, practical, straightforward, athletic, dexterous, good physical coordination	Carpenter, Welder, Farmer, Pilot, Computer Repairer, EMT, Fire Fighter, Pro Athlete, Landscaper
Investigative	*The Thinker*	Analyzing, researching, solving abstract problems, coming up with theories, evaluating processes	Curious, analytical, intellectual, inquisitive, full of wonder, skeptical, seeking evidence/proof	Lab Scientist, Physician, Researcher, Economist, Programmer, Data Analyst, Anthropologist, Geologist
Artistic	*The Creator*	Expressing/communicating ideas, appreciating beauty and originality, imagining, creating, and making	Imaginative, intuitive, unconventional, open, self-expressive, lives in present, observant, innovative	Writer, Designer, Inventor, Architect, Actor, Musician, Museum Curator, Stylist, Cosmetologist, Chef
Social	*The Helper*	Supporting, teaching, and training; teambuilding, community development, connecting people	Empathetic, cooperative, collaborative, nurturing, generous, service-oriented, altruistic, good listener	Teacher, Counselor, Nurse, Social Worker, Therapist, Daycare Worker, Activist, Allied Health Worker
Enterprising	*The Persuader*	Leading, influencing others, selling, promoting competing, risk-taking, rallying people to act	Ambitious, energetic, persuasive, goal-oriented, inspiring, eager, driven, excited to share	Lawyer, Entrepreneur, Politician, Sales Associate, Marketer, YouTuber, Promoter, PR Person
Conventional	*The Organizer*	Working with data, systems, numbers, and structure; pursuing accuracy and order, setting up systems	Detail-oriented, orderly, reliable, efficient, rule-follower/maker, rational, process-oriented	Accountant, Librarian, Recordkeeper, Auditor, Safety & Compliance Pro, Cybersecurity Manager