



**Community Social Services/
Substance Abuse (COSER)**

FROM COMMUNITY, FOR COMMUNITY

Turn Your Life Experience into a Career

Our program offers flexible entry, hands-on training, and strong community connections to prepare you for work in social services, substance abuse counseling, and case management. No prior experience or degree is needed—just a commitment to making a difference. **With pathways to employment, further training, and transfer opportunities, COSER provides the support and education you need to create change in your community.**



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - GET A HEAD START WITH DUAL ENROLLMENT!

Talk to a Counselor for more information.

START HERE

Certificate of Achievement (CA)

Community Social Services/ Substance Abuse

49-50 units

Fall

- COSER 21 Psychology/Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse (3-4 units)
- COSER 29 Working with Diverse Populations (3 units)
- COSER 476C Cooperative Education (**Internship**) (3 units)
- COSER 42 Counseling Skills and Substance Abuse (3 units)

Spring

- COSER 16B Communication: Families in Crisis (3 units)
- COSER 20 Group Dynamics: Working with Small Groups (2-3 units)
- COSER 27 Crisis Management for Substance Abuse (3 units)
- COSER 476C Cooperative Education (**Internship**) (3 units)
- KIN 58A Fitness Center Strength Training I—Fundamentals
- KIN 58B Fitness Center Strength Training I—Beginning

Fall

- COSER 10 Community Resources and Social Policy (3 units)
- COSER 26 Case Management for Substance Abuse Paraprofessionals (3 units)
- COSER 28 Dual Diagnosis: Mental Illness and Drug Abuse (3 units)
- COSER 476C Cooperative Education (**Internship**) (3 units)

Spring

- COSER 22 Social Psychology of Substance/Drug Abuse (3 units)
- COSER 25 Maintaining Sobriety and Relapse Prevention (3 units)
- ENGL 1A Composition and Reading (4 units)
- HLTD 1 Exploring Health Issues (3 units)
- KIN 58A Fitness Center Strength Training I—Fundamentals
- KIN 58B Fitness Center Strength Training I—Beginning



Associate in Arts Degree (AA)

Community Social Services/Substance Abuse

62-63 units



START WORKING
IN AN **ENTRY-
LEVEL PARA-
PROFESSIONAL
POSITION**

**TRANSFER TO
A FOUR-YEAR
INSTITUTION
TO CONTINUE
STUDYING**



COSER prepares students for employment in entry-level paraprofessional positions, such as:

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselors
- Case Managers
- Prevention Specialists
- Medication Assisted Treatment Specialists
- Housing Navigators
- Community Workers
- Detox Specialists
- School-Based SUD Counselors
- Drug Court Liaison
- Youth Counselors
- Associate Social Worker
- Harm Reduction Specialists
- Juvenile Hall Counselors
- Mental Health Navigators



No matter where you're starting from, COSER is here to help you take the next step toward your future.



With **flexible start dates**, you can begin anytime — morning or evening, all year round.



There's **no GED required**, and support is built in through tutoring and mentoring with Street Scholars.



Need a laptop? We've got you covered with a **free laptop loan program** and computer training to build your skills.



COSER welcomes all students, including those with criminal records, and offers financial aid that doesn't require taking out loans. We even help with book costs—because your success should never be out of reach.

New to School or Haven't Been in a Long Time? Meet the Street Scholars!

Our peer-mentoring and student support program — designed by, and for formerly incarcerated and system-impacted individuals — provides academic support, advocacy, and mentorship. We foster connection and empowerment, ensuring students are understood and guided through their educational and reentry journeys.

merritt.edu/streetscholars/

Internships That Lead to Careers

We help each student find an internship. Most students start in their second semester, but those already working in the field may qualify earlier. With nearly **80%** of interns receiving job offers, an internship isn't just experience—it's a pathway to your future.



This program has given me the tools to become a substance abuse counselor as well as the opportunity to give back to my community.

COSER alumni



Degrees are awarded upon the satisfactory completion of the major course and General Education requirements.



Certificates can stand alone or stack toward advanced credentials. Arrows show where stacking options or connections exist.



Get Started on Your Future Today

Scan the QR code or visit
www.merritt.edu to apply.



Merritt College puts students first.

For decades, it has stood at the intersection of social justice, community empowerment, and career-focused education—expanding opportunity for underrepresented communities and supporting pathways into meaningful, living-wage careers. Whether you're switching professions, building new skills, or aiming for a promotion, Merritt's Career Education programs help you reach your goals through hands-on training, immersive career exploration, and support tailored to every student—especially working adults.

Our programs prepare students for licensure and certifications with strong pass rates and are aligned with high-demand jobs in the Bay Area and beyond. It's never been easier to complete a certificate, earn an Associate's degree, or prepare to transfer to a CSU or other four-year university. With flexible class times—morning, evening, and online—and services like counseling, the Learning Center, EOPS, and Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Merritt meets you where you are.



Meet with a Counselor early and often!

Whether you're enrolling in classes, exploring career options or navigating personal challenges, Counselors have your back! Counselors are available through scheduled appointments, remote drop-ins, and e-counseling (for specific needs).



Visit merritt.edu/counseling/ to learn more, or contact a dedicated Career Education Counselor at MCCareerEd@peralta.edu