



Health Sciences

WHERE CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE BEGIN



Start Your Healthcare Career with Purpose

Ready to make a difference? Health Sciences is more than a degree—it's your first step toward a meaningful career in the health field. Our program includes flexible curriculum that blends biology, chemistry, nutrition, and math to build a strong understanding of how the human body works. Graduates are hired in entry-level roles such as personal aide, psychiatric technician, patient health navigator, laboratory technician, and healthcare assistant, educator, or administrator. This pathway is an ideal option for students with a non-science Bachelor's Degree looking to transition into healthcare and a solid foundation for advanced study or transfer to a university.

START HERE



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

Talk to a Counselor for more information.

Associate in Science Degree (AS)

Health Sciences

18-26 Major units + 21 General Education units +
13-21 Elective units



REQUIRED COURSES

(SELECT 18-26 UNITS FROM THE COURSES BELOW):

Choose two:

- BIOL 2 Human Anatomy (5 units)
- BIOL 3 Microbiology (5 units)
- BIOL 4 Human Physiology (5 units)
- BIOL 10 Introduction to Biology (4 units)
- BIOL 20A Human Anatomy & Physiology (5 units)
- BIOL 20B Human Anatomy and Physiology (5 units)
- BIOL 24 Basic Human Anatomy and Physiology (4 units)

Choose one:

- CHEM 1A General Chemistry (5 units)
- CHEM 30A Introductory General Chemistry (4 units)

Choose one:

- BIOSC 101 Theory and Practice of Microscopy (6 units)
- HLTED 1 Exploring Health Issues (3 units)
- HLTOC 101 Medical Terminology (3 units)
- NUTR 10 Nutrition 4 (this course is the same as BIOL 31 at College of Alameda and BIOL 28 at Laney College) (4 units)
- PSYC C1000 Introduction to Psychology (3 units)

Choose one:

- BIOSC 105 Introduction to Quantitative Analysis in Bioscience (5 units)
- MATH 1 Pre-Calculus (4 units)
- MATH 3A Calculus I (5 units)
- MATH 15 Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students (3 units)
- MATH 16A Calculus for Business & Life & Social Sciences (4 units)
- MATH 50 Trigonometry (3 units)
- STAT C1000 Introduction to Statistics (4 units)



To Qualify for the Associate's Degree, Students Must Also:

- Complete a minimum of 21 units in local AA/AS General
- Education requirements
Earn at least 12 of the 60 total units at Merritt College
- Have any courses completed outside Peralta Community College District evaluated for degree applicability
- If General Education and Major requirements do not total 60 units, take additional degree-applicable electives to meet the requirements

Build a Rewarding and In-Demand Career in Healthcare!

A strong foundation in health science is critical for roles in public health, case management, and wellness education.



Community Social Services (COSER)

Gain a foundation in human health that's essential for roles in public health, case management, and wellness education.



Emergency Medical Technician

Knowledge of the human body and critical care is essential for successful EMT training.



Genomics (Biosciences)

A Health Sciences degree is an exceptional foundation for a career in genetic research and biotechnology.



Histotechnology (Biosciences)

Hands-on training qualifies you for a career in Clinical Labs and Hospitals to assist with cancer diagnosis and biomedical research.



Medical Assisting

Knowledge of biology and health is essential for roles in wellness education, case management, and public health.



Microscopy (Biosciences)

Acquire cutting-edge, in demand fluorescence microscopy and digital imaging skills to access careers in biotech, biological and biomedical research.



Nursing

The Health Sciences degree satisfies the core science requirements (like anatomy, physiology, and microbiology) for ADN and BSN programs.



Nutrition & Dietetics

The foundational science and nutrition courses covered align with Merritt's dietetics program, including transfer and technician pathways.



Radiologic Sciences

A scientific background is critical for this competitive program, and with a Health Sciences degree, you'll cover key prerequisites.



Healthcare is one of the fastest-growing sectors in California and the U.S. with over 2 million new jobs projected nationwide by 2032—more than any other industry.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Earning my AS in Health Sciences provided a strong foundation in scientific knowledge and played a pivotal role in my career transition. It opened the door to new opportunities and allowed me to secure a position in research development!

A.M., Health Sciences Alumni



Nationally Ranked Career



Healthcare Support Workers are ranked among the **top careers nationwide** for job openings and growth through 2032.

High demand. Fast growth. Real impact.
careeronestop.org



Achieving my AS in Health Sciences has provided the foundational education I needed to gain employment in the healthcare and biotech industry. It helped me develop critical skills to succeed in various roles throughout my career.

A.J., Health Sciences Alumni



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