



Merritt College

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Merritt College In-Person Celebration Congratulations!

Celebrating Our Diverse & Inclusive Merritt College Community



We change lives.



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Join the Celebration!!

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Paramount Theatre

2025 Broadway,

Oakland, CA 94612



*The ceremony will be recorded,
not live-streamed*





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Graduate Arrival

Meeting Place: 21st Street (side of theater)

Street will be blocked off

Check-In: 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

ALL GRADUATES MUST ARRIVE BY 4:30 PM





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Graduate Attire

- ❖ All graduates must wear a cap and gown. This is your ticket into the theatre.
- ❖ This year, **Merritt College Basic Needs Center** has purchased caps and gowns for all graduates. The Bookstore will distribute caps and gowns at the grad fair on May 7, 2026, at 5 PM, Student Activities/Cafeteria.





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Programs

- ❖ All graduates will receive a Commencement Program.
- ❖ Graduate programs will be in your seat, inside the theatre.
- ❖ The list of graduate names has been sent to the printer. We've done our best to include everyone's name, based on the information we were provided.
- ❖ Students who are graduating in Summer 2026, your name will not be included in the program until you finish your degree or certificate.
- ❖ If you petitioned late, regardless of the reason, your name may not be in the program.





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Graduate Check-In Station

- ❖ Check in by last name (A-L, M-Z)
- ❖ Graduates will receive a card to write their name and the degree or certificate that will be announced when you walk across stage (only 1 degree or certificate will be called)
- ❖ Water and snacks will be available
- ❖ Bathrooms are available inside theater





Lining Up Graduates

- ❖ Line will be assembled at **4:30 PM**
- ❖ Lines of 2 will be formed
- ❖ If you would like to sit with friends, make sure your friend is in the front or the back of you in line
- ❖ If you are unable to stand for 2 hours in heels, bring flats to change into.
- ❖ Please do not bring any big bags; small wallets/purses are recommended.





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Processional

- ❖ Be prompt. Don't be Late!
- ❖ The ceremony begins @ **5:30 PM.**
- ❖ Graduates will be led by ushers





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Walking the Stage

- Name Card: Provide to name readers
- Stage: Shake Hands/Receive Diploma
Cover
- Photo: Before Stage Exit

**RETURN TO SEAT UNTIL THE LAST GRADUATE
IS CALLED!!**

ALL GRADUATES WILL PROCESS OUT TOGETHER





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Commencement Photographer

Grad Images

www.gradimages.com

Contact Card will be @ Graduation

Will be contacted by email
regarding photos





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Theatre Rules

- ❖ No smoking or vaping are permitted anywhere in the Theatre.
- ❖ All bags subject to search upon entry
- ❖ NO feet on seats; NO standing on the chairs or on the arm rests
- ❖ Fire Code regulations state that aisles must remain clear at all times.
- ❖ Photographs may be taken from the seating area and outside after the ceremony.





District and College Expectations

- ❖ This is an off-campus event, sponsored by Peralta Community College District and Merritt College.
- ❖ Graduates are expected to abide by [BP 5500](#) (Student Code of Conduct) and [BP 7380](#) (Ethic, Civility, and Mutual Respect).
- ❖ Visitors and Guests are expected to abide by AP 7380.
- ❖ Failure to adhere to the Theatre rules and District/College expectations will result in immediate removal from the premises and ceremony.



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Prohibited Items

- ❖ Flower bouquets, balloons & signs
- ❖ Flower leis are allowed (available for sale near entrance)
- ❖ Food or drinks
- ❖ Bags larger than 18" x 12" x 12"
- ❖ Laser pens, selfie-sticks, Go-Pros, masks, sealed or wrapped packages, tripods, glitter, silly string, confetti, streamers, banners, or flags and noisemakers such as but not limited to air horns, whistles, cow bells





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Guest Information

- ❖ Doors open at **4:30 PM**
- ❖ Enter through Broadway entrance
- ❖ All guests will go through security screening when they enter
- ❖ Must have a ticket to enter (babies also require a ticket)
- ❖ No assigned seating
- ❖ **DO NOT RUN UP TO THE STAGE**





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Guest Information

- ❖ Graduation is a time for family and friends to celebrate. Active cheering and enthusiasm are encouraged, and
- ❖ Individual conduct or behavior cannot be unreasonable to offend others or be unreasonably abusive to Paramount Theatre staff and volunteers.
- ❖ Guests using foul language or exhibiting unreasonable behavior are subject to eviction.
- ❖ The Paramount Theatre staff reserves the right to evict guests whose behavior seriously affects the ability of others to enjoy the graduation ceremony





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Accessibility Services

Guests with disabilities may be dropped off at the front doors on Broadway and may wait inside the outer lobby area before the doors open.

There is no elevator in the Paramount Theatre. The Theatre does not provide wheelchairs.

The Theatre strives to provide an accessible venue for all guests, designated seating for guests with limited mobility and/or using a wheelchair is provided on the main level of the auditorium, on a first-come, first-served basis. One guest may accompany them in the designated seating area.

Please notify Frances Moy (fmoy@peralta.edu) if you or your guest require accommodations as soon as possible. A list of guest names who may require mobility assistance will be provided to the Paramount Theatre.

Wheelchairs that will not be used in the theatre can be checked in at will call.





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Parking Information

Public Transportation:

Please encourage family and friends to take public transportation. The 19th Street BART Station is less than 100 feet away from the Theatre's front doors on Broadway.

Parking:

Street parking is limited. The closest parking garage to the Paramount Theatre is the Telegraph Plaza Garage located at the corner of Telegraph and 21st Street. The entrance to the garage is on Telegraph Avenue. Payment is required. Please plan to arrive early.





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Tickets & Will Call

Tickets

- ❖ Any extra tickets will be available at will call
- ❖ If you do not plan to use all your tickets, please return them to will call for others to use
- ❖ Graduates can leave tickets at will call for guests to pick up
- ❖ If you would like to designate another person to pick up tickets, please send email with person's name to mc-studentactivities@peralta.edu

Will Call

- ❖ Will call will be located near the Broadway entrance
- ❖ Strollers can be checked in at will call





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COVID-19 Protocols

- ❖ In line with current mandates, we no longer require masks, proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID test to enter the Paramount Theatre. However, we strongly encourage you to get vaccinated and boosted to keep our community healthy and thriving.
- ❖ Masks are strongly recommended for all events. It is recommended that whenever possible, everyone wear a non-vented respirator, such as an N95, KN95, or KF94 respirator, or a well-fitting surgical mask with a cloth mask over it.



CONGRATULATIONS
Class of 2026!!!

