

Peralta FAQ Development Planning

At the November 2025 meeting, the Unification Taskforce discussed developing a FAQ to address community concerns about Peralta transformation planning. They agreed to create separate FAQs for students, employees, and community partners, focusing on key questions like class availability, job security, and student services.

While some answers are not yet available, they can still provide reassurance that students will be able to complete their degrees and no campuses are closing. The group decided to collect more questions from their respective constituency groups before the next meeting, with a focus on categorizing them by topic. They also discussed using multiple communication channels, including email, Canvas, and direct teacher announcements, to reach different audiences effectively.

Student FAQ

Will my campus remain open?

- Yes, all campuses will remain open. The proposal is to bring Merritt College and Laney College together to operate as one unified college – Oakland City College. This means a more streamlined student experience—while continuing to serve students across multiple locations (Laney campus and Merritt campus). Along with Berkeley City College and College of Alameda, Oakland City College will make up a three-college district.

Will my college continue to offer the same courses and programs?

- Courses and programs (or disciplines) are different. Some programs (or disciplines) may be consolidated but the disciplines will still be offering courses. Not all courses may be offered at all the campuses, but will be available within the district.
- The goal of this transformation is to expand access to the classes students need most, whether that's for transfer, career education, or degree completion. Recommendations from the Student Success & Equity Management Council (SSEMCC) and other task forces will guide future scheduling.

What's the accreditation status?

- All of our colleges are fully accredited, which means your classes, credits, and degrees are recognized and meet statewide and national quality standards. Accreditation is important because it allows you to receive financial aid, transfer credits, and earn degrees that employers and universities trust.
- As we move forward, we are working closely with **ACCJC** (the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges) to ensure a smooth transition. ACCJC has been supportive, and there is no interruption to your education, financial aid, or academic progress.

Will my degree, certificate, or transcript change?

- No. Your degree, certificate, and transcript will remain valid and fully recognized.
- If Merritt College and Laney College move forward as Oakland City College, your academic record will continue to reflect the coursework you completed, and your credentials will carry the same value for employment, licensing, and transfer. There will be no impact on credits you've already earned or progress you've made toward your program.
- If any future updates are needed—such as a college name appearing differently on transcripts—they will be handled automatically and clearly communicated. Our goal is to make this transition seamless so you can stay focused on completing your educational goals.

What college will be listed on my degree or certificate?

- It depends on the program you are in, the site where you attended, and the date when you petitioned to graduate.

Will this impact my financial aid?

- No. Your financial aid eligibility, awards, and disbursement process will continue as usual. If any administrative updates are needed, students will be notified in advance with clear instructions.

Should I find another college?

- Absolutely not! We are rebuilding our class offerings and support services to provide students with an even better educational experience.

Are we going to cut classes?

- The goal here is to grow classes in the areas students need, whether that's for transfer to university or career ed classes for a job

Will I be able to finish my degree?

- Yes! We do not expect to eliminate degree programs, but the college(s) offering the degrees might change
- Students will have catalog rights, so if you have begun a degree program, you will be able to finish it. Counselors will be able to advise you.

What is the Oakland City College mascot? What are the school colors?

- The Unification Taskforce will map the process for deciding in Spring 2026. We welcome suggestions! Some potential sources of input are district wide surveys as well as potential student class projects in graphic arts and art classes.

Employee FAQ

Will I lose my job?

- Job losses are not anticipated, though some administrative roles may change as structures are aligned. The goal of the transformation is to strengthen the colleges and create opportunities for growth that better serve students.
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Will there be offices for student services at every college or campus?

- Yes, there will be student services available at each campus but we don't know yet the full scope of those services; and it depends on recommendations by the SSEMC and other taskforces.
- Student services will continue—and in many cases improve—through shared staffing and expertise and more consistent processes. The location of each service for Oakland

City College is still in discussion. In the meantime, students should still use the same offices and systems unless notified otherwise.

How do we protect the legacy of Laney and Merritt?

- The campuses will retain the names, e.g. Oakland City College Laney Campus or Oakland City College Merritt Campus

Will any buildings be closed?

- At this stage, no decisions have been made about building closures. The District is just beginning work on a new Facilities Master Plan, which will be informed by the Transformation Plan and each college's Educational Master Plan.
- The Facilities Master Plan will be developed over time and will include multiple opportunities for employee and community input. It is expected to be finalized around December 2026. Any future decisions will be guided by program needs, enrollment trends, and feedback from those who work and learn in our spaces, and will be communicated well in advance.

How would a “merger” impact the student experience?

- It is important to remember that this is a transformation process - not just a merger but also transforming the four competing colleges into three cooperative colleges. There are six different areas being worked on, not just the merger of Laney and Merritt. We don't
- The focus is on creating a more seamless, equitable, and student-centered experience, including clearer pathways, better access to classes, and more coordinated services. So while we don't yet know precisely what the impact may be, our goal is to make the student experience better.

How do you staff evening & weekend colleges?

- Prior to the pandemic, there were more evening and weekend courses offered than are currently offered, and it is one of the areas that we are looking to expand class offerings. So the first place to look is at how the colleges were staffed previously and how we can improve on what was historically done.

Is food service available?

- We don't know yet and it is part of the developing process for this transformation.

Community FAQ

How many colleges are in the Peralta Community College District?

- Beginning in Fall 2027, there will be three colleges: College of Alameda, Berkeley City College, and Oakland City College.