Find a Career as an Urban Arborist

If you like spending time outdoors, think about these benefits, too . . .

- Good pay (entry level $22/hr. & benefits)
- Physically exhilarating work
- Steady Employment
- Teamwork
- Skills you can take anywhere
- Opportunity to start your own company

Enroll now in this new program at Merritt College and learn skills that will launch you straight into an in-demand career.

What does an arborist do?
An arborist is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining trees. They are trained and equipped to provide proper care for trees and shrubs of all sizes.

Is there a demand for arborists?
Yes! Merritt’s program was developed with the advisory input of tree care industry employers from across the Bay Area, and they plan to hire hundreds of new tree care staff in the near future. They are even eager to hire students before they’ve graduated so you can earn while you learn!

What degree and certificate programs are offered?

**Associate of Science in Arboriculture**
This is a two-year program that will cover horticulture, tree identification, tree climbing and aerial work, pruning and tree health care, landscape business practices, crew leadership, and more—as well as general education courses.
**Cost:** approx. $3,000

**Tree Care Specialist Certificate**
This one-year certificate program is similar to the first year of the A.S. in Arboriculture—but without the general education requirements.
**Cost:** approx. $2,000

**Tree Climber Specialist Certificate**
This two-year program is similar to the two-year A.S. degree program—but without the general education.
**Cost:** approx. $2,400

Where can I get help with costs?

**Federal Funding**
Financial Aid is available to any Urban Arboriculture student who is eligible. Check with Merritt College’s Financial Aid Office.

**Merritt College Scholarships**
Merritt College offers students small scholarships and internships (typically $500). Contact the Landscape Horticulture Department to get more information.

**Tree Care Employer Support**
For working students, some employers will reimburse employees for completed college work to assist with tuition costs.

I’m interested! How do I get started?
If you would like to find out more or enroll in the program, contact the Landscape Horticulture Department at (510) 436-2418, or email Department Co-Chair Laura Forlin, lforlin@peralta.edu.
Degree & Certificate Programs

Associate of Science Degree
Arboriculture

Term 1 - Fall
LANHT 1 Intro to Horticulture F&S 3
LANHT 13 Arboriculture Fall 3
LANHT 23 Plant Terminology F&S 2.5
LANHT 26 Pruning Intro F&S 0.5
LANHT 81 Equipment Fundamentals Fall 2
LANHT 85 Intro to Climbing & Aerial Work Fall 2
G.E. General Education F&S 3
Term Total 16

Term 2 - Spring
LANHT 2 Tree ID Spring 3
LANHT 80 Urban & Community Forestry Spring 2
LANHT 82 Tree Health Care Spring 2
LANHT 84 Pruning for Urban and Community Forestry Spring 1
LANHT 86 Applied Aerial Tree Work Spring 2
G.E. General Education F&S 6
Term Total 16

Term 3 - Fall
LANHT 11 Plant Diseases Fall 3
LANHT 16 Soil Management Fall 3
LANHT 83 Large Equipment Operations Fall 3
LANHT 206 Landscape Business Practice Fall 3
G.E. General Education F&S 3
Term Total 15

Term 4 - Spring
LANHT 10 Insects Spring 3
LANHT 87 Adv. Aerial Tree Work Spring 2
LANHT 88 Crew Leadership in Arboriculture Spring 1
G.E. General Education F&S 9
Term Total 15

Certificate #1 - Tree Care Specialist
(Intermediate) Completion in one year.
LANHT 1 Intro to Horticulture 3
LANHT 2 Tree ID 3
LANHT 13 Arboriculture 3
LANHT 23 Plant Terminology 2.5
LANHT 26 Pruning 0.5
LANHT 80 Urban & Community Forestry 2
LANHT 81 Arborist Equipment Fundamentals 2
LANHT 82 Tree Health Care 2
LANHT 84 Pruning for Urban & Community Forestry 1
LANHT 85 Intro to Climbing & Aerial Work 2
Total 21

Certificate #2 - Tree Climber Specialist
(Intermediate)
This Certificate of Achievement takes two years to complete and includes the 41 units of the Landscape Horticulture core courses required for the Associate of Science Degree. To advance to the degree, students would need to complete the required general education units.

Thanks to our partners and supporters!

- A Plus Trees
- Arborwell
- California ReLeaf
- The Davey Tree Expert Company
- Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)
- USFS

Urban Arboriculture Program
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www.merritt.edu/wp/lanht

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