

Medical Assistants

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

February 2019

Summary

According to available labor market information, there is a large demand for *Medical Assistants* in San Diego County. *Medical Assistants* has a labor market demand of 1,292 annual job openings. The average demand for an occupation in San Diego County is 276 annual job openings. This occupation's median wages are higher than the Self-Sufficiency Standard, suggesting that students who successfully complete a program and obtain employment in a related field may earn living wages. There appears to be an oversupply of labor for this occupation; community colleges supply 96 awards and non-community colleges supply 1,258 awards for this occupation, for a total of 1,354 annual average awards.

The following list summarizes findings from the labor market analysis for *Medical Assistants*:

- Between 2018 and 2023, *Medical Assistants* are projected to increase by 1,505 jobs or 17 percent.
- Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 1,292 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition such as retirement or turnover.
- Between 2010 and 2018, there was an average of 745 online job postings per year for *Medical Assistants*.
- *Medical Assistants* earn median hourly earnings of \$17.41; this is more than the Self-Sufficiency Standard for a single adult in San Diego County, which is \$15.99 per hour.
- There are four Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) codes and eight Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes related to *Medical Assistants*.
- According to TOP data, four community colleges supply the region with awards for this occupation: MiraCosta College, Palomar College, San Diego Mesa College, and Southwestern College. According to CIP data, 10 non-community colleges supply the region with awards.
- Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply suggests that there is an oversupply for this occupation in San Diego County, with 1,292 annual openings and 1,354 awards. Comparatively, there are 13,111 annual openings in California and 15,244 completions.

- Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018, the top five employers in San Diego County for this occupation were Scripps Health, Graybill Medical Group, University of California San Diego, Banfield Pet Hospital, and Sutter Health.
- The typical entry-level education is a post-secondary non-degree award.

Introduction

This report provides labor market information in San Diego County for the following occupational code in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)¹ system:

Medical Assistants (SOC 31-9092): Perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding information for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician. Sample reported job titles include:

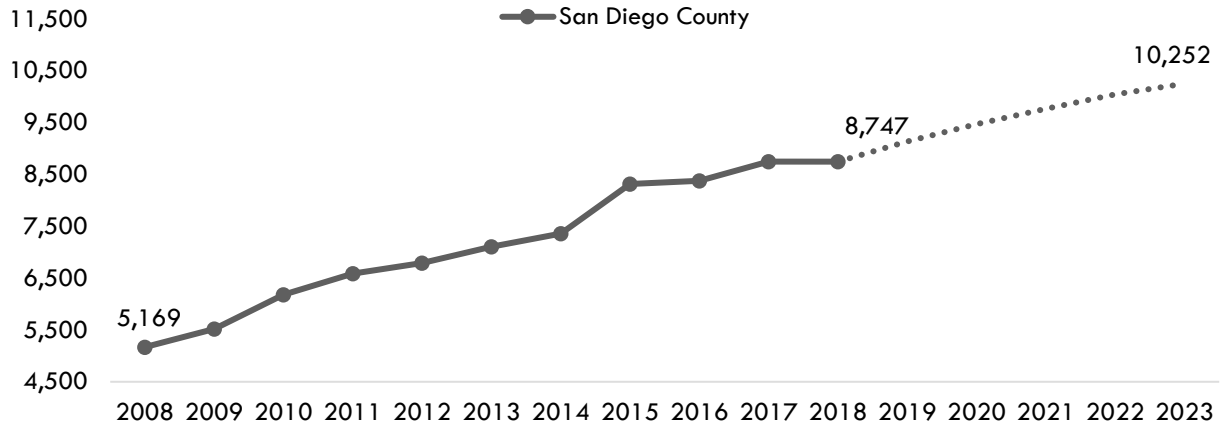
- Chiropractor Assistant
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Medical Office Assistant
- Registered Medical Assistant
- Optometric Assistant
- Ophthalmic Technician
- Doctor's Assistant
- Clinical Assistant

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2018 and 2023, *Medical Assistants* are projected to increase by 1,505 jobs or 17 percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 1,292 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition such as retirement or turnover.

¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. [bls.gov/soc](https://www.bls.gov/soc).

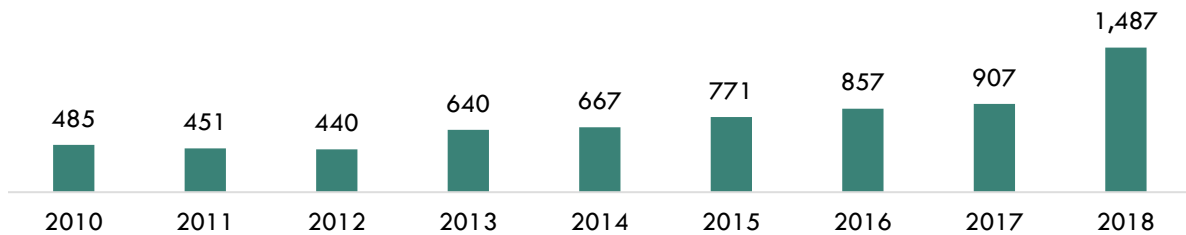
Exhibit 1: Number of Jobs for *Medical Assistants* (2008-2023)²



Online Job Postings

Between 2010 and 2018, there was an average of 745 online job postings per year for *Medical Assistants* (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: Number of Online Job Postings for *Medical Assistants* in San Diego County (2010-2018)³



Earnings

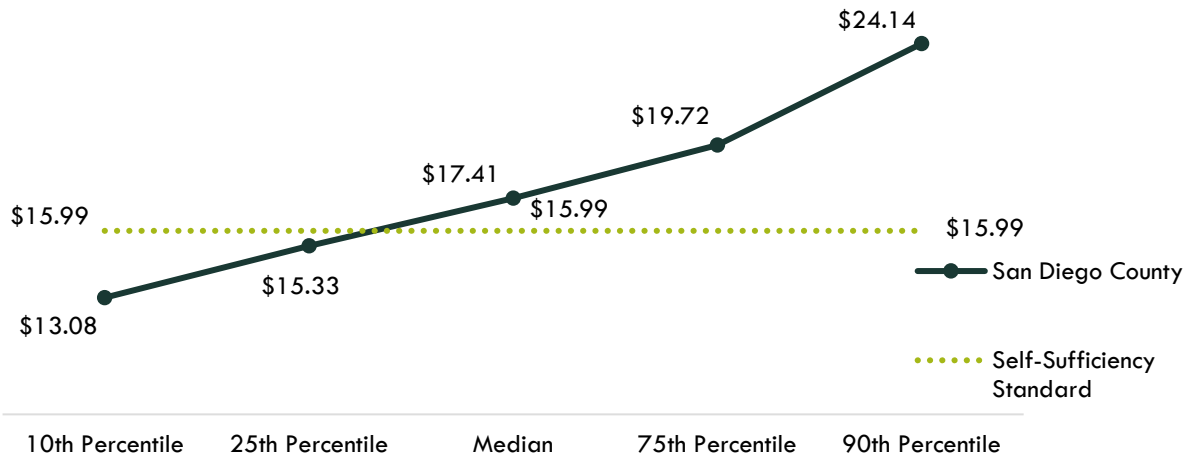
Medical Assistants earn median hourly earnings of \$17.41; this is more than the Self-Sufficiency Standard for a single adult in San Diego County, which is \$15.99 per hour (Exhibit 3).⁴

² Economic Modeling Specialists, Int'l. (EMSI). San Diego (6073). 2019.01 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2008-2023.

³ Labor Insight Jobs. Burning Glass Technologies. San Diego, CA. Full years 2010-2018.

⁴ The self-sufficiency wage in San Diego for one adult is \$15.99 (insightcced.org/2018-self-sufficiency-standard).

Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings for Medical Assistants in San Diego County⁵



Educational Supply

Educational supply for an occupation can be estimated by analyzing the number of awards in related Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) or Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.⁶ There are **four** TOP codes and **eight** CIP codes related to *Medical Assistants* (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Related TOP and CIP Codes in San Diego County

SOC 31-9092: Medical Assistants

TOP 051420: Medical Office Technology

TOP 120800: Medical Assisting

TOP 120810: Clinical Medical Assisting

TOP 120820: Administrative Medical Assisting

CIP 51.0705: Medical Office Management/Administration

CIP 51.0706: Health Information/Medical Records Administration/Administrator

CIP 51.0710: Medical Office Assistant/Specialist

CIP 51.0712: Medical Reception/Receptionist

CIP 51.0714: Medical Insurance Specialist/Medical Biller

⁵ EMSI. San Diego (6073). 2019.01 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2018-2023.

⁶ TOP data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart (datamart.cccco.edu) and CIP data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data).

SOC 31-9092: Medical Assistants

CIP 51.0716: Medical Administrative/Executive Assistant and Medical Secretary

CIP 51.0801: Medical/Clinical Assistant

CIP 51.0802: Clinical/Medical Laboratory Assistant

According to TOP data, **four** community colleges supply the region with awards for this occupation: **MiraCosta College, Palomar College, San Diego Mesa College, and Southwestern College**. According to CIP data, **10** non-community colleges supply the region with awards (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions (Program Year 2013-14 through PY2016-17 Average)

TOP6 or CIP	TOP6 or CIP Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY14-15 to PY16-17)	Other Educational Institutions 3-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY13-14 to PY15-16)	3-Yr Total Average Supply (PY13-14 to PY16-17)
051420	Medical Office Technology	13	0	13
	• Palomar	13	0	
120800	Medical Assisting	23	0	23
	• San Diego Mesa	23	0	
120810	Medical Assisting	5	0	5
	• Palomar	0	0	
	• Southwestern	5	0	
120820	Administrative Medical Assisting	55	0	55
	• MiraCosta	43	0	
	• Palomar	1	0	
	• Southwestern	11	0	
51.0710	Medical Office Assistant/Specialist	0	1	1
	• United Education Institute-UEI College San Marcos	0	1	
51.0716	Medical Administrative/Executive Assistant and Medical Secretary	0	50	50
	• Pima Medical Institute-Chula Vista	0	50	

51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	0	1,207	1,207
	• Advanced Training Associates	0	62	
	• Brightwood College-Chula Vista	0	147	
	• Brightwood College-San Diego	0	140	
	• Brightwood College-Vista	0	240	
	• California College San Diego	0	148	
	• CET-San Diego	0	26	
	• Concorde Career College-San Diego	0	181	
	• Pima Medical Institute-Chula Vista	0	173	
	• United Education Institute-Chula Vista	0	54	
	• United Education Institute-UEI College San Marcos	0	36	
			Total	1,354

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply⁷ suggests that there is an **oversupply** for this occupation in San Diego County, with **1,292** annual openings and **1,354** awards. Comparatively, there are **13,111** annual openings in California and **15,244** completions⁸ (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared to Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

Community Colleges and Other Postsecondary Educational Institutions	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
San Diego	1,292	1,354	62
California	13,111	15,244	2,133

⁷ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

⁸ EMSI. California (6). San Diego (6073). 2019.01 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2018-2023.

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. This data should be used to discuss the potential gaps or oversupply of workers; however, it should not be the only basis for determining whether or not a program should be developed. Additionally, the data does not include workers who are currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data.

Student Outcomes

Based on the information available in the CTE LaunchBoard, students who took courses in the related TOP codes exhibited the following outcomes (Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 7: Strong Workforce Program Metrics for TOP 120800: Medical Assisting in San Diego-Imperial Region vs. California (PY2015-16)

Metric	San Diego-Imperial	California
Number of course enrollments ⁹	1,575	15,089
Completed 12+ CTE units in one year ¹⁰	95	1,506
Completed 48+ CTE contact hours in one year ¹¹	0	259
Number of students who got a degree or certificate ¹²	58	963
Number of students who transferred ¹³	82	412
Employed in the second fiscal quarter after exit ¹⁴	68%	74%
Employed in the fourth fiscal quarter after exit ¹⁵	67%	73%
Job closely related to field of study ¹⁶	N/A	N/A
Median earnings in the second fiscal quarter after exit ¹⁷	\$6,952	\$7,124
Median change in earnings ¹⁸	67%	75%
Attained a living wage ¹⁹	59%	44%

⁹ The number of enrollments in courses assigned to the TOP code in the selected year.

¹⁰ The number of students who completed 12 or more credit CTE units.

¹¹ The number of students who completed 48 or more noncredit CTE instructional contact hours.

¹² The number of unduplicated students who earned a locally-issued certificate, Chancellor's Office approved certificate, associate degree, and/or California Community Colleges bachelor's degree in the selected TOP code.

¹³ Students who took non-introductory courses or completed a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office award in the selected TOP code in selected year who subsequently enrolled for the first time in a four-year institution the following year.

¹⁴ Among all exiters with a valid SSN, the percentage who were employed two quarters after exiting California Community Colleges.

¹⁵ Among exiting students with a valid SSN, the percentage who were employed four quarters after exiting California Community Colleges.

¹⁶ Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

¹⁷ Among exiting students, the median second-quarter earnings one year after the year in which they exited California Community Colleges.

¹⁸ Among exiting students with a valid SSN, the percentage change in earnings one year before and one year after exiting California Community Colleges.

¹⁹ Among completers and skills builders who exited, the proportion of students who attained a living wage.

Top Employers and Work Locations

Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018, the top five employers in San Diego County for this occupation were [Scripps Health](#), [Graybill Medical Group](#), [University Of California San Diego](#), [Banfield Pet Hospital](#), and [Sutter Health](#) (Exhibit 8).

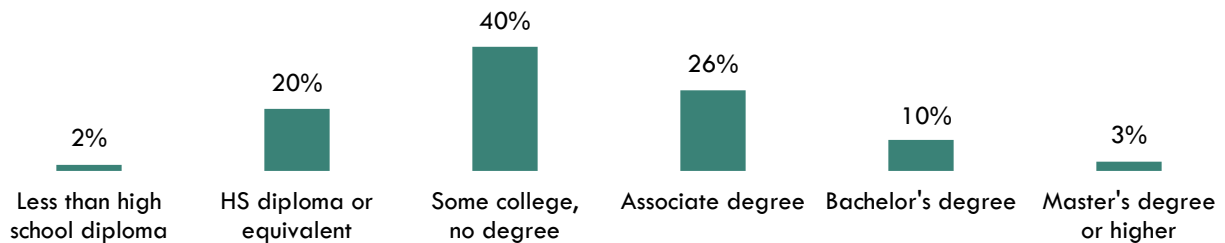
Exhibit 8: Top Employers in San Diego County for *Medical Assistants*²⁰

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripps Health • Graybill Medical Group • University Of California San Diego • Banfield Pet Hospital • Sutter Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Healthcare • Providence Health & Services • Sharp Healthcare • Kaiser Permanente • UnitedHealth Group

Skills, Education, and Certifications

Exhibit 9 indicates the educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the national labor force. There is no typical on-the-job training for this profession. The typical entry-level education is a [post-secondary non-degree award](#).²¹

Exhibit 9: National Educational Attainment of *Medical Assistants*²²



*May not add to 100% due to rounding

Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft and software skills that appeared in online job postings for this occupation between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018.

²⁰ Labor Insight Jobs. Burning Glass Technologies. San Diego, CA. Full years 2016-2018.

²¹ EMSI. San Diego (6073). 2019.01 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2018-2023.

²² Bureau of Labor Statistics, Educational attainment for workers 25 years and older by detailed occupation. bls.gov/emp/ep_table_111.htm.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for Medical Assistants in San Diego County²³

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Care • Scheduling • Appointment Setting • Patient Preparation • Medical Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Skills • Organizational Skills • English • Spanish • Typing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel • Microsoft Word • Microsoft Access • Microsoft PowerPoint • Word Processing

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Important Disclaimers

All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. This study examines the most recent data available at the time of the analysis; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the report findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.

²³ Labor Insight Jobs. Burning Glass Technologies. San Diego, CA. Full years 2016-2018.