

Labor Market Assessment: 1239.00 – Psychiatric Technician

Psychiatric Technician (Certificate)

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, February 2022

Summary

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/>
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide Los Angeles/Orange County regional labor market supply and demand data related to two middle-skill occupations:

- *Psychiatric technicians (29-2053); and*
- *Psychiatric aides (31-1133)*

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.¹ This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for *psychiatric technicians* and *psychiatric aides* in the region. Although the entry-level wages for the two occupations are below the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the majority of annual openings for the occupations in this report typically require a postsecondary non-degree award. **Due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.**

Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **355 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 136 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.

¹ The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

- **Living Wage Criteria** – In Los Angeles County, both occupations have entry-level wages **below** the self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$18.10/hour).²
- **Educational Criteria** – Within the LA/OC region, **72% of the annual openings** for the occupations of interest **typically require a postsecondary non-degree award**.
 - National-level educational attainment data indicates that **between 42% and 47% of incumbent workers have completed some college or an associate degree**.

Supply:

- Between 2017 and 2020, **two community colleges** in the LA/OC region issued awards in psychiatric technician programs, conferring an average of **118 awards**.
- Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of **18 awards in relevant programs**.

² Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *psychiatric technicians and psychiatric aides*. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 8% through 2025. There will be more than 350 job openings per year through 2025 due to job growth and replacements.

This report includes employment projection data by Emsi which uses EDD information. Emsi's projections are modeled on recorded (historical) employment figures and incorporate several underlying assumptions, including the assumption that the economy, during the projection period, will be at approximately full employment. To the extent that a recession or labor shock, such as the economic effects of COVID-19, can cause long-term structural change, it may impact the projections. At this time, it is not possible to quantify the full impact of COVID-19 on projections of industry and occupational employment. Therefore, the projections included in this report do not take the full impacts of COVID-19 into account.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties³

Geography	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	2,759	3,012	253	9%	281
Orange	824	863	39	5%	74
Total	3,583	3,875	292	8%	355

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the hourly wages for *psychiatric technicians and psychiatric aides* in Los Angeles County, as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Los Angeles County — Both occupations have entry-level wages **below** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$14.72 and \$17.37. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$18.29 and \$30.01, which are above the self-sufficiency standard wage.

Orange County — Both occupations have entry-level wages **below** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$14.02 and \$16.64. Experienced *psychiatric technicians* can expect to earn \$28.75/hour, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage, while experienced *psychiatric aides* can expect to earn below the county's self-sufficiency standard wage (\$17.40/hour).

³ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Job Postings

Over the past 12 months, there have been 1,204 online job postings related to the two occupations of interest. Exhibit 2 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (89%) were for *psychiatric technicians*. The highest number of job postings were for behavioral health technicians, mental health technicians, mental health workers, psychiatric technicians, and behavioral technicians. The top skills were behavioral health, mental health, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), treatment planning, and crisis intervention. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were Telecare Corporation, Learn It Systems, and University of California.

It is important to note that the job postings data included in this section reflects online job postings listed in the past 12 months and does not yet demonstrate the full impact of COVID-19. While employers have generally posted fewer online job postings since the beginning of the pandemic, the long-term effects are currently unknown.

Exhibit 2: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months)



Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

- **Postsecondary non-degree award:** *psychiatric technicians*
- **High school diploma or equivalent:** *psychiatric aides*

In the LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (72%) typically require a postsecondary non-degree award. National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 42% and 47% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply — Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Psychiatric Technician (TOP 1239.00). The only two colleges with completions in the past three years were Cypress and Mt. San Antonio.

Exhibit 3: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2017-2020

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
1239.00	Psychiatric Technician	Mt San Antonio	22	111	34	56
		LA Subtotal	22	111	34	56
		Cypress	57	74	56	62
		OC Subtotal	57	74	56	62
Supply Total/Average			79	185	90	118

Non-Community College Supply — For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that may provide training programs for *psychiatric technicians and psychiatric aides*. Exhibit 4 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in psychiatric/mental health services technician programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2016 to 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 18 awards.

Exhibit 4: Regional non-community college awards, 2016-2019

CIP Code	Program	Institution	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	3-Year Average
51.1502	Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician	Hacienda La Puente Adult Education	9	8	6	8
		InterCoast Colleges-Santa Ana	6	11	14	10
Supply Total/Average			15	19	20	18

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)	2,244	2,423	179	8%	199	\$17.37	\$21.27	\$30.01
Psychiatric Aides (31-1133)	515	589	74	14%	82	\$14.72	\$16.18	\$18.29
Total	2,759	3,012	253	9%	281	-	-	-

Exhibit 6. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)	680	713	33	5%	55	\$16.64	\$20.38	\$28.75
Psychiatric Aides (31-1133)	144	150	6	4%	19	\$14.02	\$15.41	\$17.40
Total	824	863	39	5%	74	-	-	-

Exhibit 7. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)	2,925	3,136	211	7%	254	Postsecondary non-degree award
Psychiatric Aides (31-1133)	659	739	80	12%	101	HS diploma or equivalent
Total	3,583	3,875	292	8%	355	-

Appendix B: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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