










Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations

Labor Market Analysis: Imperial County

April 2022

Summary

NEW PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION?	EVIDENCE OF A SUPPLY GAP?	AT OR ABOVE THE LIVING WAGE?	EXPECTED EDUCATION FOR MAJORITY OF OCCUPATIONS ANALYZED
 <p>Proceed with New Program</p>	 	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Some College or Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> HS Diploma or Equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Less than a HS Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATION?	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING	NUMBER OF ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS	
 	<p style="text-align: center;">LOW</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">MEDIUM</p> 	

This brief provides labor market information about *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* to assist the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges with program development and strategic planning. *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* include “Physical Therapist Aides” and “Physical Therapist Assistants.” According to available labor market information, *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County have a labor market demand of six annual job openings (while average demand for a single occupation in Imperial County is 12 annual job openings), and no institutions supply awards for these occupations, suggesting that there is a supply gap in the labor market. Entry-level and median wages are above the living wage for “Physical Therapist Aides,” but there was insufficient data on wages for “Physical Therapist Assistants.” This brief recommends proceeding with developing a new program and supports a program modification because 1) there is a supply gap in the region; and 2) entry-level and median wages are above the living wage .

Introduction

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

- **Physical Therapist Aides** (SOC 31-2022): Under close supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, perform only delegated, selected, or routine tasks in specific situations. These duties include preparing the patient and the treatment area.
- **Physical Therapist Assistants** (SOC 31-2021): Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training.

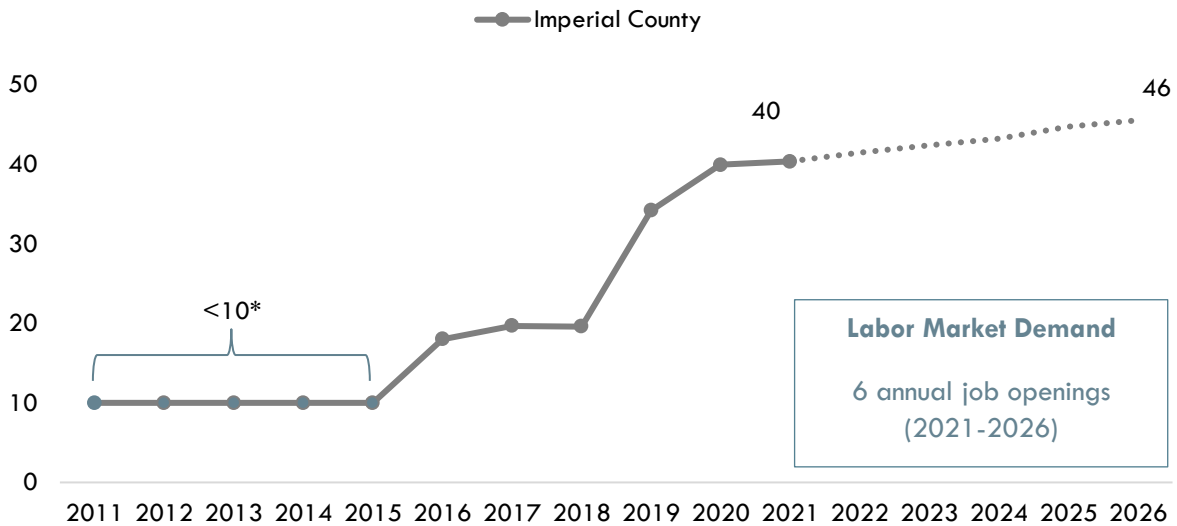
For the purpose of this report, these occupations are referred to as *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations*.

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).

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2021 and 2026, *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* are projected to increase by *six* net jobs or *15* percent (Exhibit 1a). Employers in Imperial County will need to hire *six* workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition caused by turnover and retirement, for example.

Exhibit 1a: Number of Jobs for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* (2011-2026)²



*exact data unavailable

Exhibit 1b disaggregates the projected number of jobs change by occupation. “Physical Therapist Aides” are projected to have the most labor market demand between 2021 and 2026, with *six* annual job openings.

Exhibit 1b: Number of Jobs for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County (2021-2026)³

Occupational Title	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	2021 - 2026 Net Jobs Change	2021- 2026 % Net Jobs Change	Annual Job Openings (Demand)
Physical Therapist Aides	37	40	3	8%	5
Physical Therapist Assistants	3	6	3	100%	1
Total	40	46	6	15%	6

² EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

³ EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Earnings

Exhibit 2a disaggregates hourly earnings by occupation. The entry-level hourly earnings for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations*, specifically “Physical Therapist Aides,” are \$16.92.

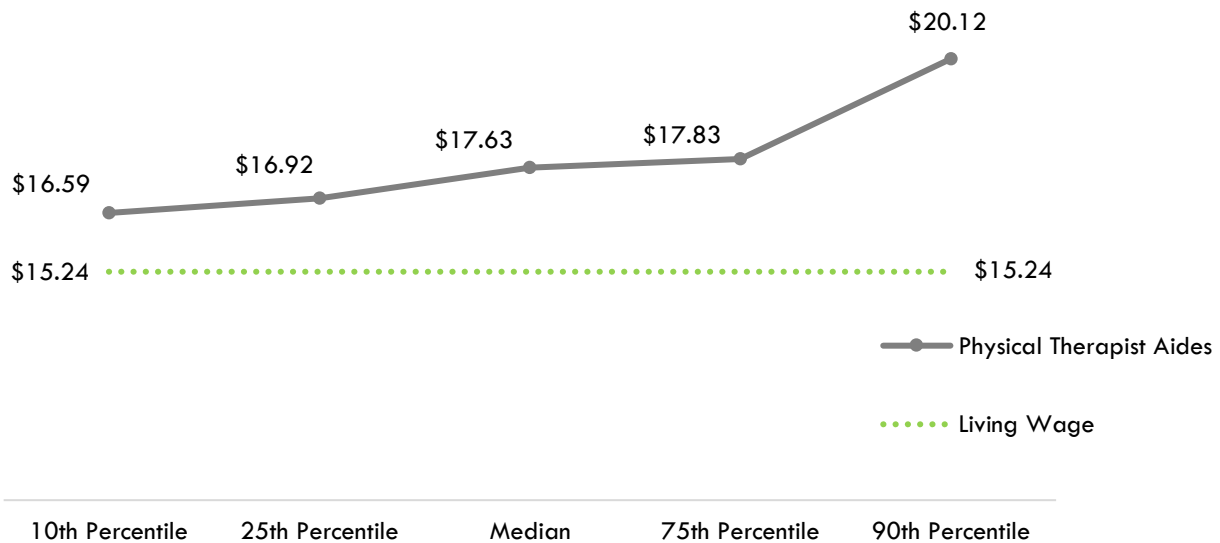
Exhibit 2a: Hourly Earnings for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County⁴

Occupational Title	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Physical Therapist Aides	\$16.92	\$17.63	\$17.83
Physical Therapist Assistants	N/A	N/A	N/A

“N/A” indicates insufficient data

On average, the entry-level hourly earnings for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* are \$16.92; this is more than the living wage for a household of two adults and two school-age children in Imperial County, which is \$15.24 per hour (Exhibit 2b).⁵

Exhibit 2b: Average Hourly Earnings⁶ for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County⁷



⁴ EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

⁵ “Family Needs Calculator (formerly the California Family Needs Calculator),” Insight: Center for Community Economic Development, last updated 2021. insightccd.org/family-needs-calculator/.

⁶ 10th and 25th percentiles could be considered entry-level wages, and 75th and 90th percentiles could be considered experienced wages for individuals who may have been in the occupation longer, received more training than others, etc.

⁷ EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

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.⁸ There is **one** TOP code and **one** CIP code related to *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: Related TOP and CIP Codes for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations*⁹

TOP or CIP Code	TOP or CIP Program Title
TOP 1222.00	Physical Therapist Assistant
CIP 51.0806	Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant

According to TOP data, **no** community college supplies the region with awards for these occupations. According to CIP data, **no** non-community-college institution supplies the region with awards (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions (Program Year 2016-17 through PY2019-20 Average)

TOP or CIP Code	TOP or CIP Program Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY17-18 to PY19-20)	Other Educational Institutions 3-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY16-17 to PY18-19)	3-Yr Total Average Supply (PY16-17 to PY19-20)
1222.00	Physical Therapist Assistant	0	0	0
51.0806	Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant	0	0	0
Total				0

⁸ 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).

⁹ This brief uses a conservative estimate of program supply and only calculates awards from the TOP codes in Exhibit 3.

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply¹⁰ suggests that there is a **supply gap** for these occupations in Imperial County, with **six** annual openings and **zero** awards. Comparatively, there are **2,297** annual openings in California and **537** awards, suggesting that there is a supply gap across the state¹¹ (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared with Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
Imperial	6	0	6
California	2,297	537	1,760

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. The data does not include workers currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data. 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.

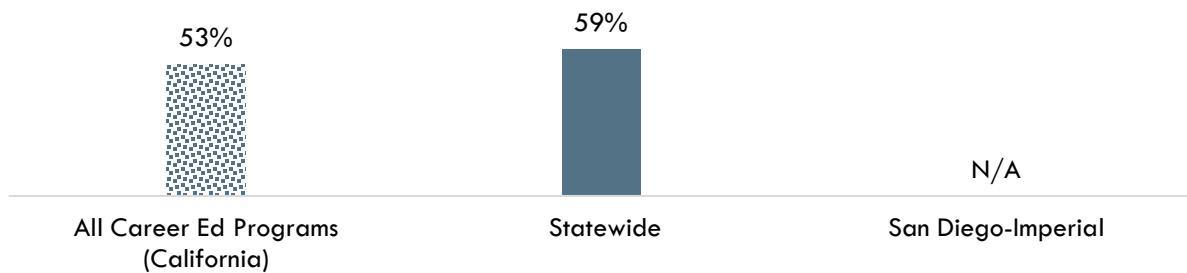
¹⁰ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

¹¹ "Supply and Demand," Centers of Excellence Student Outcomes, coecc.net/Supply-and-Demand.aspx.

Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 59 percent of students statewide earned a living wage after completing a Physical Therapist Assistant (TOP 1222.00) compared to 53 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6a).¹²

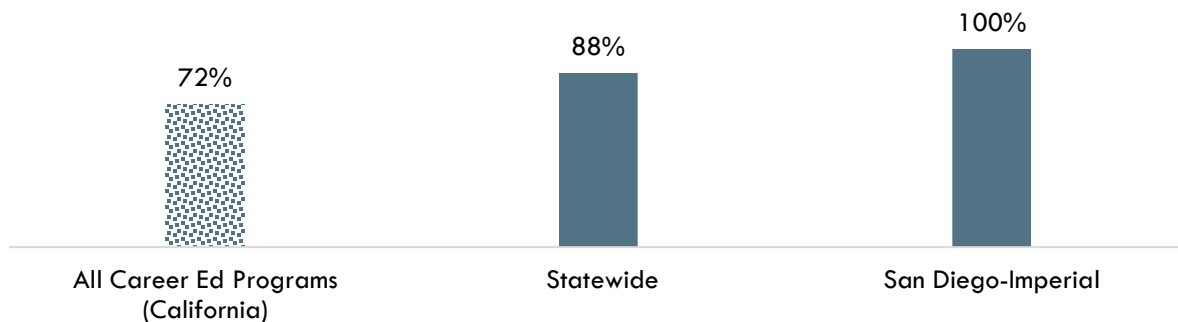
Exhibit 6a: Percentage of Students Who Earned a Living Wage by Program, (Physical Therapist Assistant, PY2018-19)¹³



"N/A" indicates insufficient data

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 100 percent of students in the San Diego-Imperial region obtained a job closely related to their field of study after completing a Physical Therapist Assistant (TOP 1222.00) program, compared to 88 percent statewide 72 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6b).¹⁴

Exhibit 6b: Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study by Program (Physical Therapist Assistant, PY 2017-18)¹⁵



¹² "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

¹³ Among completers and skills builders who exited, the percentage of students who attained a living wage.

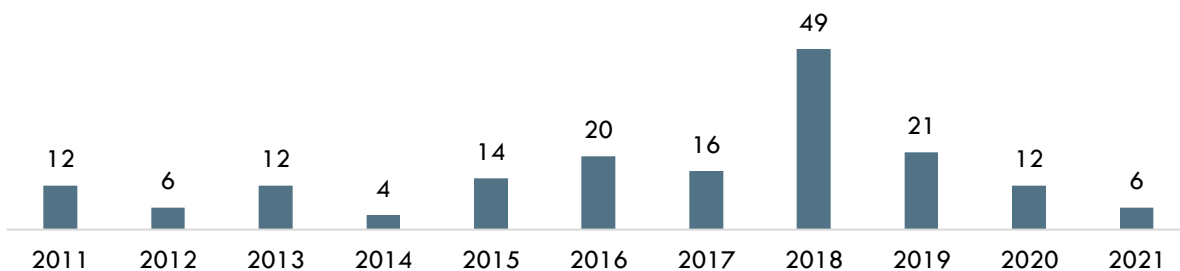
¹⁴ "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

¹⁵ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2017-18. Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study: Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

Online Job Postings

This report analyzes not only historical and projected (traditional LMI) data, but also recent data from online job postings (real-time LMI). Online job postings may provide additional insight about recent changes in the labor market that are not captured by historical data. Between 2011 and 2021, there was an average of 16 online job postings per year for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County (Exhibit 7a). Please note that online job postings do **not** equal labor market demand; demand is represented by annual job openings (see Exhibit 1b). Employers may post a position multiple times for various reasons, such as increasing the pool of applicants, for example.

Exhibit 7: Number of Online Job Postings for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County (2011-2021)¹⁶



Top Employers

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021, the top five employers in Imperial County for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* were AccentCare, El Centro Regional Medical Center, Serco, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District, and Preferred Healthcare based on online job postings (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8: Top Employers for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County¹⁷

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AccentCare• El Centro Regional Medical Center• Serco• Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District• Preferred Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission Healthcare Services, Inc.• Gentiva Health• Texas Home Health• Spine Sport Physical Therapy• RTG Medical

¹⁶ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2011-2021.

¹⁷ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

Education, Skills, and Certifications

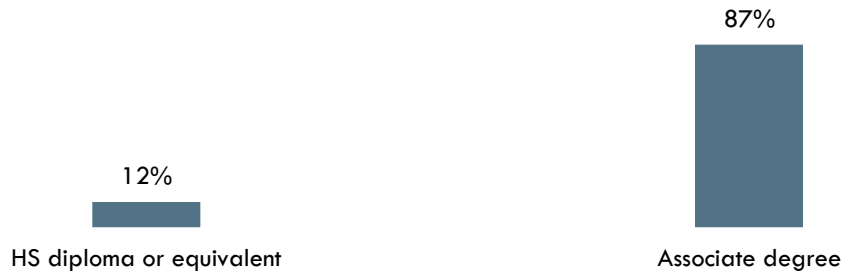
Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations have a national educational attainment ranging from an **associate degree** to a **high school diploma or equivalent** (Exhibit 9a).

Exhibit 9a: National Educational Attainment for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations*¹⁸

Occupational Title	Typical Entry-Level Education
Physical Therapist Assistants	Associate degree
Physical Therapist Aides	High school diploma or equivalent

Based on online job postings between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021 in Imperial County, employers posted an **associate degree** as the educational requirement for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* (Exhibit 9b).¹⁹

Exhibit 9b: Educational Requirements for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County²⁰



¹⁸ EMSI 2022.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

¹⁹ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

²⁰ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified April 9, 2021. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County²¹

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Therapy • Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation • Rehabilitation • Therapy • Patient/Family Education and Instruction • Life Support • Treatment Planning • Long-Term Care • Patient Care • Home Health • Patient Treatment • Medicare/Medicaid Knowledge • Acute Care • Anatomy • Cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energetic • Communication Skills • Teamwork / Collaboration • English • Research • Physical Abilities • Oral Communication • Problem Solving • Time Management • Spanish • Bilingual • Telephone Skills • Writing • Basic Internet Skills • Chinese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICD-10 • ICD-9-CM Coding • Prognosis

²¹ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

Exhibit 11 lists the top certification that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2021.

Exhibit 11: Top Certification for *Physical Therapist Assistant Occupations* in Imperial County²²

Top Certification in Online Job Postings

1. First Aid CPR AED
 2. Basic Life Saving (BLS)
 3. CA License
 4. Basic Cardiac Life Support Certification
 5. Security Clearance
 6. American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Certification
 7. Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)
 8. Physical Therapy Aide
 9. Registered Medical Assistant
 10. Certified Medical Assistant
 11. AAMA Certified Medical Assistant
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²² Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2019-2021.

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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.

This workforce demand report uses state and federal job projection data that was developed before the economic impact of COVID-19. The COE is monitoring the situation and will provide more information as it becomes available. Please consult with local employers to understand their current employment needs.