



Medical Assisting (TOP 1208.00)

July 2022

Prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence for
Labor Market Research

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast¹ Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation – Medical Assisting. This report can help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study (CCC and non-CCC) that align with this occupation group.

Key Findings

- In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to Medical Assisting are expected to **increase** for Medical Assistants.
- Medical Assisting is anticipated to experience a **medium risk of automation** for Medical Assistants.
- In 2020 there were 3,305 regional completions in programs related to the occupations identified as related to Medical Assisting and 645 openings, indicating an **oversupply**.
- Typical entry-level education is a **postsecondary nondegree award**.
- Completers of Medical Assisting programs from the 2018-2019 academic year in the South Central Coast region had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$27,380**.
- 68% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 28% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion.
- Completers experienced an average of **+30%** change in earnings after exiting.
- 72% of students were **part-time**, 7% **skill builders**, 53% **first-generation**, and 88% **economically disadvantaged**.

¹ The South Central Coast Region consists of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and the following cities from North Los Angeles County: Canyon Country, Castaic, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Littlerock, Llano, Newhall, Palmdale, Pearblossom, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia.

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

There is one occupation in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that was identified as related to Medical Assisting for this analysis. The occupation title and description, as well as reported job titles, are included in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1 – Occupation, description, and sample job titles

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
31-9092	Medical Assistants	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.	Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), Chiropractor Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant, Doctor’s Assistant, Health Assistant, Ophthalmic Assistant, Optometric Assistant, Outpatient Surgery Assistant, Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to Medical Assisting are expected to increase for Medical Assistants.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change
31-9092	Medical Assistants	4,763	5,188	425	9%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Earnings

In the South Central Coast region, the average wage for the listed occupation is \$18.51 per hour.

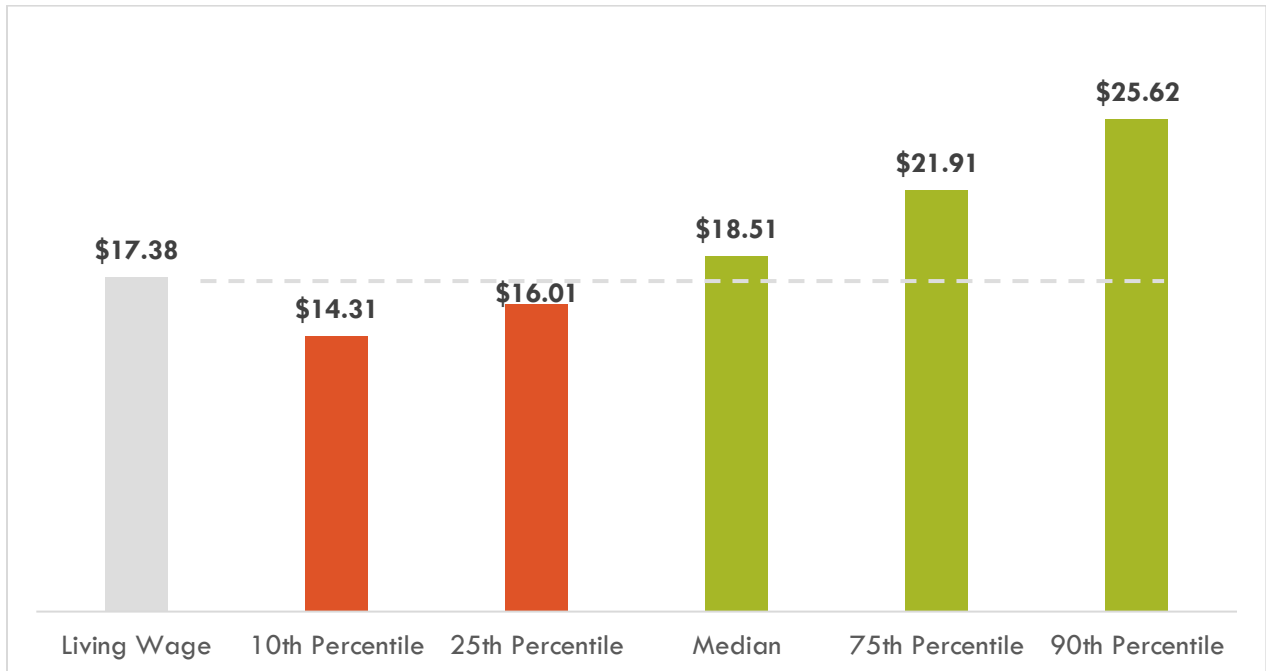
Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for this occupation. Entry-level hourly earnings are represented by the 25th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings are represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings are represented by the 75th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment. Exhibit 3b compares the Living Wage to hourly wages for Medical Assistants at the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles.

Exhibit 3a – Earnings for Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
31-9092	Medical Assistants	\$16.01	\$18.51	\$21.91

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Exhibit 3b - Earnings for Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast Region



Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is looking for medical assistants, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to Medical Assisting the following standard occupational classification was used:

31-9092 Medical Assistants

Top Occupations

In 2021, there were 1,823 employer postings for the occupation related to Medical Assisting.

Exhibit 4 – Top occupations in job postings and risk of automation tables

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
31-9092	Medical Assistants	1,823

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

SOC Code	Occupation	Risk of Automation
31-9092	Medical Assistants	Medium

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to Medical Assisting are listed in Exhibit 5. Speech & Language Pathology Assistant is mentioned as the job title in 38% of all relevant job postings (694 postings).

Exhibit 5 – Job Titles (n=1,826)

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Medical Assistant	694
Medical Assistant II	49
Certified Medical Assistant	34
Medical Assistant, Back Office	26
Medical Assistant In	25

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

Exhibit 6 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the Medical Assisting field. The top employer posting job ads was Dignity Health. The top worksite cities in the region for these occupations were Thousand Oaks, Santa Clarita, Oxnard, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara.

Exhibit 6 – Top Employers (n=1,498)

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Dignity Health	99
Community Memorial Health System	58
Community Health Centers of the Central Coast	48
Concentra	37
University of California	34

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Skills

The tables in Exhibit 7 list employers’ most commonly requested skills in job postings related to Medical Assisting. Patient Care is the most sought-after specialized skill for employers, followed by Scheduling and Vital Signs Measurement. Communication Skills, Bilingual, and Spanish were the most requested baseline skills. Microsoft Office, Word Processing, and Microsoft Excel were the most commonly requested software and programming skills.

Exhibit 7 – Job Skills (n=16,940)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Patient Care	650
Scheduling	636
Vital Signs Measurement	630
Appointment Setting	469
Injections	457
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	436
Medical Assistance	404
Electrocardiogram (EKG / ECG)	385
Customer Service	306
Phlebotomy	259

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Baseline Skills (n=6,130)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Communication Skills	607
Bilingual	467
Spanish	443
English	391
Computer Literacy	375
Organizational Skills	354
Telephone Skills	346
Multi-Tasking	280
Detail-Oriented	258
Writing	242

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Software and Programming Skills (n=732)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Microsoft Office	233
Word Processing	110
Microsoft Excel	108
Microsoft Word	80
ICD-10	47
ICD-9-CM Coding	23
Microsoft Outlook	19
Microsoft Access	16
Practice Management Software	14
Microsoft Windows	13

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

The table below lists the skill clusters most in demand for Medical Assisting occupations.

Skill Clusters in Demand (n=13,183)

Skill Cluster	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Health Care: Basic Patient Care	1,088
Health Care: Patient Physical Measurements	697
Health Care: Blood Collection	695
Health Care: Medical Records	686
Health Care: Emergency and Intensive Care	649
Administration: Scheduling	636
Administration: Administrative Support	607
Health Care: General Medicine	479
Administration: General Administrative and Clerical Tasks	461
Health Care: Medical Support	459

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Industry Concentration

Exhibit 8 shows the industries with the most Medical Assisting postings in the South Central Coast.

Exhibit 8 – Industries employing the most in the Medical Assisting field, 2021

Industry	Occupation Group Jobs in Industry	% of Occupation Group in Industry
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,187	81.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	71	4.9%
Educational Services	56	3.8%
Finance and Insurance	54	3.7%
Manufacturing	38	2.6%

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Certifications

Exhibit 9 lists the most in-demand certifications in the Medical Assisting field. The top requested certification in job postings was Certified Medical Assistant. Additionally, the job postings show that employers need workers with Basic Life Saving (BLS), Basic Cardiac Life Support Certification, and First Aid Cpr Aed.

Exhibit 9 - Certifications (n=2,746)

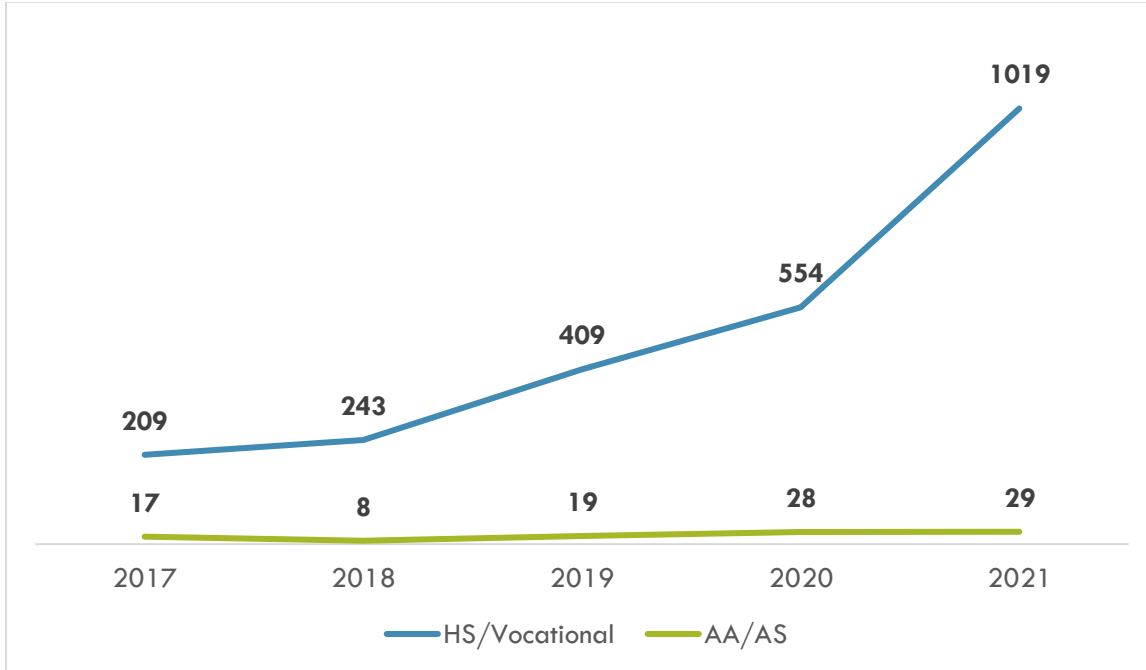
Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Certified Medical Assistant	796
Basic Life Saving (BLS)	418
Basic Cardiac Life Support Certification	287
First Aid Cpr Aed	248
Registered Medical Assistant	163
Driver's License	154
Phlebotomy Certification	142
AAMA Certified Medical Assistant	132
Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)	86
American Heart Association Certification	73

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Job Postings - Minimum Educational Attainment – Change Over Time

Exhibit 10 displays the change in job advertisements over the last five years for Medical Assisting, according to the minimum advertised education. In 2021, there were 1,826 total job ads posted, with 1,019 of them requiring a high school diploma or vocational degree.

Exhibit 10 - Educational Demand, Minimum Advertised



Job Postings – Proportion of Job Postings by Minimum Educational Attainment Required

To gauge employer preference for candidates with particular education levels, the proportion of job postings by minimum advertised education appears in Exhibit 11. Employers posting job ads for Medical Assisting have frequently sought candidates with a high school diploma or vocational degree, ranging from a low of 93% in 2017 to a high of 97% in 2018 and 2021.

Exhibit 11 - Occupational Demand by Education, Minimum Advertised

Minimum Education Requirement	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
HS Diploma / Vocational Training	93%	97%	96%	95%	97%
Associate Degree	8%	3%	4%	5%	3%

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Education and Training

Exhibit 12 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupations of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation.

Exhibit 12 – Education and training requirements

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training
31-9092	Medical Assistants	Postsecondary Nondegree Award	None

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

Regional Completions and Openings

There were 3,305 regional completions (2020) and 645 regional openings (2020) in the South Central Coast region in programs related to the occupations identified as related to Medical Assisting.

Exhibit 13 – Completions and Openings

25 Regional Institutions had Related Programs (2020)	3,305 Regional Completions (2020)	645 Annual Openings (2020)
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Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Related Programs

CIP Code	Program	Completions (2020)
30.0101	Biological and Physical Sciences	2,211
51.0000	Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General	418
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	406
51.0716	Medical Administrative/Executive Assistant and Medical Secretary	122
51.0899	Allied Health and Medical Assisting Services, Other	71
51.0713	Medical Insurance Coding Specialist/Coder	49
51.0710	Medical Office Assistance/Specialist	28

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

CCC and Non-CCC Awards

Exhibit 14 below lists the number of completers in programs related to Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast Region. The majority of the completions listed are for 1-year and 2-year degree awards. Of the 3,305 completions in 2020 there were 243 completers from California State University – Channel Islands receiving a bachelor’s degree.

Exhibit 14 - CCC and Non-CCC Awards the South Central Coast Region, 2020

CCC Programs	Completers
Santa Barbara City College	553
Allan Hancock College	516
Moorpark College	414
Ventura College	421
Antelope Valley College	219
College of the Canyons	211
Oxnard College	163
Cuesta College	134
Non-CCC Programs	Completers
California State University-Channel Islands	243
High Desert Medical College	90
San Joaquin Valley College-Lancaster	78
San Joaquin Valley College-Atascadero	54
CET-Santa Maria	47
CET-Oxnard	40
University of Antelope Valley	34
Career Care Institute	30
Santa Barbara Business College-Santa Maria	27
Ventura Adult and Continuing Education	24
Central California School of Continuing Education	7

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Student Outcomes

The CTE LaunchBoard provides student outcome data on the effectiveness of CTE programs. The following student outcome information was collected from exiters of Medical Assisting Programs (TOP: 1208.00) in the South Central Coast region for the 2018-19 academic year.

- Completers of Medical Assisting programs from the 2018-2019 academic year in the South Central Coast region had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$27,380**.
- 68% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 28% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion.
- Completers experienced an average of **+30%** change in earnings after exiting.
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Sources

O*Net Online, Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass), Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Notes

Data included in this analysis represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to Medical Assisting. Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study and can signal demand and show what employers are looking for in potential employees, but is not a perfect measure of the quantity of open positions. All representations have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. The most recent data available at the time of the analysis was examined; 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 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.