



## Medical Assisting (TOP 1208.00)

October 2022

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

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### Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast<sup>1</sup> 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 Physician Assistants and Medical Assistants.
- Medical Assisting is anticipated to experience a **low risk of automation**.
- In 2020 there were 2,887 regional completions in programs related to the occupations identified as related to Medical Assisting and 1,148 openings, indicating an **oversupply**.
- Typical entry-level education is a **Postsecondary Nondegree Award** for Medical Assistants and a **Master's degree** for Physician Assistants.
- 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 \$27,354**.
- 60% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 27% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion.
- Completers experienced an average of +29% **change in earnings after exiting**.
- 72% of students were **part-time**, 7% **skill builders**, 53% **first-generation**, and 88% **economically disadvantaged**.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 are two occupations in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that were identified as related to Medical Assisting for this analysis. The occupation titles and descriptions, as well as reported job titles, are included in Exhibit 1.

**Exhibit 1 – Occupation, Description, and Sample Job Titles**

<b>SOC Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Sample of Reported Job Titles</b>
29-1071	<b>Physician Assistants</b>	Provide healthcare services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. Conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, and counsel patients. May, in some cases, prescribe medication. Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants.	Cardiology Physician Assistant, Certified Physician Assistant (PA-C), Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (Emergency Medicine PA), Family Practice Physician Assistant, Orthopedic Physician Assistant, Orthopedic Physician Assistant, Physician Assistant (PA), Physician's Assistant, Surgical Critical Care Physician Assistant (Surgical Critical Care PA), Surgical Physician Assistant (Surgical PA)
31-9092	<b>Medical Assistants</b>	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, Ophthalmological 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 Physician Assistants and Medical Assistants.

**Exhibit 2 – Five-Year Projections for Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast Region**

SOC	Occupation	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	2021-2026 Change	2021-2026 % Change
29-1071	Physician Assistants	1,112	1,292	180	16%
31-9092	Medical Assistants	4,910	5,257	347	7%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

## Earnings

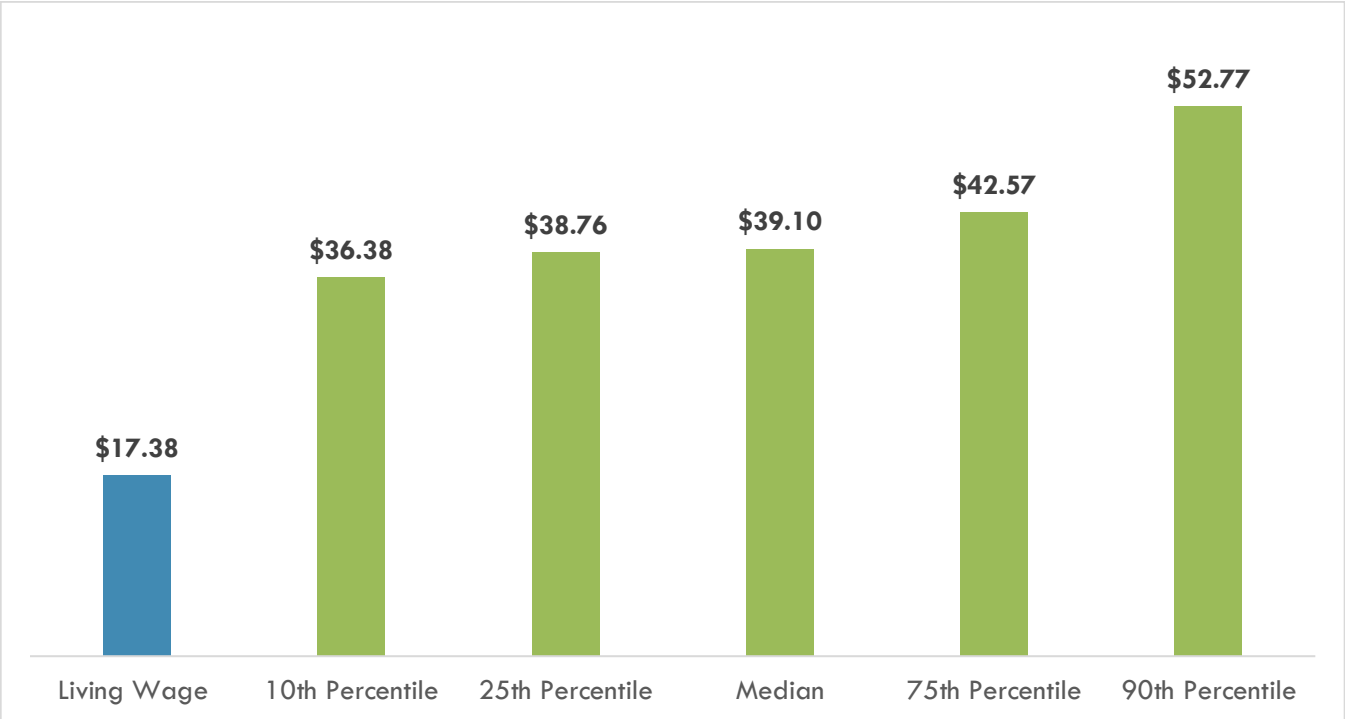
Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for these occupations. Entry-level hourly earnings are represented by the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, median hourly earnings are represented by the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings are represented by the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

**Exhibit 3 – Earnings for Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast Region**

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
29-1071	Physician Assistants	\$59.88	\$59.88	\$62.42
31-9092	Medical Assistants	\$17.65	\$18.32	\$22.71

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

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



Source: Family Needs Calculator (Living wage is based on Single Adult household with no children);  
Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

## 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 classifications were used:

29-1071	Physician Assistants
31-9092	Medical Assistants

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## Top Occupations

In 2021, there were 2,070 employer postings in the South Central Coast region for the occupations related to Medical Assisting.

### Exhibit 4 – Top Occupations by Job Postings

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
31-9092	Medical Assistants	1,836
29-1071	Physician Assistants	234

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

### Exhibit 4b – Top Occupations and Risk of Automation

SOC Code	Occupation	Risk of Automation
31-9092	Medical Assistants	Low
29-1071	Physician Assistants	Low

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. Medical Assistant is mentioned as the job title in 34% of all relevant job postings (694 postings).

**Exhibit 5 – Job Titles**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2021</b>
Medical Assistant	694
Physician’s Assistant	65
Medical Assistant II	49
Certified Medical Assistant	34
Medical Assistant Back Office	26

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, Oxnard, Santa Clarita, Ventura, and Santa Barbara.

**Exhibit 6 – Top Employers (n=1,688)**

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2021</b>
Dignity Health	123
Community Memorial Health System	81
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 – Specialized Skills (n= 18,133)**

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2021
Patient Care	700
Scheduling	652
Vital Signs Measurement	633
Injections	476
Appointment Setting	473
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	456
Medical Assistance	406
Electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG)	390
Customer Service	309
Phlebotomy	262
Electronic Medical Records	262
Front Office	249
Patient Preparation	245
Electronic Health Records	243
Laboratory Testing	241

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

**Exhibit 7b – Baseline Skills (n= 6,499)**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2021</b>
Communication Skills	650
Bilingual	498
Spanish	479
English	406
Computer Literacy	392
Organizational Skills	371
Telephone Skills	347
Teamwork/Collaboration	292
Multi-Tasking	292
Detail-Oriented	272

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

**Exhibit 7c – Software and Programming Skills (n= 747)**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2021</b>
Microsoft Office	239
Word Processing	110
Microsoft Excel	108
Microsoft Word	81
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.

**Exhibit 7d – Skill Clusters in Demand (n=14,219)**

<b>Skill Cluster</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2021</b>
Health Care: Basic Patient Care	1,154
Health Care: Emergency and Intensive Care	759
Health Care: Blood Collection	717
Health Care: Medical Records	713
Health Care: Patient Physical Measurements	703
Administration: Scheduling	652
Administration: Administrative Support	613
Health Care: General Medicine	555
Health Care: Medical Support	518
Administration: General Administrative and Clerical Tasks	476

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

### Industry Concentration

Exhibit 8 shows the industries with the most Medical Assisting postings in the South Central Coast. Note: 18% of records have been excluded because they do not include an industry. As a result, the chart below may not be representative of the full sample.

**Exhibit 8 – Industries Employing the Most in the Medical Assisting Field, 2021**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Occupation Group Jobs in Industry</b>	<b>% of Occupation Group in Industry</b>
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,409	83%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	76	5%
Educational Services	59	4%
Finance and Insurance	55	3%
Manufacturing	41	2%

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 Assisting.

**Exhibit 9 – Certifications (n= 2,946)**

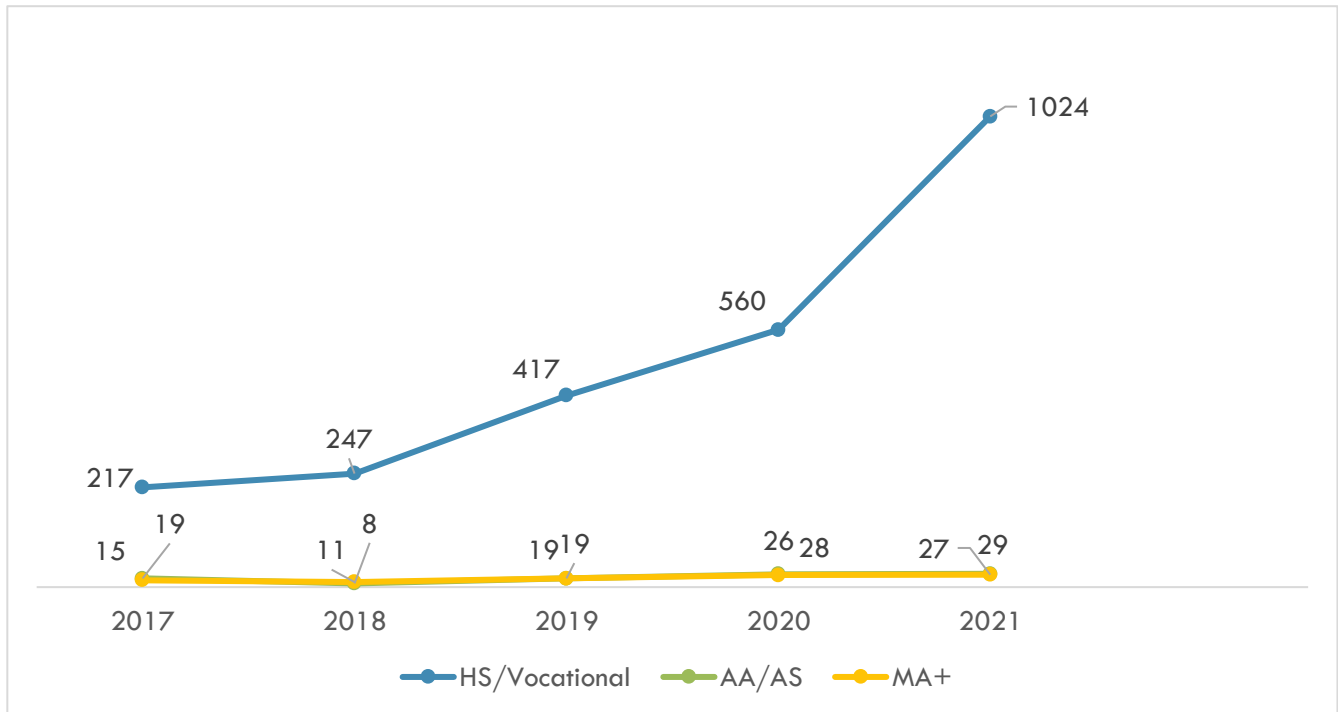
<b>Certifications</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2021</b>
Certified Medical Assisting	796
Basic Life Saving (BLS)	449
Basic Cardiac Life Support Certification	294
First Aid CPR AED	266
Registered Medical Assistant	163

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

**Job Postings - Minimum Educational Attainment 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 1,080 total job ads posted with a minimum advertised education, with 1,024 of them requiring a high school diploma or vocational degree.

**Exhibit 10 – Educational Demand, Minimum Advertised**



Source: Labor Insight / Jobs (Burning Glass)

**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.

**Exhibit 11 – Occupational Demand by Education, Minimum Advertised**

Minimum Education Requirement	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>HS Diploma / Vocational Training</b>	87%	93%	92%	91%	95%
<b>Associate Degree</b>	8%	3%	4%	5%	3%
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Graduate Degree</b>	6%	4%	4%	4%	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**

<b>SOC</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Typical entry-level education</b>	<b>Typical on-the-job training</b>
29-1071	<b>Physician Assistants</b>	Master's degree	None
31-9092	<b>Medical Assistants</b>	Postsecondary Nondegree Award	None

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

### Regional Completions and Openings

There were 2,887 regional completions (2020) and 1,148 regional openings (2020) in the South Central Coast region in programs related to the occupations identified as aligned with Medical Assisting.

#### Exhibit 13 – Completions and Openings

<b>25</b> Regional Institutions had Related Programs (2020)	<b>2,887</b> Regional Completions (2020)	<b>1,148</b> 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
51.0801	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 Assistant/Specialist	28
51.0711	Medical/Health Management and Clinical Assistant/Specialist	0
51.1199	Health/Medical Preparatory Programs, Other	0

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

**CCC and Non-CCC Awards**

Exhibit 14 lists the number of completers from programs related to Medical Assisting in the South Central Coast Region.

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

<b>CCC Programs</b>	<b>Completers</b>
Santa Barbara City College	553
Allan Hancock College	516
Ventura College	412
Moorpark College	389
Antelope Valley College	219
College of the Canyons	178
Oxnard College	158
Cuesta College	31
<b>Non-CCC Programs</b>	<b>Completers</b>
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 regional exiters of the 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 \$27,354**.
- 60% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 27% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion.
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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.