

Labor Market Analysis: 1209.00 – Hospital Central Service Technician Sterile Technician

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, July 2022

Summary

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input 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 Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to one middle-skill occupation:

- *Medical equipment preparers (31-9093)*

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 occupation.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap in the region for *medical equipment preparers*. In addition to entry-level wages exceeding the self-sufficiency standard wage in Los Angeles County, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. **Due to all of the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, **398 jobs are projected to be available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the three-year average of 67 awards conferred** 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, the **typical entry-level hourly wage** for *medical equipment preparers* is **\$19.67, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage** (living wage) for one adult in the region (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County).²
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a **high school diploma or equivalent** as the typical entry-level education for *medical equipment preparers*.
 - However, national-level educational attainment data indicates that **42% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**

Supply:

- There are **no community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region that have issued awards in hospital central service technician programs.
- Between 2017 and 2020, non-community college institutions in the LA/OC region conferred an average of **67 awards in relevant programs.**

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *medical equipment preparers*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 6% through 2025. There will be nearly 400 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	2,262	2,380	118	5%	303
Orange	658	713	55	8%	94
Total	2,920	3,093	173	6%	398

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

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.

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wage for *medical equipment preparers* 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 greater LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Los Angeles County – The typical entry-level hourly wage for *medical equipment preparers* is \$19.67, which is **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn approximately \$28.86, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

Orange County – The typical entry-level hourly wage for *medical equipment preparers* is \$18.55, which is **below** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn approximately \$27.24, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

Job Postings

Over the past 12 months, there have been 1,746 online job postings in the region related to *medical equipment preparers*. The highest number of job postings were for sterile process technicians, certified sterile process technicians, equipment coordinators, instrument technicians, central service technicians, and central supply technicians. The top skills were sterile procedures/techniques, cleaning, surgical instruments, infection control, and aseptic techniques. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were University of California, Aya Healthcare, and University of Southern 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.

Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *medical equipment preparers*. However, national-level educational attainment data indicates that 42% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply – Currently, there are no community colleges in the LA/OC region that offer programs that train for *medical equipment preparers*. Three community colleges in the state offer Hospitality Central Service Technician programs (TOP 1209.00): College of the Canyons (South Central Region), Skyline College (Bay Area, Mid-Peninsula Region), and Southwestern College (San Diego/Imperial Region). Together, these three colleges have conferred an average of 21 awards each year.

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 the occupation of interest. Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant program(s). Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2017 to 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 67 awards.

Exhibit 2: Regional non-community college awards, 2017-2020

CIP	Program	Institution	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
51.1012	Sterile Processing Technology/Technician	Glendale Career College	26	49	49	41
		Premiere Career College	49	28	-	26
Supply Total/Average			75	77	49	67

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 3. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)
Medical Equipment Preparers (31-9093)	2,262	2,380	118	5%	303	\$19.67	\$24.16	\$28.86

Exhibit 4. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)
Medical Equipment Preparers (31-9093)	658	713	55	8%	94	\$18.55	\$22.79	\$27.24

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Medical Equipment Preparers (31-9093)	2,920	3,093	173	6%	398	HS diploma or equivalent

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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