Medical Assisting (TOP 1208.00)

June 2023

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

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast[1] 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 for Medical Assistants are expected to increase.**

- Medical Assisting is anticipated to experience a **low risk of automation.**

- In 2021 there were 696 regional completions in programs related to the occupation identified as aligned with Medical Assisting and 767 openings, indicating an **undersupply.**

- Typical entry-level education is a **postsecondary nondegree award** for Medical Assistants.

- Completers of Medical Assisting programs from the 2019-2020 academic year in the South Central Coast region had a **median annual wage upon completion of $25,504.**

- 57% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.

- 32% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion.

- Completers experienced an average of +13% **change in earnings after exiting**.

- 78% of students were **part-time**, 7% **skill builders**, 53% **first-generation**, and 88% **economically disadvantaged.**

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[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, 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 for Medical Assistants are expected to increase.

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

SOC	Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change
31-9092	**Medical Assistants**	5,103	5,558	454	9%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)
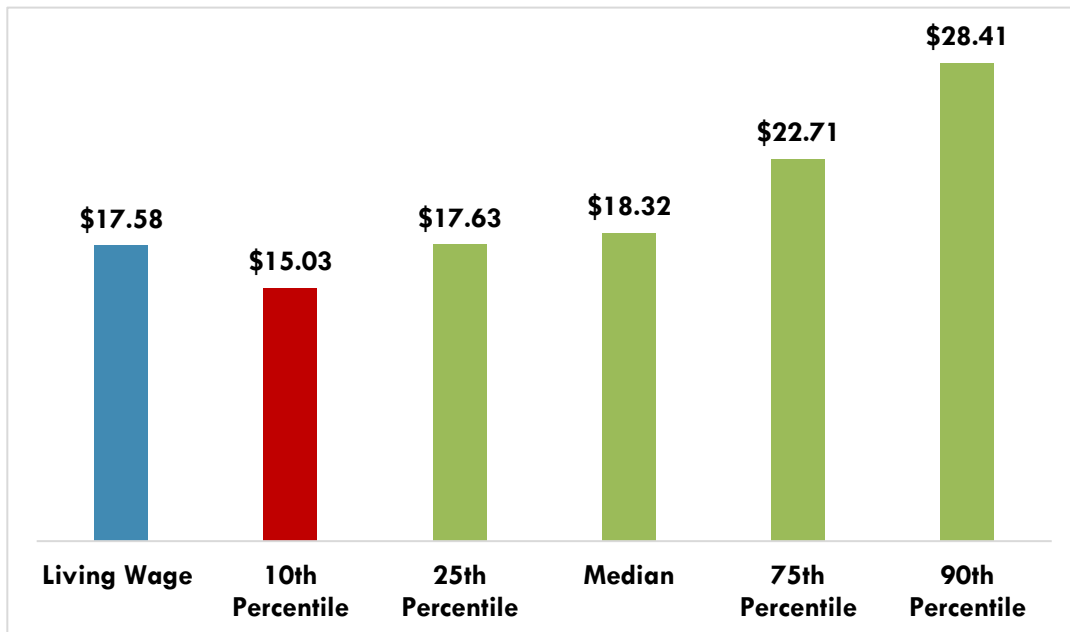
Earnings

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 3 – 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**	$17.63	$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 households 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 the occupation 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 2022, there were 2,324 employer postings for the occupation related to Medical Assisting.

Exhibit 4 – Top Occupations by Job Postings

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
31-9092	**Medical Assistants**	2,324

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

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 Assistants is mentioned as the job title in 57% of all relevant job postings (1,171 postings).

Exhibit 5 – Job Titles

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
Medical Assistants	1,171
Back Office Medical Assistants	108
Certified Medical Assistants	92
Urgent Care Medical Assistants	65
Dermatology Medical Assistants	48

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 CommonSpirit Health. The top worksite cities for this occupation were Thousand Oaks, Santa Clarita, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara.

Exhibit 6 – Top Employers (n=1,257)

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
CommonSpirit Health	132
Community Health Centers	78
Community Memorial Health System	73
Providence	66
Actalent	62

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. Medical Assistance is the most sought-after specialized skill for employers, followed by Vital Signs and Medical Records. Communications, Customer Service, and Scheduling were the most requested baseline skills. Microsoft Office, Spreadsheets, and Microsoft Excel were the most commonly requested software and programming skills.

Exhibit 7 – Specialized Skills (n= 14,759)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
Medical Assistance	2,033
Vital Signs	1,115
Medical Records	799
Intravenous Therapy	649
Electronic Medical Record	588
Patient Preparation	477
Electrocardiography	435
Phlebotomy	425
Laboratory Testing	422
Sterilization	382
Medical Terminology	368
Setting Appointments	344
Venipuncture	316
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	307
Nursing	305

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Exhibit 7b – Baseline Skills (n= 8,466)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
Communications	941
Customer Service	585
Scheduling	519
Clerical Works	498
Multilingualism	451
Computer Literacy	399
Spanish Language	375
English Language	321
Writing	289
Multitasking	251

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Exhibit 7c – Software and Programming Skills (n= 792)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
Microsoft Office	206
Spreadsheets	141
Microsoft Excel	64
Microsoft Outlook	48
Software Systems	31
Microsoft Word	31
PHP (Scripting Language)	30
eClinicalWorks (ECW)	27
Patient Management Software	24
Epic EMR	22

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Industry Concentration

Exhibit 8 shows the industries with the most Medical Assisting postings in the South Central Coast region. Note: 32% 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, 2022

Industry	Occupation Group Jobs in Industry	% of Occupation Group in Industry
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,040	66%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	151	10%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	90	6%
Educational Services	80	5%
Public Administration	59	4%

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 Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification.
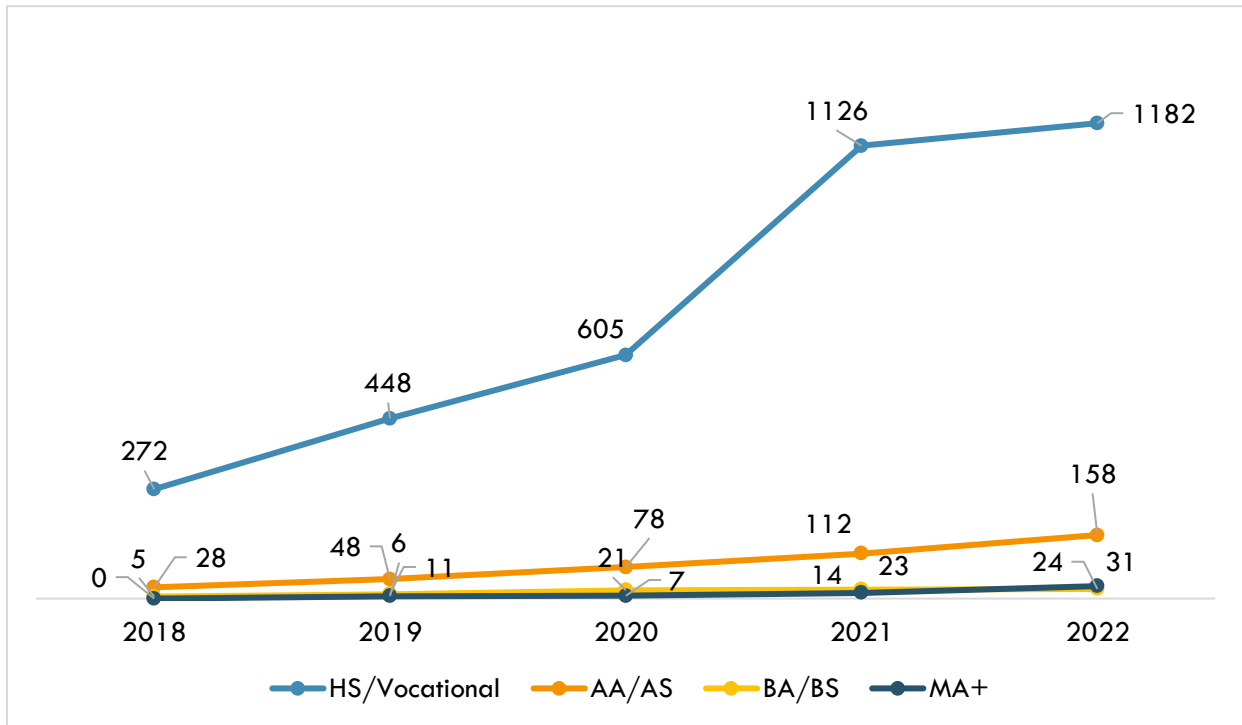
Exhibit 9 – Certifications (n= 3,434)

Certifications	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification	837
Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)	507
Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)	308
Registered Nurse (RN)	301
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification	223

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 2022, there were 1,395 total job ads posted with a minimum advertised education, with 1,182 of them requiring a high school diploma or equivalent.

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 training.

Exhibit 11 – Occupational Demand by Education, Minimum Advertised

Minimum Education Requirement	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HS Diploma / Vocational Training	89%	87%	85%	88%	85%
Associate Degree	9%	9%	11%	9%	11%
Bachelor's Degree	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Graduate Degree	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Education and Training

Exhibit 12 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupation 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 696 regional completions (2021) and 767 regional openings (2021) in the South Central Coast region aligned with programs related to the occupation in this report.

Exhibit 13 – Completions and Openings

23 Regional Institutions had Related Programs (2021)	696 Regional Completions (2021)	767 Annual Openings (2021)

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Related Programs

CIP Code	Program	Completions (2021)
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	433
51.0899	Allied Health and Medical Assisting Services, Other	95
51.0716	Medical Administrative/Executive Assistant and Medical Secretary	94
51.0713	Medical Insurance Coding Specialist/Coder	49
51.0710	Medical Office Assistant/Specialist	25
51.0711	Medical/Health Management and Clinical Assistant/Specialist	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, 2021

CCC Programs	Completers
Antelope Valley College	85
Cuesta College	66
Ventura College	52
Allan Hancock College	50
Santa Barbara City College	26
College of the Canyons	0
Non-CCC Programs	**Completers**
High Desert Medical College	119
San Joaquin Valley College-Lancaster	58
CET-Oxnard	44
CET-Santa Maria	44
San Joaquin Valley College-Atascadero	43
San Joaquin Valley College-Santa Maria	32
Career Care Institute	30
University of Antelope Valley	23
Santa Barbara Business College-Santa Maria	11
Ventura Adult and Continuing Education	9
Central California School of Continuing Education	4
Simi Valley Adult School and Career Institute	0
Academy Education Services	0
Charter College-Canyon Country	0
Modern Institute of Technology	0
Conejo Valley Adult Education	0
Pacific Coast Trade School	0

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 the regional Medical Assisting Programs (TOP: 1208.00) for the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Completers of Medical Assisting programs from the 2019-2020 academic year in the South Central Coast region had a **median annual wage upon completion of $25,504.**

- 57% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.

- 32% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion.

- Completers experienced an average of +13% **change in earnings after exiting.**

- 78% of students were **part-time,** 7% **skill builders,** 53% **first-generation,** and 88% **economically disadvantaged.**

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.