



# American Sign Language (Sign Language Interpreting TOP 0850.10)

November 2023

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 – American Sign Language. 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 American Sign Language are expected to increase** for Interpreters and Translators.
- American Sign Language is anticipated to experience a **low risk of automation** for Interpreters and Translators.
- In 2021 there were 76 regional completions in programs related to the occupation identified as aligned with American Sign Language and 70 openings, indicating **supply is meeting demand**.
- Typical entry-level education is a **Bachelor's degree** for Interpreters and Translators.
- Completers of American Sign Language from the 2018-2019 academic year in the South Central Coast region had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$23,188**.
- 66% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 68% of students were **part-time**, 7% **skill builders**, 46% **first-generation**, and 84% **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 is one occupation in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that was identified as related to American Sign Language 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
27-3091	<b>Interpreters and Translators</b>	Interpret oral or sign language, or translate written text from one language into another.	American Sign Language Interpreter (ASL Interpreter), Sign Language Interpreting, Educational Interpreter, Interpreter, Linguist, Medical Interpreter, Sign Language Interpreter, Spanish Interpreter, Spanish Translator, Translator

Source: O\*NET Online

## Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to American Sign Language are expected to increase for Interpreters and Translators.

**Exhibit 2 – Five-Year Projections for American Sign Language in the South Central Coast Region**

SOC	Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change
27-3091	<b>Interpreters and Translators</b>	488	549	62	13%

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## Earnings

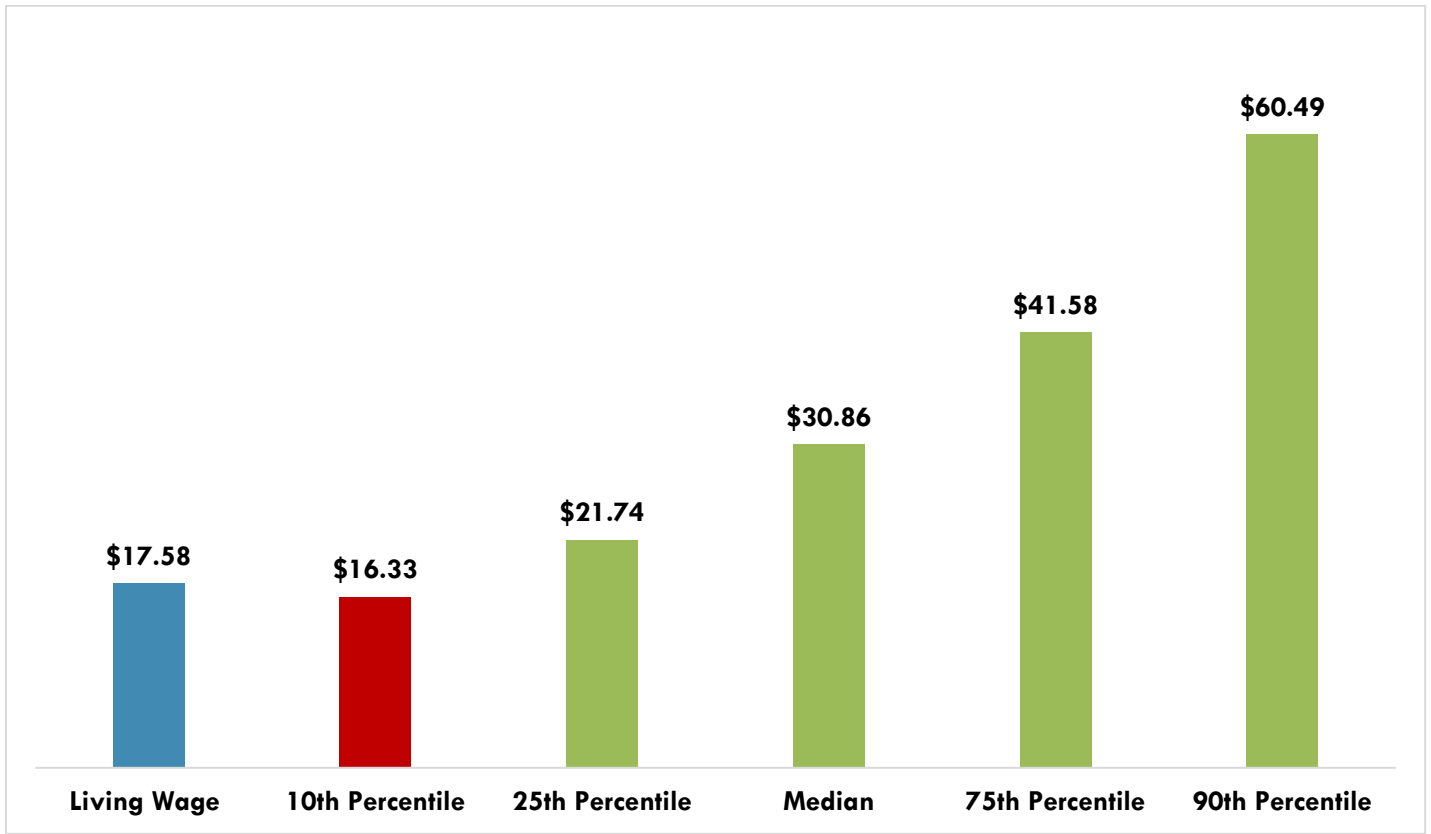
Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for this occupation. Entry-level hourly earnings are represented by the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, median hourly earnings are represented by the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings are represented by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

**Exhibit 3 – Earnings for American Sign Language in the South Central Coast Region**

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
27-3091	<b>Interpreters and Translators</b>	\$21.74	\$30.86	\$41.58

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

**Exhibit 3b – Earnings for American Sign Language in the South Central Coast Region**



Source: Family Needs Calculator (Living wage is based on Single Adult households with no children); Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## 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 professionals in a given field, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to American Sign Language the following standard occupational classification was used:

27-3091                      Interpreters and Translators

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## Top Occupations

In 2022, there were 173 employer postings for the occupation related to American Sign Language.

**Exhibit 4 – Top Occupations by Job Postings**

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
27-3091	Interpreters and Translators	173

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

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

SOC Code	Occupation	Risk of Automation
27-3091	Interpreters and Translators	Low

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to American Sign Language are listed in Exhibit 5. American Sign Language Interpreters is mentioned as the job title in 23% of all relevant job postings (33 postings).

**Exhibit 5 – Job Titles**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2022</b>
American Sign Language Interpreters	33
Spanish Medical Interpreters	15
Spanish Translators	10
Spanish Interpreters	7
Sign Language Interpreters	7

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## Top Employers

Exhibit 6 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the American Sign Language field. The top employer posting job ads was Oxnard School District. The top worksite cities for this occupation were Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Oxnard, and Santa Barbara.

**Exhibit 6 – Top Employers (n=102)**

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2022</b>
Oxnard School District	7
Ventura County Community College District	6
Stepping Stones	5
Soliant Health	4
Vituity	4

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## Skills

The tables in Exhibit 7 list employers' most commonly requested skills in job postings related to American Sign Language. Language Interpretation is the most sought-after specialized skill for employers, followed by Language Translation and American Sign Language (ASL). English Language, Communications, and Spanish Language were the most requested baseline skills. Zoom, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint were the most commonly requested software and programming skills.

**Exhibit 7 – Specialized Skills (n= 488)**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2022</b>
Language Interpretation	80
Language Translation	35
American Sign Language (ASL)	33
Medical Terminology	24
Hearing Disorders	20
Bilingual (Spanish/English)	19
Vocabulary	15
Individualized Education Programs (IEP)	15
Sign Language Interpretation	15
Simultaneous Interpretation	12
Network Interface Controllers	10
Medical Privacy	9
Zoom	8
Legal Hearings	8
Disabilities	8

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

**Exhibit 7b – Baseline Skills (n= 587)**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2022</b>
English Language	59
Communications	52
Spanish Language	51
Multilingualism	30
Customer Service	20
Writing	19
Sign Languages	17
Interpersonal Communications	16
Teamwork	15
Verbal Communication Skills	14

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

**Exhibit 7c – Software and Programming Skills (n= 45)**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Job Postings, Full Year 2022</b>
Zoom	8
Microsoft Excel	7
Microsoft Powerpoint	5
Microsoft Outlook	4
Microsoft Word	3
Microsoft Office	3
Database Systems	2
Artificial Intelligence Systems	2
Student Information Systems	2
Software Systems	2

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

### Industry Concentration

Exhibit 8 shows the industries with the most American Sign Language postings in the South Central Coast region. Note: 46% 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 American Sign Language Field, 2022**

Industry	Occupation Group Jobs in Industry	% of Occupation Group in Industry
Educational Services	28	30%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	24	26%
Health Care and Social Assistance	13	14%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	11	12%
Retail Trade	4	4%

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

### Certifications

Exhibit 9 lists the most in-demand certifications in the American Sign Language field. The top requested certification in job postings was Valid Driver's License.

**Exhibit 9 – Certifications (n= 38)**

Certifications	Job Postings, Full Year 2022
Valid Driver's License	26
Court Interpreter Certification	2
Secret Clearance	2
English Learner Authorization	2
Typing Certification	1

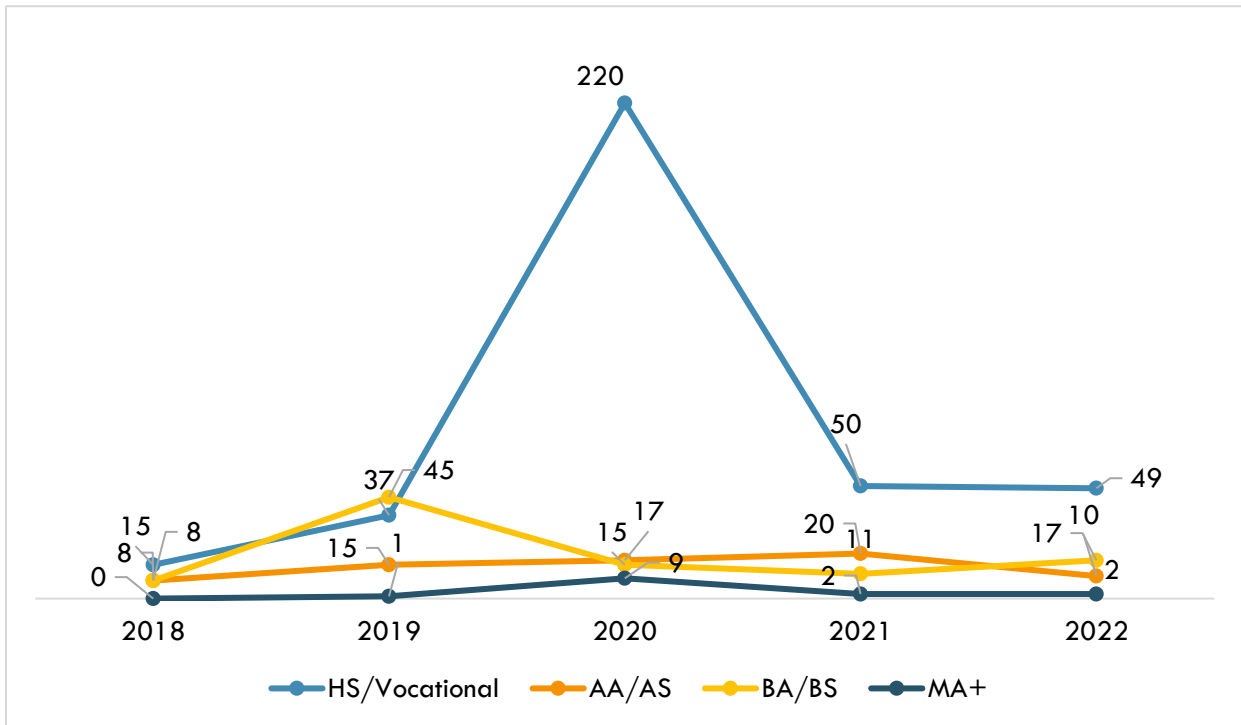
Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022



### Job Postings - Minimum Educational Attainment Over Time

Exhibit 10 displays the change in job advertisements over the last five years for American Sign Language, according to the minimum advertised education. In 2022, there were 78 total job ads posted with a minimum advertised education, with 49 of them requiring a high school diploma or equivalent.

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



Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

### 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 American Sign Language 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
<b>HS Diploma / Vocational Training</b>	48%	38%	84%	60%	63%
<b>Associate Degree</b>	26%	15%	7%	24%	13%
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	26%	46%	6%	13%	22%
<b>Graduate Degree</b>	0%	1%	3%	2%	3%

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## 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
27-3091	<b>Interpreters and Translators</b>	Bachelor's degree	None

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

## Regional Completions and Openings

There were 76 regional completions (2021) and 70 regional openings (2021) in the South Central Coast region aligned with programs related to the occupation in this report.

**Exhibit 13 – Completions and Openings**

<b>4</b> Regional Institutions had Related Programs (2021)	<b>76</b> Regional Completions (2021)	<b>70</b> Annual Openings (2021)
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Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## Related Programs

CIP Code	Program	Completions (2021)
16.1603	Sign Language Interpretation and Translation	39
16.1601	American Sign Language (ASL)	37

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## CCC and Non-CCC Awards

Exhibit 14 lists the number of completers from programs related to American Sign Language in the South Central Coast region.

**Exhibit 14 – CCC and Non-CCC Awards the South Central Coast, 2021**

<b>CCC Programs</b>	<b>Completers</b>
Antelope Valley College	57
College of the Canyons	12
Santa Barbara City College	7
Oxnard College	0
<b>Non-CCC Programs</b>	<b>Completers</b>
N/A	N/A

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022

## 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 American Sign Language Programs (TOP: 0850.10) for the 2018-2019 academic year.

- Completers of American Sign Language from the 2018-2019 academic year in the South Central Coast region had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$23,188.**
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- 68% of students were **part-time**, 7% **skill builders**, 46% **first-generation**, and 84% **economically disadvantaged.**

**Sources**

O\*Net Online, Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2022, 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 American Sign Language. 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.