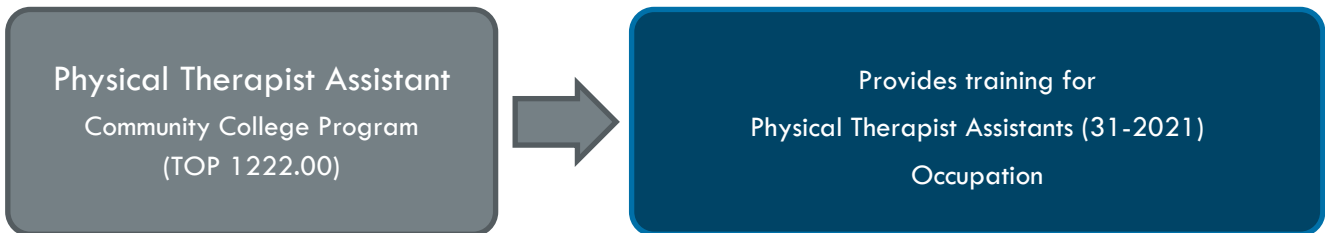


Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA)

Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside and San Bernardino counties)

Summary



Over the next five years (2022-2027), employment for physical therapist assistants is projected to:



The Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence
 **Recommends**
 the physical therapist assistant program in the
 Inland Empire/Desert Region

Introduction

California Community College physical therapist assistant (TOP 1222.00) programs prepare students for employment through the instruction of principles and procedures used to assist a physical therapist in implementing a pre-scribed plan of therapy for a patient, including patient instruction and administration of treatments (Taxonomy of Programs, 2023). The knowledge, skills, and abilities trained by physical therapist assistant programs lead to employment as:

- Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Job Demand

In 2022, there were 875 jobs for physical therapist assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Regional employment for physical therapist assistants is projected to increase by 27% through 2027; 184 job openings are projected annually. Exhibit 1 displays the job counts, five-year projected job growth, and job openings in the region.

Exhibit 1. Five-year projections for physical therapist assistants, Inland Empire/Desert Region, 2022-2027

| Occupation | 2022 Jobs | 2027 Jobs | 5-Yr % Change | 5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs) | Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs) |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--|--|
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 875 | 1,108 | 27% | 920 | 184 |
| Total | 875 | 1,108 | 27% | 920 | 184 |

Source: Lightcast 2023.3

An online job ad search for physical therapist assistants was conducted to reveal the employers seeking these workers, including the median posting duration, earnings information, and in-demand skills. Exhibit 2 displays the number of job ads posted for physical therapist assistants over the last 12 months and the median posting duration. Over the previous 12 months, there were 571 job ads for physical therapist assistants in the region.

Exhibit 2. Job ads and posting duration, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023

| Occupation | Job Ads | Median Posting Duration (Days) |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 571 | 28 |

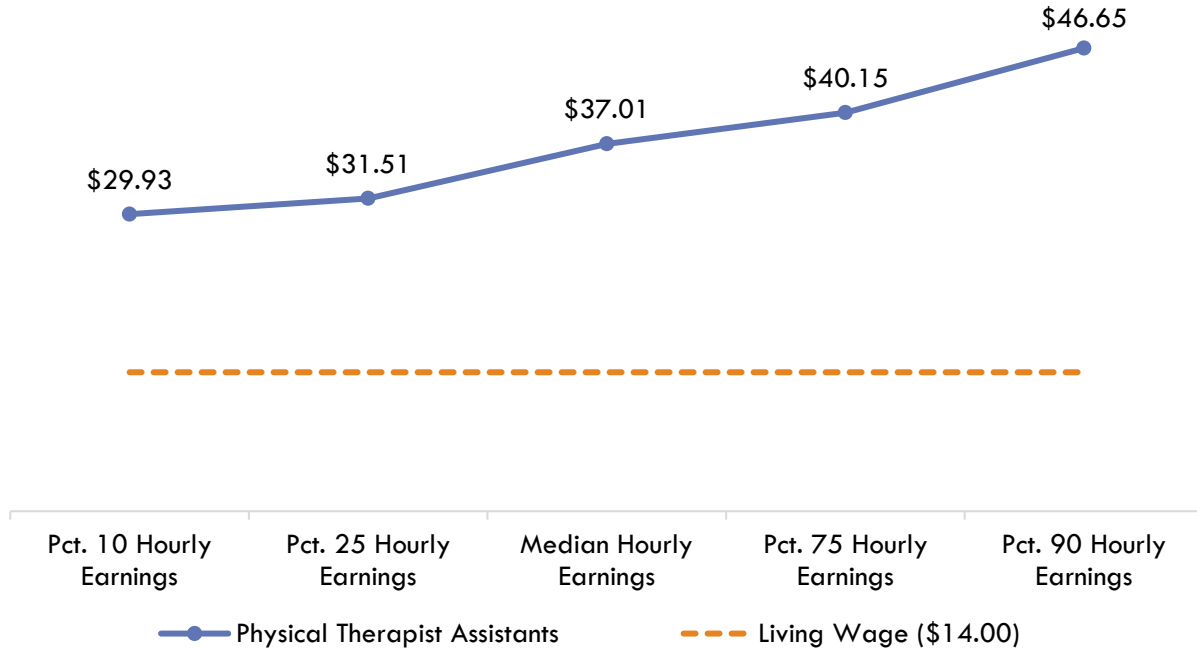
Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Earnings

The living wage for one adult in the Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) is \$14 per hour or \$29,120 annually. Exhibit 3 displays the hourly earnings for physical therapist assistants.

Notably, all hourly wages for physical therapist assistants are significantly above the living wage estimate.

Exhibit 3. Hourly earnings by percentile for physical therapist assistants, Inland Empire/Desert Region, 2022



Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Advertised Salary from Online Job Ads

Exhibit 4 displays the regional online advertised salaries for physical therapist assistants over the last 12 months. Online job ad salary information reveals that the majority of employers (38%) advertise an annual salary between \$64,000 and \$80,000.

Exhibit 4. Online advertised salaries for physical therapist assistants, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023



Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Online Job Advertisements: Job Titles, Employers, Skills, Education, & Work Experience

Exhibit 5 displays the job titles most frequently used in job ads over the last 12 months. Displaying advertised job titles may provide insight into the types of positions sought by employers posting job ads.

Exhibit 5. Job titles most frequently used in job ads, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023

| Job Titles | Unique Job Ads |
|---|----------------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 237 |
| Physical Therapy Assistants | 156 |
| Home Health Physical Therapy Assistants | 33 |
| Home Health Physical Therapists | 18 |
| Travel Physical Therapists | 16 |
| Physical Therapists | 13 |
| Program Schedulers | 13 |
| Acute Physical Therapists | 10 |
| Rehabilitation Assistants | 10 |
| Pediatric Physical Therapists | 10 |

Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Exhibit 6 displays the employers posting the most job ads for physical therapist assistants during the last 12 months. Showing employer names provides insight into where students may find employment after completing a program. The top employers are Encompass Health and Healthcare Employment Network.

Exhibit 6. Employers posting the most job ads for physical therapist assistants, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023

| Top Employer | Unique Job Ads |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Encompass Health | 45 |
| Healthcare Employment Network | 27 |
| FeldCare Connects | 20 |
| American Career College | 14 |
| Rancho Physical Therapy | 11 |
| Asteri Behavioral Treatment Center | 10 |
| Prime HealthCare Staffing | 9 |
| Loma Linda University Health | 8 |
| Kulagy Physical Therapy PC | 8 |
| Confluent Health | 8 |

Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Exhibit 7 lists a sample of specialized and employability skills employers seek when seeking workers to fill positions for physical therapist assistants. Specialized skills are occupation-specific skills that employers request for industry or job competency. Common skills are foundational skills that transcend industries and occupations; this category is often referred to as "soft skills." The skills requested in job ads may be utilized to guide curriculum development.

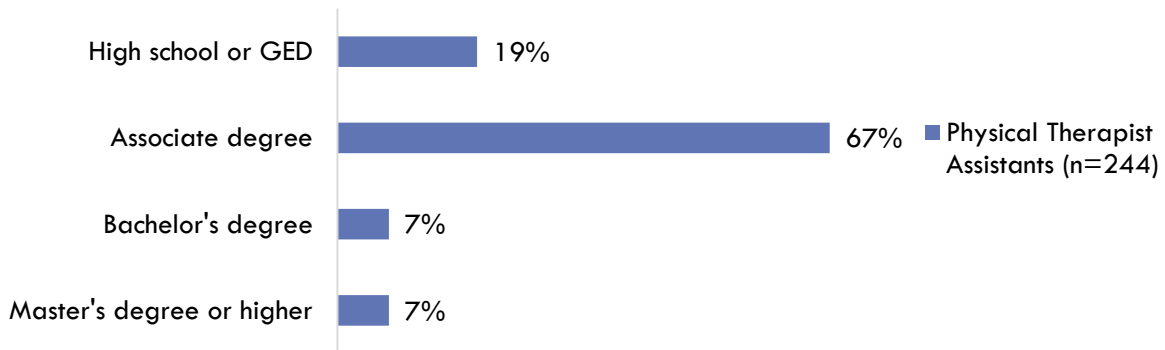
Exhibit 7. Sample of in-demand skills from employer job ads, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023

| Specialized skills | Common skills |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Therapy Home Health Care Rehabilitation Treatment Planning Patient Treatment Orthopedics Patient Assistance Exercise Therapy Functional Training Prosthetic Devices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Management Scheduling Operations Planning Coordinating Detail Oriented Customer Service Teaching Innovation |

Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Exhibit 8 displays the minimum advertised education requirements for physical therapist assistants. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 59% of incumbent workers in this occupation hold a community college-level of educational attainment; "some college, no degree," and an "associate degree." Only 43% of employer job ads included minimum education requirements. Most employer job ads (67%) sought an associate degree as the minimum education requirement.

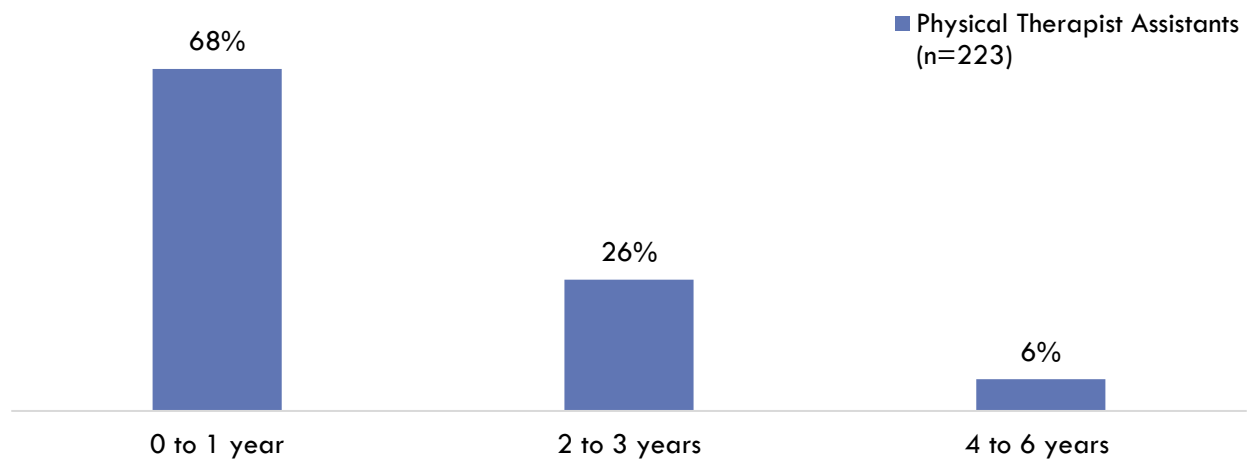
Exhibit 8. Minimum advertised education requirements, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023



Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Exhibit 9 displays the work experience typically required from employer job ads for physical therapist assistants. More than two-thirds (68%) of employers listing minimum experience requirements sought candidates with zero to one year of previous work experience.

Exhibit 9. Real-time work experience requirements, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023



Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Certifications

Exhibit 10 displays the most frequently requested certifications by employers in job advertisements.

Job advertisements reveal that employers value the CPR and BLS Certifications.

Exhibit 10. Certifications most frequently required by employers, Inland Empire/Desert Region, December 2022 through November 2023

| Certification | Jobs Ads |
|---|----------|
| Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification | 144 |
| Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification | 118 |
| First Aid Certification | 59 |
| Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant | 12 |
| Certified Athletic Trainer | 11 |

Source: Lightcast 2023.3

Student Completions and Programs Outcomes

No award completion data is available for physical therapist assistant (TOP 1222.00) programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region.

California program outcome data may provide useful insight into the likelihood of success for the proposed program. Community college student outcome information based on the selected TOP code and region is provided in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11. TOP 1222.00 – Physical Therapist Assistant strong workforce program outcomes, Inland Empire/Desert Region, most recent academic year

| Strong Workforce Program Metrics: 1222.00 – Physical Therapist Assistant | Inland Empire/Desert Region | California |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| Unduplicated count of enrolled students (2021-22) | 32 | 1,016 |
| Completed 9+ career education units in one year (2021-22) | N/A | 34% |
| Students who attained a noncredit workforce milestone in a year (2021-22) | N/A | 29% |
| Students who earned a degree, certificate, or attained apprenticeship (2021-22) | N/A | 134 |
| Job closely related to the field of study (2019-20) | N/A | 90% |
| Median annual earnings (all exiters) (2020-21) | N/A | \$40,954 |
| Median change in earnings (all exiters) (2020-21) | N/A | 70% |
| Attained a living wage (completers and skills-builders) (2020-21) | N/A | 67% |

Sources: LaunchBoard Community College Pipeline and Strong Workforce Program Metrics

Exhibit 12 displays awards for other postsecondary education providers reported in physical therapy assistant programs. Completion data is compiled from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for the most recent two years. Two non-community college institutions issued an average of 53 awards over the last two academic years.

Exhibit 12. Other educational providers for physical therapy assistant programs, Inland Empire/Desert Region, Academic Years 2019-2021

| CIP Code | Program | Institution | 2019-20 Awards | 2020-21 Awards | 2-Year Award Average |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 51.0806 | Physical Therapy Assistant | California Baptist University | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| | | Loma Linda University | 42 | 44 | 43 |
| Supply Total/Average | | | 51 | 55 | 53 |

Source: IPEDS

Summary of Findings & Recommendation

Over the next five years, the occupation – physical therapist assistants – is projected to have 184 annual job openings and increase employment by 27% in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. All hourly wages for physical therapist assistants are above the region’s living wage estimate (\$14). Over the last 12 months, there were 571 job ads posted for physical therapist assistants in the region.

Over the last three academic years, there were no award completions for physical therapist assistant (TOP 1222.00) programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Two non-community college postsecondary education institutions issued an average of 53 awards across the following program: Physical Therapy Assistant (CIP 51.0806). In total, regional institutions issued an average of 53 awards in relevant training programs.

Based on the 184 annual job openings (demand) and the annual average of 53 awards conferred (supply), there appears to be an undersupply in the region. Due to this, the Centers of Excellence finds that there is a regional need for programs that train students to become physical therapist assistants. Colleges considering this program should partner with applicable employers to document their demand for physical therapist assistants and the skills/certifications required for students to earn a living wage after exiting the program.

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January 2024

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Appendix: Methodology

Community college student outcome information is from LaunchBoard and based on the selected TOP code and region. These metrics are based on records submitted to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) by community colleges, which come from self-reported student information from CCC Apply and the National Student Clearinghouse. Employment and earnings metrics are sourced from California's Employment Development Department's Unemployment Insurance database. When available, outcomes for completers are reported to demonstrate the impact that earning a degree or certificate can have on employment and earnings. For more information on the types of students included for each metric, please see the web link for LaunchBoard's Strong Workforce Program Metrics Data Element Dictionary in the References section (LaunchBoard, 2023a). Finally, employment in a job closely related to the field of study comes from self-reported student responses on the CTE Employment Outcomes Survey (CTEOS) administered by Santa Rosa Junior College (LaunchBoard, 2023a).

Table 1. 2022 to 2027 job growth, wages, entry-level education, training, and work experience required for physical therapist assistants in the Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties combined)

| Occupation (SOC) | 2022 Jobs | 5-Year Change | 5-Year % Change | Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs) | Entry-Experienced Hourly Wage (10 th to 90 th percentile) | Median Hourly Wage (50 th percentile) | Average Annual Earnings | Entry-Level Education & On-The-Job-Training | Work Experience Required |
|---|------------|---------------|-----------------|--|---|--|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021) | 875 | 233 | 27% | 184 | \$29.93 - \$46.65 | \$37.01 | \$78,100 | Associate degree & None | None |
| Total | 875 | 233 | 27% | 184 | - | - | - | - | - |

Source: Lightcast 2023.3