

## Labor Market Analysis: 1227.00/Diagnostic Medical Sonography

**Diagnostic Sonography** - Associate of Science (A.S.) degree

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, October 2023

### Summary

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (See comments below)	
<b>Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Education:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Emerging Occupation(s)</b>			
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:

- **Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)** Produce ultrasonic recordings of internal organs for use by physicians. Includes vascular technologists.<sup>1</sup>

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.<sup>2</sup> 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 occupations.

Based on the available data, there does not appear to be a supply gap for *diagnostic medical sonographers* in the region. While this program does not meet the traditional supply/demand endorsement criteria, there may be demand for these workers from local employers that is not reflected in traditional labor market data. For this reason, real-time labor market data is included in this report as well – to provide a more nuanced view of the regional job market for *diagnostic medical sonographers*. Furthermore, 548 out of the 583 awards (94%) included in the supply/demand analysis were issued by proprietary institutions. With community colleges only issuing 35 related awards and no current programs at Los Angeles County community colleges, there may be an opportunity to attract a larger portion of prospective students to the community colleges if program offerings are expanded or created. In addition to this occupation's entry-level wage exceeding the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange

<sup>1</sup> [Diagnostic Medical Sonographers \(bls.gov\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

counties, workers typically need an associate degree. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

**Demand:**

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, **250 jobs are projected to be available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is less than the three-year average of 583 awards conferred** by educational institutions in the region.
  - However, over the past 12 months, there were 1,476 online job postings for diagnostic medical sonographers. The highest number of job postings were for ultrasound technicians, ultrasound technologists, sonographers, vascular ultrasound technicians, and travel OB ultrasound technicians.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – Within Los Angeles County, **typical entry-level hourly wages** for *diagnostic medical sonographers* are **\$44.37, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard** hourly wage (living wage) for one adult in the region (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County).<sup>3</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an **associate degree** as the **typical entry-level education** for *diagnostic medical sonographers*.
  - Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **48% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**

**Supply:**

- There are **2 community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region that issue awards related to diagnostic medical sonography, conferring an average of **35 awards annually** between 2019 and 2022.
- Between 2019 and 2021, there was an average of **548 awards conferred annually** in related training programs by non-community college institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region.

**Occupational Demand**

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *diagnostic medical sonographers*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 13% through 2026. There will be approximately 250 job openings per year through 2027 due to job growth and replacements.

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>4</sup>**

Geography	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	2,209	2,452	243	11%	174
Orange	822	963	141	17%	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>250</b>

<sup>3</sup> Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

<sup>4</sup> 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 wages for *diagnostic medical sonographers* 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 wages for *diagnostic medical sonographers* are \$44.37, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$61.24.

**Exhibit 2: Earnings for Occupation in LA County**

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	\$44.37	\$50.39	\$61.24	\$104,800

\*Rounded to the nearest \$100

### Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *diagnostic medical sonographers* are \$45.46, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$62.80.

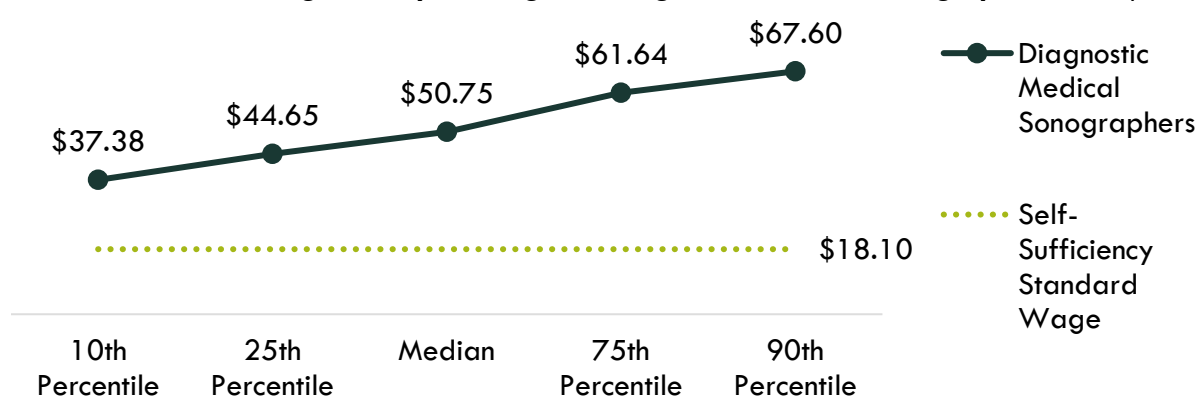
**Exhibit 3: Earnings for Occupation in Orange County**

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	\$45.46	\$51.65	\$62.80	\$107,400

\*Rounded to the nearest \$100

On average, the entry-level earnings for the occupation in this report are \$44.65; this is above the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 4 shows the average wage for the occupation in this report, from entry-level to experienced workers.

**Exhibit 4: Average Hourly Earnings for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers in LA/OC**



## Job Postings

There were 1,476 online job postings for *diagnostic medical sonographers* listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for ultrasound technicians, ultrasound technologists, sonographers, vascular ultrasound technicians, and travel OB ultrasound technicians. The top skills were medical ultrasonography, radiology, obstetrics and gynecology, communications systems, and infection control. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were Healthcare Employment Network, RadNet, and Siemens Healthineers.

## Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *diagnostic medical sonographers*. Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates 48% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 18% of *diagnostic medical sonographer* job postings listing a minimum education requirement in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 51% (135) requested high school or vocational training, 38% (101) requested an associate degree, and 7% (18) requested a bachelor's degree.

## Educational Supply

### Community College Supply

Exhibit 5 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Diagnostic Medical Sonography (1227.00). The only two colleges in the region with completions are Cypress and Orange Coast. There are currently no diagnostic medical sonography programs at Los Angeles County community colleges.

**Exhibit 5: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2019-2022**

TOP	Program	College	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average
1227.00	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Cypress	26	14	14	18
		Orange Coast	18	16	17	17
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>

### Non-Community College Supply

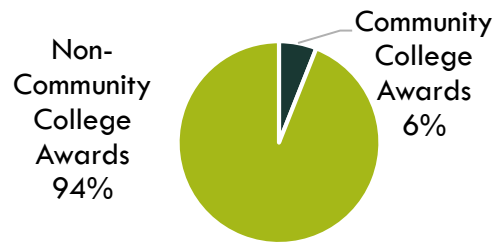
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for *diagnostic medical sonographers*. Exhibit 6 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2019 to 2021. Between 2019 and 2021, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 548 sub-baccalaureate awards. Sub-baccalaureate awards include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and other academic awards.

**Exhibit 6: Regional non-community college awards, 2019-2021**

CIP	Program	Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2-Year Average
1227.00	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	American Medical Sciences Center	16	24	20
		ATI College-Whittier	10	9	10
		Casa Loma College-Van Nuys	33	32	33
		CBD College	130	101	116
		Healthcare Career College	13	26	20
		Integrity College of Health	-	-	-
		Modern Technology School	23	19	21
		National Polytechnic College	11	17	14
		North-West College-Anaheim	15	16	16
		North-West College-Long Beach	19	24	22
		PCI College	32	34	33
		Platt College-Anaheim	69	68	69
		Platt College-LA	60	42	51
		Triad Education	126	127	127
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>557</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>548</b>

Exhibit 7 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in LA/OC compared to the number of non-community college awards for the programs in this report. The vast majority of awards conferred in these programs are awarded by non-community colleges in the LA/OC region.

**Exhibit 7: Community College Awards Compared to Non-Community College Awards in LA/OC Region, 3-Year Average**



## Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

### Exhibit 8. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	2,209	2,452	243	11%	174	\$44.37	\$50.39	\$61.24

### Exhibit 9. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	822	963	141	17%	76	\$45.46	\$51.65	\$62.80

### Exhibit 10. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Age 55 and older*	Typical Entry-Level Education
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	3,031	3,415	384	13%	250	20%	Associate degree

\*The average percentage of workers age 55 and older across all occupations in the greater LA/OC region is 27%. This occupation has a smaller share of older workers, which typically indicates fewer replacements needs to offset the amount of impending retirements.

### Appendix B: Sources

- O\*NET Online
- Lightcast (formerly 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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