

Labor Market Analysis: 1239.00/Psychiatric Technician

Psychiatric Technician – Associate of Science; Certificate of Achievement

requiring 30 to <60 units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, March 2024

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"/>	

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupation or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.¹

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the identified middle-skill occupation in the region. Furthermore, entry-level wages exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, and the typical education requirement for this occupation is a postsecondary nondegree award.

Recommendation: Due to all three program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 422 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2027. This number is substantially greater than the three-year average of 108 awards conferred by regional educational institutions.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree. 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

- \$19.75 is the typical entry-level hourly wage for psychiatric technicians, which is higher than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$18.10/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A postsecondary nondegree is the typical entry-level education for psychiatric technicians, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- According to national educational attainment data, 42% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.

Community college supply

- Two community colleges issued awards related to Psychiatric Technician (TOP 1239.00) programs in the greater LA/OC region.
- 83 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2019 and 2022.

Other postsecondary supply

- Three educational institutions in the LA/OC region offer programs related to Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician (CIP 51.1502).
- 25 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to one middle-skill occupation.

- **Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)** Care for individuals with mental or emotional conditions or disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners. Monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being and report to medical staff. May participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral or injectable medications.³

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for this occupation. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 19% through 2027. There will be more than 400 job openings per year through 2027 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2022 for psychiatric technicians (76%) were located in Los Angeles County.

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 [Psychiatric Technicians and Aides: Occupational Outlook Handbook: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(bls.gov\)](#)

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁴

Geography	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	2,540	2,953	412	16%	302
Orange	823	1,049	227	28%	120
Total	3,363	4,002	639	19%	422

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation in Los Angeles County. The percentage of workers aged 55+ is included in order to visualize upcoming replacement demand for these occupations.

Exhibit 2: Current employment, projected occupational demand, percentage of workers aged 55+, Los Angeles County⁵

Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older*
Psychiatric Technicians	2,540	2,953	412	16%	302	11%

*The average percentage of workers aged 55 and older across all occupations in the greater LA/OC region is 27%. These occupations have a smaller share of older workers, typically indicating fewer replacements needed to offset the impending retirements.

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for psychiatric technicians in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Los Angeles County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for psychiatric technicians are \$20.01, 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 \$30.36.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Psychiatric Technicians	\$20.01	\$24.61	\$30.36	\$51,200

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

⁴ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁵ Ibid.

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for psychiatric technicians are \$18.89, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$28.66, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

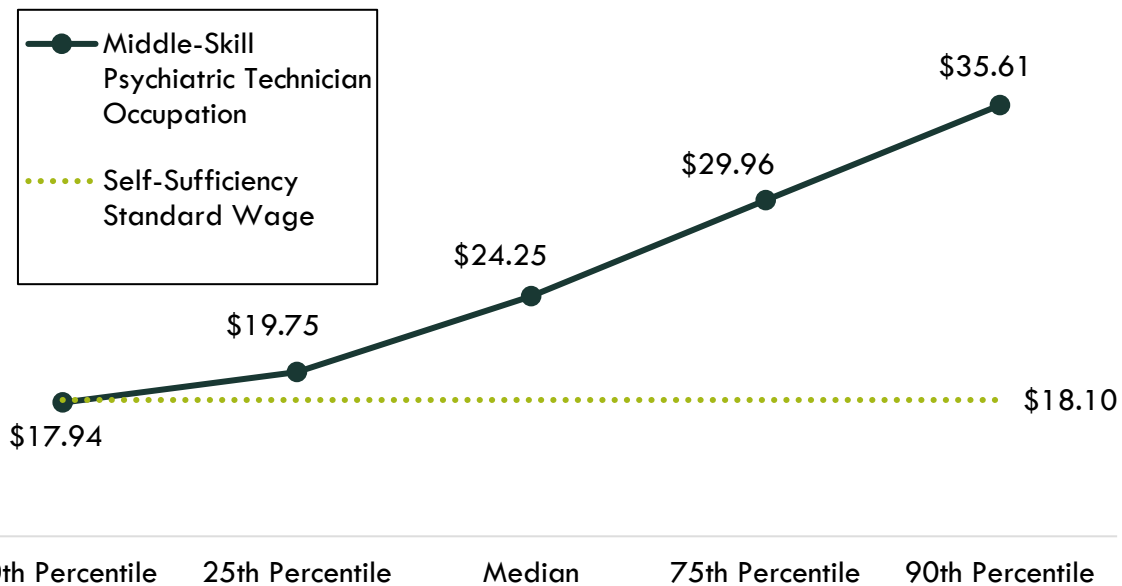
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Psychiatric Technicians	\$18.89	\$23.23	\$28.66	\$48,300

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$19.75; this is above the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupation in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for Psychiatric Technicians, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 1,660 online job postings related to psychiatric technicians listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupation in this report (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: The most commonly requested job titles, skills, and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatric Technicians • Behavioral Health Technicians • Behavior Technicians • Mental Health Technicians • Mental Health Workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatry • Behavioral Health • Mental Health • Nursing • Mental Diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPG Healthcare • People’s Care Behavioral Health • Maxim Healthcare Services • Newport Healthcare Center

Of the 53% of psychiatric technician job postings listing a minimum education requirement in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 43% (721) requested a high school diploma or vocational training, 3% (50) requested an associate degree, and 7% (116) requested a bachelor’s degree.

Exhibit 7: Education levels requested in job postings for Psychiatric Technicians, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
High school diploma or vocational training	721	43%
Associate degree	50	3%
Bachelor’s degree	116	7%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary nondegree award as the typical entry-level education requirement for psychiatric technicians. Furthermore, national-level data indicates that 42% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education attainment.

Exhibit 8: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Psychiatric Technicians	Postsecondary nondegree award

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 9 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Psychiatric Technician (1239.00). Cypress is the college with the most completions in the region.

Exhibit 9: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2019-2022

TOP Code	Program	College	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average
1239.00	Psychiatric Technician	Mt San Antonio	34	55	32	40
		LA Subtotal	34	55	32	40
		Cypress	56	39	33	43
		OC Subtotal	56	39	33	43
Supply Total/Average			80	94	65	83

Other Postsecondary Supply

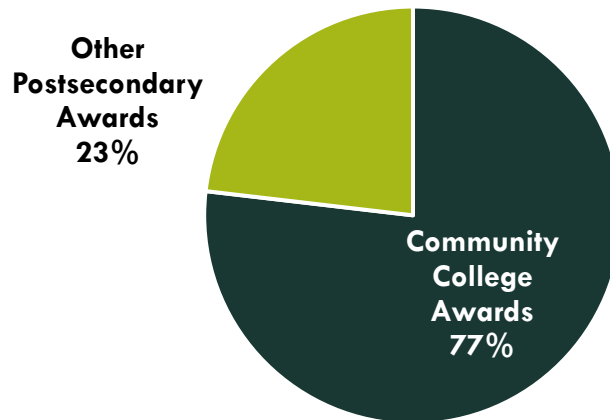
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for psychiatric technicians. Exhibit 10 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2019 to 2021. Between 2019 and 2021, other postsecondary educational institutions in the region conferred an average of 25 sub-baccalaureate awards. Sub-baccalaureate awards include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and other academic awards that typically take fewer than four years to complete.

Exhibit 10: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2019-2021

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2-Year Average
51.1502	Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician	Hacienda La Puente Adult Education	10	5	8
		InterCoast Colleges-Santa Ana	22	-	11
		InterCoast Colleges-West Covina	-	12	6
Supply Total/Average			32	17	25

Exhibit 11 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region compared to the number of other postsecondary awards for the programs in this report. Community colleges confer the majority of awards in these programs in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 11: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



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DATA 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)

Important Disclaimer: All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the reported findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence, COE host District, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for applications or decisions made by recipient community colleges or their representatives based upon components or recommendations contained in this study.

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