Labor Market Analysis for Program Recommendation: 1228.00/Athletic Training and Sports Medicine *(Associate of Science)*

CVML Center of Excellence, November 2026

Summary

Program LMI Endorsement	Endorsed: All LMI Criteria Met ☐	Endorsed: Some LMI Criteria Met ☒	Not LMI Endorsed ☐

Program LMI Endorsement Criteria

Supply Gap:	Yes ☑	No ☐
	Comments: There are projected to be **24 annual job openings** throughout the NCV/NML subregion for *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations, which **are more than the 16 awards conferred by educational institutions in the NCV/NML subregion (CC + Non-CC).** *Note:* Only middle-skill jobs are considered when determining supply gap. Including the above middle-skill job increases the overall annual job openings by 13 to a total of 37.	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level as 25th Percentile):	Yes ☐	No ☑
	Comments: Only one of the two *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations included in this report have an entry-level hourly wage **above the NCV/NML living wage of $16.81.** *Note:* Only middle-skill jobs are considered when determining living wage.	
Education:	Yes ☑	No ☐
	Comments: The typical entry-level education for *Occupational Therapy Assistants* is an associate degree and the typical entry-level education for *Occupational Therapy Aides* is a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, **63% of middle-skill workers have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.** *Note:* Only middle-skill jobs are considered when determining education.	

Emerging Occupation(s)

Yes ☐ No ☑

Comments: N/A

The Central Valley/Mother Lode Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (CVML COE) prepared this report to determine whether there is a supply gap in the North Central Valley/Northern Mother Lode regional labor market related to the following occupations:

- Middle-Skill
  - Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)
  - Occupational Therapy Aides (31-2012)
- Above Middle-Skill - denoted with a caret (^) throughout this report
  - Athletic Trainers (29-9091)^

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations. In addition to one of the two middle-skill occupations in this report having entry-level wages above the subregion's living wage, 63% of middle-skill workers in this field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. **Therefore, due to most of the regional labor market criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.**

Exhibit 1 lists the occupational demand, supply, typical entry-level education, and educational attainment for *athletic trainers*-related occupations.

Exhibit 1: Labor Market Endorsement Summary

Occupation (SOC)	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (CC and Non-CC)	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Typical Entry-Level Education	Community College Educational Attainment
Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)	NCV/NML: 23 SCV/SML: 35	NCV/NML: 15 SCV/SML: 28	NCV/NML: $36.93 SCV/SML: $35.12	Associate degree	63%
Occupational Therapy Aides (31-2012)	NCV/NML: 1 SCV/SML: 3		NCV/NML: **Insufficient Data** SCV/SML: $17.10	High school diploma or equivalent	63%
Middle-Skill Total	**62**	**43**	**-**		
Athletic Trainers (29-9091)^	NCV/NML: 13 SCV/SML: 14	NCV/NML: 15 SCV/SML: 28	NCV/NML: $30.73 SCV/SML: $28.42	Bachelor's degree	22%
Above Middle-Skill Total	**27**	**43**	-	**-**	**-**
Total	**89**		-	**-**	**-**

Demand:

- The number of jobs related to the two *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations in this report are projected to increase 19% through 2030. There will be 24 annual job openings in the NCV/NML subregion.
- One of the two *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage of $16.81 in the NCV/NML subregion.
- There were 375 online job postings for *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations over the past 12 months.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *Occupational Therapy Assistants,* lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *Occupational Therapy Aides* and lists a bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education for *Athletic Trainers*^.
- National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 63% of middle-skill workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

Supply:

- Between 2022 and 2025, there was an average of 8 awards conferred by community colleges in the NCV/NML subregion.
- Between 2021 and 2024, non-community college institutions in the NCV/NML subregion conferred an average of 8 awards in relevant programs.

Demand

Occupational Projections

Exhibit 2a shows the annual percent change for *Occupational Therapy Assistants* and *Aides* from 2020 through 2030. The NCV/NML subregion experienced the highest growth in 2026 at 6%, compared to the 1% growth across all CA occupations. The NCV/NML subregion experienced the largest decline in 2020 at 5%, compared to the 6% decline across all CA occupations. From 2027 to 2030, growth is projected to fluctuate in the NCV/NML subregion (between 2% and 4%).

Exhibit 2a (Middle-Skill) Annual Percent Change in Jobs for Occupational Therapy Assistants and Aides, 2020-2030

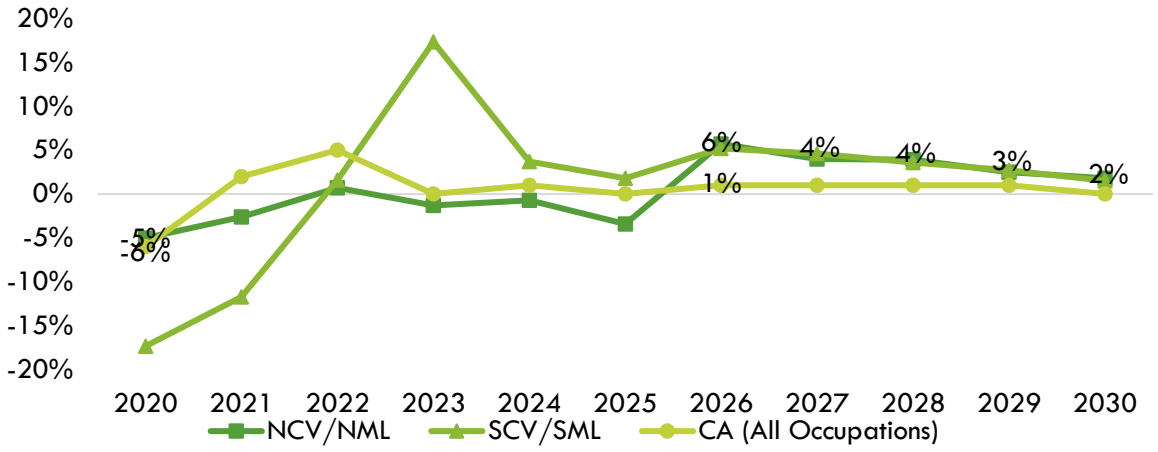


Exhibit 2b shows the annual percent change for *Athletic Trainers* from 2020 through 2030. The NCV/NML subregion experienced the highest growth in 2022 at 36%, compared to the 5% growth across all CA occupations. The NCV/NML subregion experienced the second highest growth in 2020 at 10%, compared to the 6% decline across all CA occupations. From 2027 to 2030, growth is projected to slightly fluctuate in the NCV/NML subregion (between 1% and 2%).

Exhibit 2b (Above Middle-Skill) Annual Percent Change in Jobs for Athletic Trainers, 2020-2030

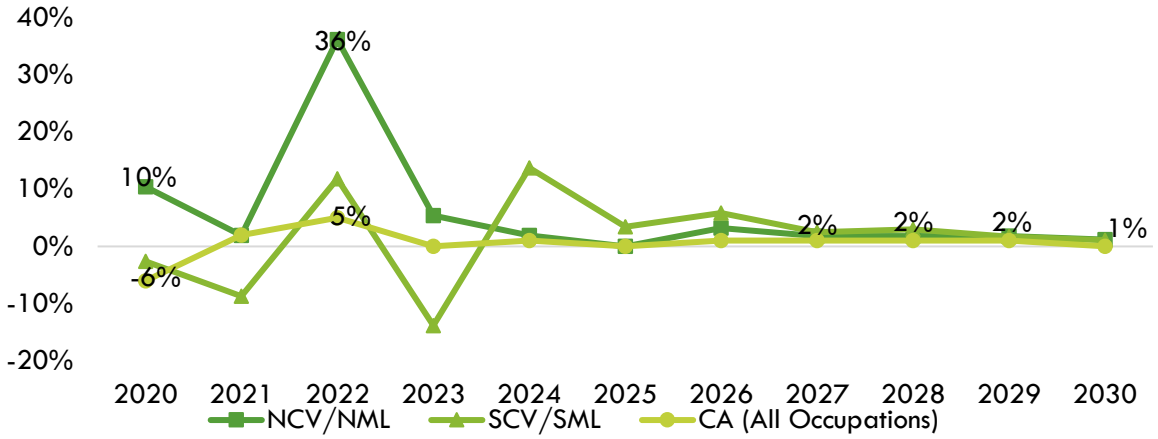


Exhibit 3a shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the two *athletic trainers*-related middle-skill occupations. In the NCV/NML subregion, the number of jobs related to these occupations are projected to increase by 19% through 2030. There are projected to be 24 jobs available annually in the NCV/NML subregion.

Exhibit 3a (Middle-Skill): Occupational Demand in NCV/NML, SCV/SML, and CVML[1]

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
NCV/NML	141	168	27	19%	24
SCV/SML	229	272	43	19%	38
CVML	**370**	**440**	**70**	**19%**	**62**

Exhibit 3b shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the *athletic trainers*-related above middle-skill occupation. In the NCV/NML subregion, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 10% through 2030. There are projected to be 13 jobs available annually in the NCV/NML subregion.

Exhibit 3b (Above Middle-Skill): Occupational Demand in NCV/NML, SCV/SML, and CVML

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
NCV/NML	158	174	16	10%	13
SCV/SML	154	177	23	15%	14
CVML	**312**	**351**	**39**	**12%**	**27**

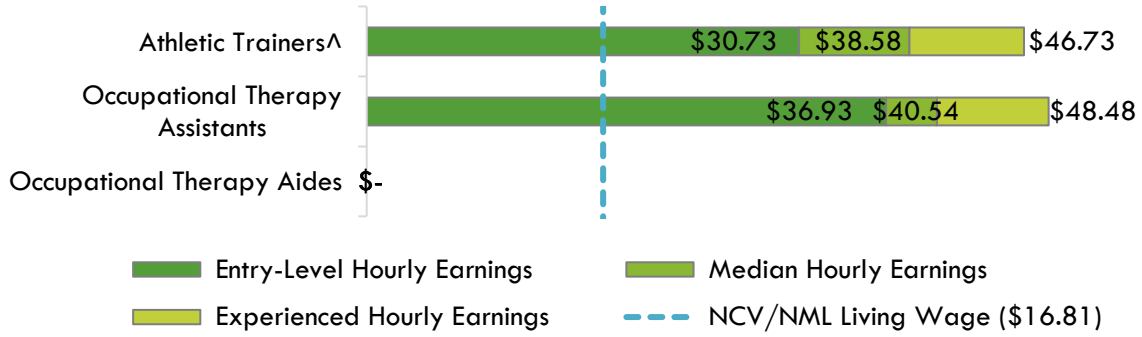
[1]Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Wages:

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for the three *athletic trainers*-related occupations as they relate to the subregions and region's living wage. NCV/NML, SCV/SML, and CVML wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the region.

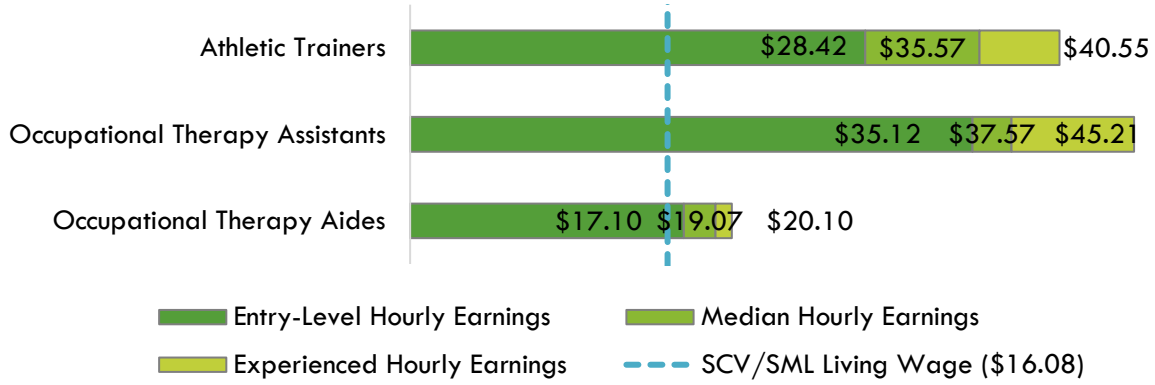
Two of the three *athletic trainers*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage for one adult in the NCV/NML subregion ($16.81). The NCV/NML subregion average wage for these occupations is $39.98, which is above the average statewide wage of $38.55. Exhibit 4a shows the wage range for *athletic trainers*-related occupations and how they compare to the NCV/NML subregion's living wage. **Note: There is insufficient wage data for *Occupational Therapy Aides* in the NCV/NML subregion.**

Exhibit 4a: Wages by Occupation in NCV/NML



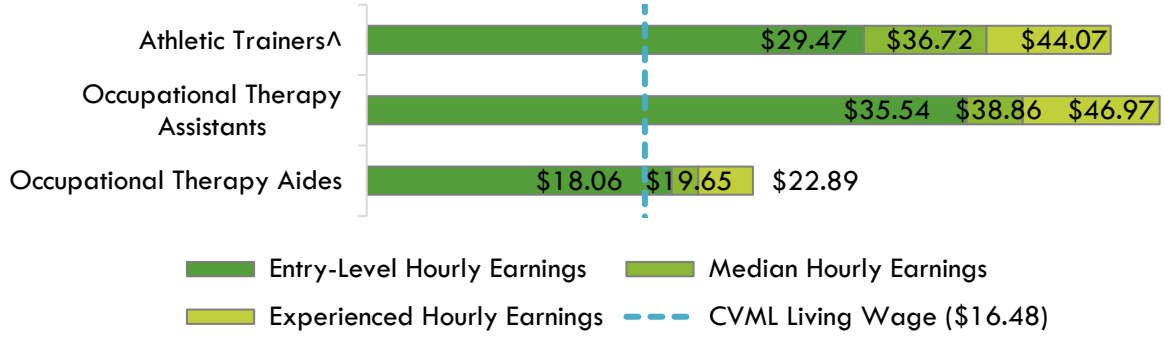
All three *athletic trainers*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage for one adult in the SCV/SML subregion ($16.08). The SCV/SML subregion average wage for these occupations is $37.47, which is below the average statewide wage of $38.55. Exhibit 4b shows the wage range for *athletic trainers*-related occupations and how they compare to the SCV/SML subregion's living wage.

Exhibit 4b Wages by Occupation in SCV/SML



All three *athletic trainers*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage for one adult in the CVML region ($16.48). The CVML region average wage for these occupations is $38.58, which is above the average statewide wage of $38.55. Exhibit 5 shows the wage range for *athletic trainers*-related occupations and how they compare to the CVML region's living wage.

Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in CVML



Job Postings:

Important Online Job Postings Data Note: *Online job postings data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm that scrapes, collects, and organizes data from online job boards such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor, Monster, GovernmentJobs.com, and thousands more. Lightcast uses natural language processing (NLP) to determine the related company, industry, occupation, and other information for each job posting. However, NLP has limitations that include understanding contextual words of phrases; determining differences in words that can be used as nouns, verbs, and/or adjectives; and misspellings or grammatical errors.*[2] *For these reasons, job postings could be assigned to the wrong employer, industry, or occupation within Lightcast's database.*

Additionally, there are several limitations when analyzing job postings. A single job posting may not represent a single job opening, as employers may be creating a pool of candidates for future openings or hiring for multiple positions with a single posting. Additionally, not all jobs are posted online, and jobs may be filled through other methods such as internal promotion, word-of-mouth advertising, physical job boards, or a variety of other channels.

There were 375 online job postings related to *Occupational Therapy Assistants* and *Aides* listed in the past 12 months (Exhibit 6a).

Exhibit 6a (Middle-Skill): Number of Job Postings (n=375)

Occupations	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Occupational Therapy Assistants	289	77%
Occupational Therapy Aides	86	23%

[2]K. R. Chowdhary, Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (Basingstoke: Springer Nature, 2020), https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-81-322-3972-7

There were 58 online job postings related to *Athletic Trainers* listed in the past 12 months (Exhibit 6b).

Exhibit 6b (Above Middle-Skill): Number of Job Postings (n=58)

Occupations	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Athletic Trainers	58	100%

The top employers in the region for *Occupational Therapy Assistants* and *Aides*, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 7a.

Exhibit 7a (Middle-Skill): Top Employers by Number of Job Postings (n=375)

Employers	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Soliant Health	36	10%
HiredFirst	17	5%
Aya Healthcare	15	4%
Jackson Therapy Partners	15	4%
AMN Healthcare	15	4%
Reliant Rehabilitation	13	3%
Fusion Medical Staffing	10	3%
Triage Staffing	9	2%
MAS Medical	8	2%
MedPro Healthcare Staffing	8	2%

The top employers in the region for *Athletic Trainers*, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 7b.

Exhibit 7b (Above Middle-Skill): Top Employers by Number of Job Postings (n=58)

Employers	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Concentra	4	7%
Turlock Sports Park	4	7%
York Orthopedic Recovery	3	5%
GMG EnviroSafe	3	5%
Work Right NW	3	5%
Yosemite Community College District	3	5%
Doctors of Physical Therapy	3	5%
Go4	3	5%

Employers	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
California State University-Stanislaus	2	3%
Tesla	2	3%

The top specialized, common, and software skills for *Occupational Therapy Assistants* and *Aides* are listed by those most frequently mentioned in job postings (denoted in parentheses) are shown in Exhibit 8a.

Exhibit 8a (Middle-Skill): Top Skills by Number of Job Postings (n=375)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Occupational Therapy (280)	Communication (97)	Applicant Tracking Systems (2)
Rehabilitation (145)	Interpersonal Communications (35)	R (Programming Language) (2)
Treatment Planning (97)	Organizational Skills (28)	Epic EMR (1)
Pediatrics (47)	English Language (25)	Microsoft Word (1)
Infection Control (42)	Management (22)	Document Object Model (1)
Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) (41)	Coordinating (22)	Patient Management Software (1)
Patient Assistance (38)	Professionalism (21)	Proprietary Software (1)
Nursing Homes (36)	Computer Literacy (18)	-
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (32)	Critical Thinking (16)	-
Patient Education and Counseling (31)	Teamwork (16)	-

The top specialized, common, and software skills for *Athletic Trainers* are listed by those most frequently mentioned in job postings (denoted in parentheses) are shown in Exhibit 8b.

Exhibit 8b (Above Middle-Skill): Top Skills by Number of Job Postings (n=58)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Athletic Training (40)	Management (20)	Microsoft Office (8)
Injury Prevention (33)	Coaching (18)	-
First Aid (22)	Communication (17)	-
Rehabilitation (21)	Leadership (12)	-
Sports Medicine (20)	Coordinating (12)	-
Treatment Planning (14)	Innovation (10)	-
Kinesiology (13)	Microsoft Office (8)	-

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Mechanics (10)	Detail Oriented (8)	-
Data Analysis (9)	Record Keeping (7)	-
Human Musculoskeletal System (9)	Time Management (7)	-

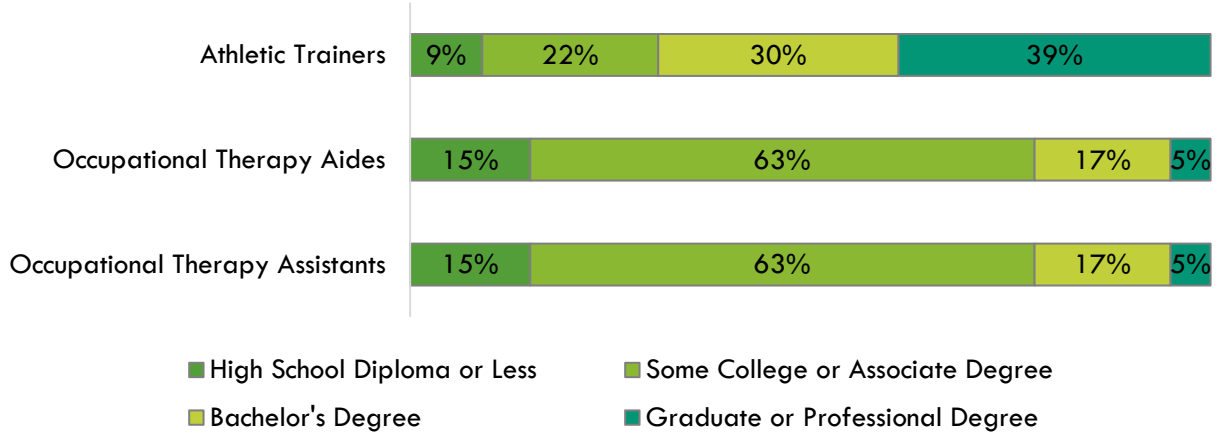
Educational Attainment:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *Occupational Therapy Assistants,* lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *Occupational Therapy Aides* and lists a bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education for *Athletic Trainers*. National-level educational attainment data indicates that 63% of middle-skill workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Exhibit 9 shows the educational attainment for *athletic trainers*-related occupations.

Of the 375 online job postings for the middle skill occupations, 32% (equivalent to 120 postings) of cumulative job postings listed a minimum education requirement in the NCV/NML subregion. Of the 120 postings, 78% (94) requested an associate degree.

Of the 58 online job postings for the above middle-skill occupation, 50% (equivalent to 29 postings) of cumulative job postings listed a minimum education requirement in the NCV/NML subregion. Of the 29 postings, 90% (26) requested a bachelor's degree.

Exhibit 9: National-level Educational Attainment for Athletic Trainers-Related Occupations



Educational Supply

Community College Supply:

Exhibits 10a and 10b show the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the programs that have historically trained for the occupations included in this report. Only Modesto conferred awards in the NCV/NML subregion.

Exhibit 10a: NCV/NML Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees) 2022-23 through 2024-25

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	2024-2025 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1228.00	Athletic Training and Sports Medicine	Modesto	4	9	10	8
Subtotal/Average			**4**	**9**	**10**	**8**
NCV/NML Supply Grand Total			**4**	**9**	**10**	**8**

Exhibit 10b: SCV/SML Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees) 2022-23 through 2024-25

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	2024-2025 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1218.00	Occupational Therapy Technology	Clovis	17	15	13	15
Subtotal/Average			**17**	**15**	**13**	**15**
1228.00	Athletic Training and Sports Medicine	Sequoias	5	7	3	5
Subtotal/Average			**5**	**7**	**3**	**5**
SCV/SML Supply Grand Total			**22**	**22**	**16**	**20**

Exhibit 11 shows the annual average community college awards by type from 2022-23 through 2024-25. Of the 8 awards conferred in the NCV/NML subregion, 100% (8) of these awards were for an associate degree.

Exhibit 11: Annual Average Community College Awards (NCV/NML) by Type, 2022-2025



Community College Student Outcomes:

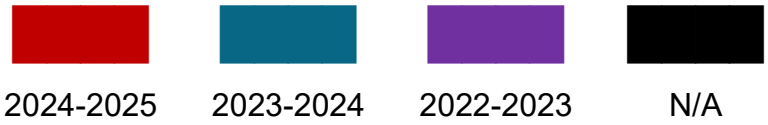
Exhibit 12 shows the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) metrics for Athletic Training and Sports Medicine programs in Yosemite Community College District (YCCD), the NCV/NML subregion, the CVML region, and California.

Of the 3,177 athletic training and sports medicine program students statewide in the 2024-2025 academic year, 15% (479) attended a CVML institution. YCCD students that exited athletic training and sports medicine programs in the 2023-2024 academic year had greater median annual earnings ($42,248) compared to all athletic training and sports medicine students in NCV/NML subregion ($37,962). Notably, 47% of CVML region athletic training and sports medicine students attained a living wage, which is greater than the percentage of students who attained a living wage statewide (22%).

Exhibit 12: Athletic Training and Sports Medicine (1228.00) Strong Workforce Program Metrics

SWP Metric	YCCD	NCV/NML Subregion	CVML Region	California
SWP Students	133	157	479	3,177
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	11%	9%	19%	18%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	N/A	N/A	N/A	48%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	8%	6%	3%	2%
SWP Students Who Transferred to a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution	10%	10%	14%	12%
SWP Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study	N/A	N/A	77%	65%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	$42,248 ($20.31)	$37,962 ($18.25)	$35,212 ($16.93)	$29,268 ($14.07)

SWP Metric	YCCD	NCV/NML Subregion	CVML Region	California
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	117%	128%	141%	66%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage	65%	54%	47%	22%



Non-Community College Supply:

For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is also important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for the occupations studied in this report. Exhibits 13a and 13b show the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by non-community college institutions in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest.

Between 2021 and 2024, non-community college institutions in the NCV/NML subregion conferred an average of 8 awards annually in related programs.

Exhibit 13a: NCV/NML Subregional Non-Community College Awards, 2021-2024

CIP Code	Program	Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Award Average
51.0913	Athletic Training/Trainer	University of the Pacific	8	6	9	8
Subtotal/Average			**8**	**6**	**9**	**8**
NCV/NML Supply Grand Total			**8**	**6**	**9**	**8**

Exhibit 13b: SCV/SML Subregional Non-Community College Awards, 2021-2024

CIP Code	Program	Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Award Average
51.0913	Athletic Training/Trainer	California State University-Fresno	4	11	8	8
		Fresno Pacific University	-	2	-	1
Subtotal/Average			**4**	**13**	**8**	**8**
SCV/SML Supply Grand Total			**4**	**13**	**8**	**8**

Appendix A: Methodology

The CVML COE prepared this report by analyzing data from occupations and education programs.

Occupational data is derived from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm that consolidates data from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and other government agencies. Program supply data is drawn from two systems: Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

Using a TOP-SOC crosswalk, the CVML COE identified middle-skill jobs for which programs within these TOP codes train. Middle-skill jobs include:

- 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.

The CVML COE determined labor market supply for an occupation or SOC code by analyzing the number of program completers or awards in a related TOP or CIP code. The COE developed a "supply table" with this information, which is the source of the program supply data for this report. TOP code data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart (datamart.cccco.edu) and CIP code data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data), also known as IPEDS. TOP is a system of numerical codes used at the state level to collect and report information on California community college programs and courses throughout the state that have similar outcomes. CIP codes are a taxonomy of academic disciplines at institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada. Institutions outside of the California Community College system do not use TOP codes in their reporting systems.

Data included in this analysis represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to the proposed program as expressed by the requesting college in consultation with the CVML COE. 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 which 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.

Appendix B: Data Sources

Data Type	Source
Occupational Projections, Wages, and Job Postings	Traditional labor market information data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm. Lightcast occupational employment data are based on final Lightcast industry data and final Lightcast staffing patterns. Wage estimates are based on Occupational Employment Statistics and the American Community Survey. For more information, see https://lightcast.io/
Living Wage	The living wage is derived from the Insight Center's California Family Needs Calculator, which measures the income necessary for an individual of family to afford basic expenses. The data assesses the cost of housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation, and taxes. For more information, see: https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California/ Wage figures are used by the CCCCO to calculate the percentage of students that attained the regional living wage.
Typical Education and Training Requirements, and Educational Attainment	The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about education and training requirements for hundreds of occupations. BLS uses a system to assign categories for entry-level education, work experience in a related occupation, and typical on-the-job training to each occupation for which BLS publishes projections data. For more information, see https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education/tech.htm
Emerging Occupation Descriptions, Additional Education Requirements, and Employer Preferences	The O*NET database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledges, work activities, and interests associated with occupations. For more information, see https://www.onetonline.org/help/online/
Educational Supply	The CCCCO Data Mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes and faculty and staff. For more information, see: https://datamart.cccco.edu The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Integrated Data System (IPEDS) collects data on the number of postsecondary awards earned (completions). For more information, see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/survey-components/7/completions
Student Metrics and Demographics	DataVista, a statewide data system supported by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and hosted by Cal-PASS Plus, provides data on progress, success, employment, and earnings outcomes for California community college students. For more information, see: https://datavista.cccco.edu/
Population and Occupation Demographics	The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source for detailed population and housing information. For more information, see: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs Data is sourced from IPUMS USA, a database providing access to ACS and other Census Bureau data products. For more information, see: https://usa.ipums.org/usa/about.shtml

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