



Labor Market Analysis: 1221.00 – Pharmacy Technology 51.0805 – Pharmacy Technician/Assistant

Pharmacy Technology Noncredit–Noncredit award requiring 288 to<480 hours

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, April 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input checked="" 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, 25 th)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" 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 occupation¹ 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.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the one identified middle-skill occupation in the region. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, more than half of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or some college as their highest level of educational attainment.

Recommendation: Due to two of 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

- 1,661 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is greater than the three-year average of 704 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

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

- \$21.36 is the typical entry-level hourly wage for *pharmacy technicians*, which is lower than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A high school diploma or equivalent is the typical entry-level education for *pharmacy technicians*, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 53% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 7 community colleges issued awards related to pharmacy technology in the greater LA/OC region.
- 218 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2023 and 2025.

Other postsecondary supply

- 20 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to pharmacy technology over the past three years.
- 486 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2022 and 2024.

TARGET OCCUPATION

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

- **Pharmacy Technicians (29-2052)** Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders.³

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *pharmacy technicians*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 4% through 2029. There will be nearly 1,700 job openings per year through 2029 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2024 for *pharmacy technicians* (75%) were located in Los Angeles County.

² Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). *The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024*. <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California>.

³ [Pharmacy Technicians \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/pharmacy-technicians)

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

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	12,126	12,648	523	4%	1,240
Orange	4,105	4,287	182	4%	421
Total	16,231	16,935	704	4%	1,661

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation in Los Angeles County. The average percentage of workers aged 55+ across all occupations in the Los Angeles/Orange County region is 26%; occupations with a larger share of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements. On average, 81% of workers across all occupations in California are employed full-time. Occupations with a lower-than-average percentage of full-time workers may have less employment security but may see increased activity in the gig economy.

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁵

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Pharmacy Technicians	12,126	12,648	4%	1,240	13%	75%

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *pharmacy technicians* 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 Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Los Angeles County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *pharmacy technicians* are \$21.36, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$29.64, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 3).

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*
Pharmacy Technicians	\$21.36	\$23.44	\$29.64	\$48,800

*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 *pharmacy technicians* are \$21.02, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$29.19, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

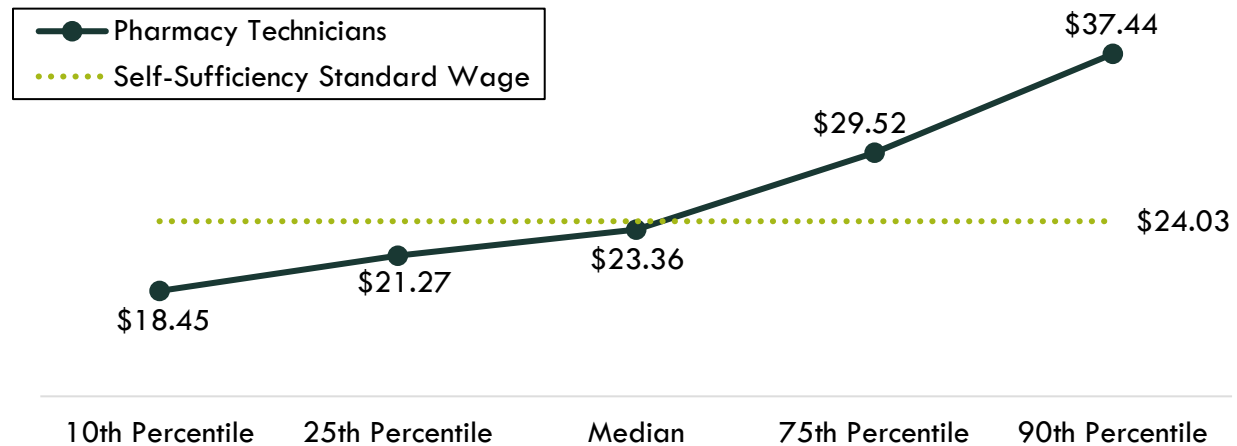
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Pharmacy Technicians	\$21.02	\$23.08	\$29.19	\$48,000

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$21.27; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). 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 target occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 4,426 online job postings related to *pharmacy 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: 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"> • Pharmacy technicians • Pharmacy interns • Certified pharmacy technicians • Inpatient pharmacy technicians • Pharmacy service associates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical prescription • Workflow management • Pharmaceuticals • Pharmacy experience • Inventory management • Pharmacy operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVS Health • Walgreens Boots Alliance • University of California • Walmart • Soliant* • Costco • Rx Relief* • Providence*

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 42% of the target job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 7 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

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

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	28	2%
Associate degree	30	2%
High school diploma or vocational training	1,795	96%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *pharmacy technicians* (Exhibit 8). However, the national-level data indicates 53% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education level for the occupation in this report:

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

Occupation	Education Level
Pharmacy technicians	High school diploma or equivalent

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: Pharmacy Technology (1221.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Mt. San Antonio, Santa Ana, and Cerritos.

Exhibit 9: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2023-2025

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	2024-25 Awards	3-Year Average
1221.00	Pharmacy Technology	Cerritos	32	37	34	34
		East LA	1	1	-	1
		LA Mission	13	35	26	25
		Mt San Antonio	38	51	90	60
		West LA	48	27	13	29
		LA Subtotal	132	151	163	149
		North Orange Continuing Education	-	47	45	31
		Santa Ana	25	43	49	39
		OC Subtotal	25	90	94	70
Supply Total/Average			157	241	257	218

Exhibit 10 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (41%) and noncredit awards (41%).

Exhibit 10: Community college awards by award type, 2023-2025

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	38	17%
Certificates	90	41%
Noncredit awards	90	41%
Total	218	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

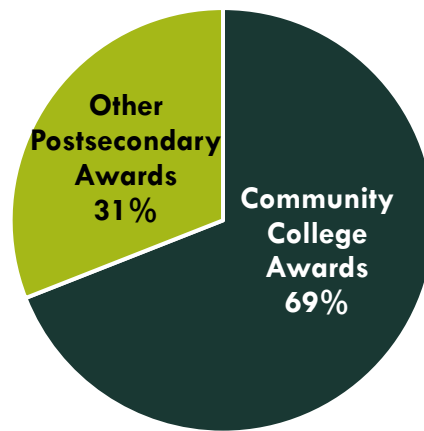
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for pharmacy technicians. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2022 to 2024. Between 2022 and 2024, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 486 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 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2022-2024

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
51.0805	Pharmacy Technician/Assistant	ABC Adult School	12	11	15	13
		American Career College-Anaheim	49	38	59	49
		American Career College-LA	80	73	88	80
		American College of Healthcare and Technology	13	9	4	9
		Baldwin Park Adult & Community Education	19	4	-	8
		CBD College	12	-	-	4
		Concorde Career College-Garden Grove	14	19	17	17
		Downey Adult School	40	36	35	37
		Galaxy Medical College	2	3	3	3
		Hacienda La Puente Adult Ed.	18	11	50	26
		North-West College-Anaheim	23	18	16	19
		North-West College-Glendale	6	10	18	11
		North-West College-Long Beach	27	40	16	28
		North-West College-Pomona	11	13	6	10
		North-West College-Van Nuys	14	10	5	10
		North-West College-W. Covina	37	28	32	32
		UEI College-Gardena	53	41	59	51
		UEI College-Reseda	42	32	33	36
		UEI College-West Covina	37	34	48	40
Valley College of Medical Careers	4	6	6	5		
Supply Total/Average			513	436	510	486

Exhibit 12 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. The majority of awards conferred in these programs are awarded by other institutions in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 12: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



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POWERED BY



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)

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