

Labor Market Analysis for Program Review:

Medical Imaging and Radiology
Technicians in the Far North

Prepared by the North Far North Center of Excellence
May 2026



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Summary

The North Far North Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (NFN COE) prepared this report to provide an analysis of occupational demand and educational supply for selected occupations employed across the 22-county North Far North region. This report aims to determine if demand in the local labor market is unmet by the supply from existing community college programs and other postsecondary training providers, with a primary focus on training that leads to living wage jobs in middle-skilled occupations.¹

Key Findings

- **Job growth for medical imaging and radiology technicians in the Far North is on par with growth for the North Far North and California.** There is 9% job growth expected for medical imaging and radiology technician jobs in the Far North, and 10% job growth expected for the North Far North and California.
- **Entry-level wages for medical imaging and radiology technicians surpass the family living wage.** All occupations related to medical imaging and radiology have entry-level wages that exceed the family living wage of \$35.35 in Shasta's community college district.
- **Medical imaging and radiology technician jobs align well with community college offerings.** All medical imaging and radiology technician occupations typically require an associate's degree for entry-level education, and between 43% and 65% of incumbent workers have some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment.
- **There is a significant supply-demand gap for medical imaging and radiology technicians.** There are 47 projected annual openings and no awards or programs offered in the Far North.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the North Far North COE recommends that community colleges **proceed in creating new programs related to medical imaging and radiology**. Key considerations include:

- Steady growth is projected for medical imaging and radiology technician jobs.
- Medical imaging and radiology technician jobs have high entry-level wages, surpassing the family living wage.
- There are no programs currently active at any postsecondary institutions in the Far North to train for medical imaging and radiology.

¹ Pursuant to California Education Code §78015, labor market information (LMI) is required for all new career education certificate and degree program proposals, and the North Far North Regional Consortium (NFNRC) requires LMI to come from the NFN COE. This report should serve to satisfy those requirements.

Introduction

The North Far North Center of Excellence (COE) was asked to provide labor market data to support a proposed new career education program or modifications to existing programs at a regional community college (see Appendix A for methodology and data sources).

This report focuses on the following Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) occupations and codes:

- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (29-2034)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (29-2035)

A review of related programs revealed the following Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) title(s) and code(s) are appropriate for inclusion in this report:

- Radiologic Technology (1225.00)

The corresponding Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) title(s) and code(s) are:

- Medical Radiologic Technology/Science – Radiation Therapist (51.0907)
- Radiologic Technology/Science - Radiographer (51.0911)

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 summarizes the five-year projected job growth for the targeted occupational groups in the Far North subregion, the 22-county North Far North region, and California.²

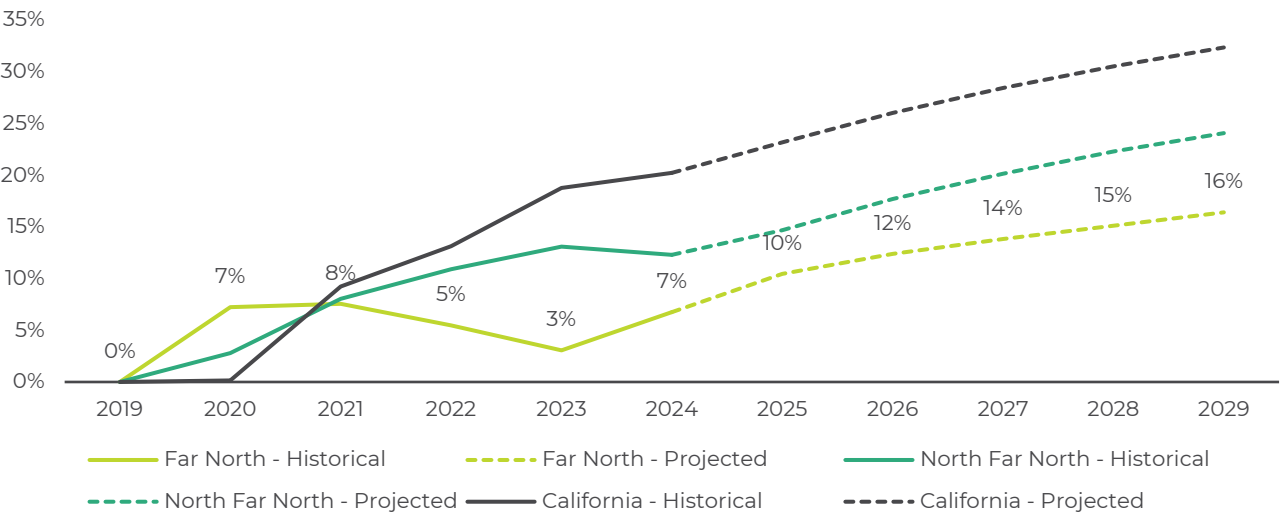
Exhibit 1. Current employment and projected occupational demand, 2024-2029

Occupational Group	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	2024-2029 Annual Openings
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	188	21	11%	14
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	417	34	8%	29
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	59	5	8%	4
Far North	664	60	9%	47
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	895	101	11%	66
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	1,792	187	10%	134
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	291	24	8%	20
North Far North	2,978	312	10%	220
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	9,573	957	10%	678
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	20,254	2,128	11%	1,518
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	3,461	271	8%	236
California	33,288	3,356	10%	2,432

Exhibit 2 compares historical and projected annual change in employment for the period 2019 to 2029 with the base number of jobs in 2019 for the Far North, the 22-county North Far North region, and California.

² The 22-county North Far North is a dual region. It is represented by the North (Greater Sacramento) subregion that covers seven counties, including El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, and the 15-county Far North subregion which includes Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

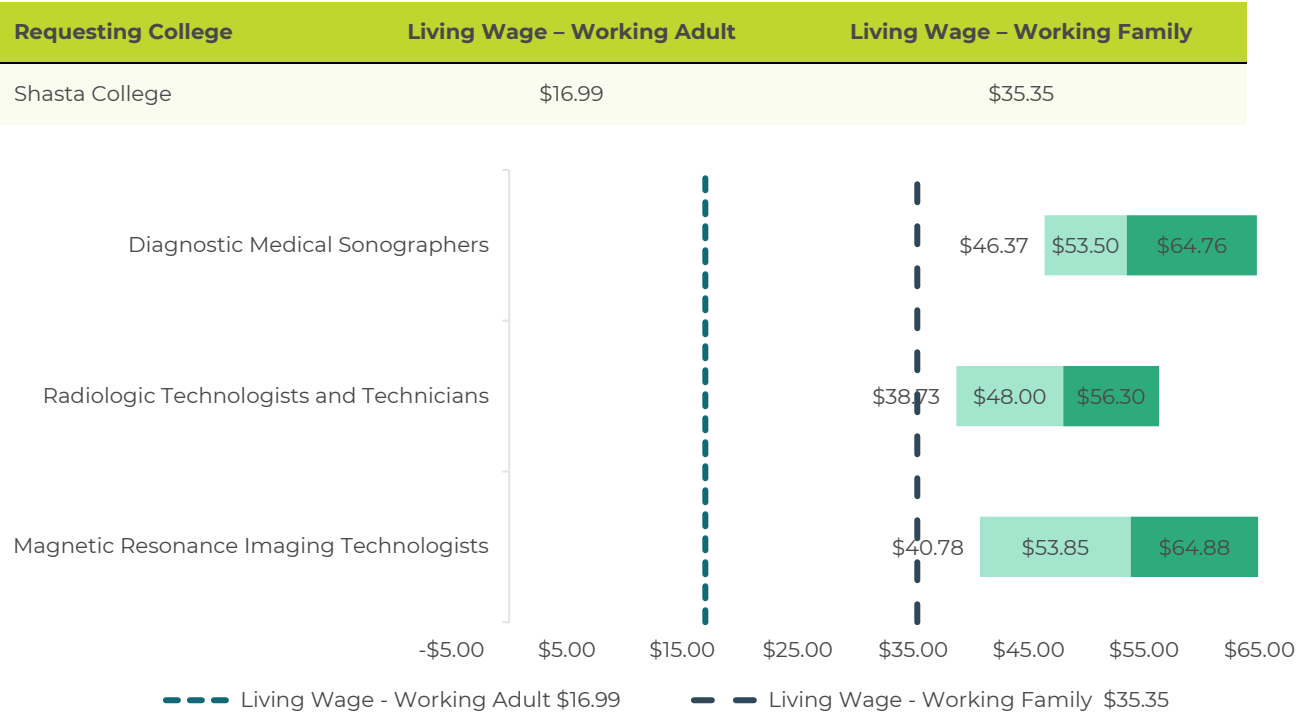
Exhibit 2. Changes in employment, 2019-2029



Earnings

Exhibit 3 compares the percentile hourly earnings for the selected occupations to the living wage for a single working adult and a working family residing in the county of the community college district that requested this report.^{3,4} Earnings data include wages from employed and self-employed workers. Also, it's important to note that living wage thresholds vary by county, and in the Far North subregion, range from \$17 to \$24 per hour for a single working adult.

Exhibit 3. Hourly earnings compared to the community college district's living wage



³ A “living wage” is defined as the level of income one working adult with no children must earn to meet basic needs, including food, housing, transportation, healthcare, taxes, and other miscellaneous basic needs. Please note that the 25th-percentile and 75th-percentile hourly wages are used as proxies for entry-level and experienced-level wages.

⁴ A “working family” is defined as one working adult and one infant (between the ages of 0 and 2 years).

Job Postings

Analysis of online job postings can offer additional insights into recent labor market changes not reflected in historical trends. However, it is important to note that job postings do not equate to actual labor market demand, which is based on projected annual job openings.

There are several limitations to interpreting online job postings. Employers may repost the same position multiple times to attract more applicants, or job postings may remain active even if the position is no longer being filled. Additionally, a single job posting can be used to hire for multiple openings, and not all job opportunities are advertised online. Despite these limitations, job posting analyses can be valuable for guiding community college curriculum development and identifying potential employers for targeted experiential learning opportunities.

The North Far North COE identified 651 online job postings for the selected occupations across the Far North subregion. Job posting data comes from and represents unique advertisements posted online during the last 12 months, from May 2025 to April 2026.

Exhibit 4. Job postings by occupation

Occupation	Number of Job Postings	Share of Postings	Median Advertised Salary
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	93	14%	\$57.72
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	497	76%	\$55.51
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	61	9%	\$55.88
Total	651	100%	\$56.00

Top employers

Exhibit 5 shows the employers with the most job postings for the selected occupations across the Far North.

Exhibit 5. Employers with the most job postings

Employer	Number of Job Postings
Providence	133
Adventist Health	123
Oroville Hospital	33
CommonSpirit Health/ Mercy Medical Center	25
Enloe Medical Center	18
Sutter Health	13

Employer	Number of Job Postings
Orchard Hospital	7
Mad River Community Hospital	3
Vibra Healthcare	3
California Correctional Health Care Services (Pelican Bay State Prison)	3

Top titles

Exhibit 6 shows the job titles with the most job postings for the selected occupations across the Far North.

Exhibit 6. Job titles with the most job postings

Job title	Number of Job Postings
Computed Tomography (CT) Technologists	93
Radiology Technologists	64
Radiology CT Technologists	41
Radiologic Technologists	40
Mammography Technologists	37
MRI Technologists	33
Travel Computed Tomography Technologists	32
PET/CT Technologists	30
Ultrasound Technologists	28
Radiology Technologist Assistants	18

Skills and qualifications

Exhibit 7 shows the most requested skills in job postings in the studied occupations in the Far North.⁵

Exhibit 7. Most requested in-demand skills in job postings

Specialized Skills	Common or Employability Skills	Software and Technology Skills
Radiography	Quality Control	Epic EMR

⁵ Specialized skills are those primarily required to perform specific tasks in an occupation. Common skills are typically related to employability; these are skills that are prevalent across many occupations and usually include a mix of interpersonal attributes and soft skills. Software skills are specific to any software tool or programming component used to accomplish tasks in a job.

• Fluoroscopy • X-Ray Computed Tomography • Magnetic Resonance Imaging • Medical Ultrasonography • Mammography • Geriatrics • Anatomy • Venipuncture	• Customer Service • Communication • Accountability • Scheduling • Clerical Works • Operations • Leadership/Management • Self-Motivation • Prioritization	• Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Word) • Clinical Trial Management Systems
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Exhibit 8 shows the most commonly requested certifications for the studied occupations in the Far North.

Exhibit 7. Most requested certifications in job postings

Certification	Number of Job Postings
Basic Life Support (BLS)	400
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Radiography (R) Certification	141
ARRT Computed Tomography (CT) Certification	102
Registered Technologist	96
American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) Certification	65
IV (Intravenous) Certification	55
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	53
ARRT Mammography (M) Certification	43
ARRT Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MR) Certification	31
ARRT Sonography (S) Certification	22
American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT) Certification	14
Registered Vascular Technologist (RVT)	12

Exhibit 9 shows the employer-preferred minimum level of education in job postings related to the selected occupations in the Far North.

Exhibit 9. Employer-preferred education levels for the studied occupations

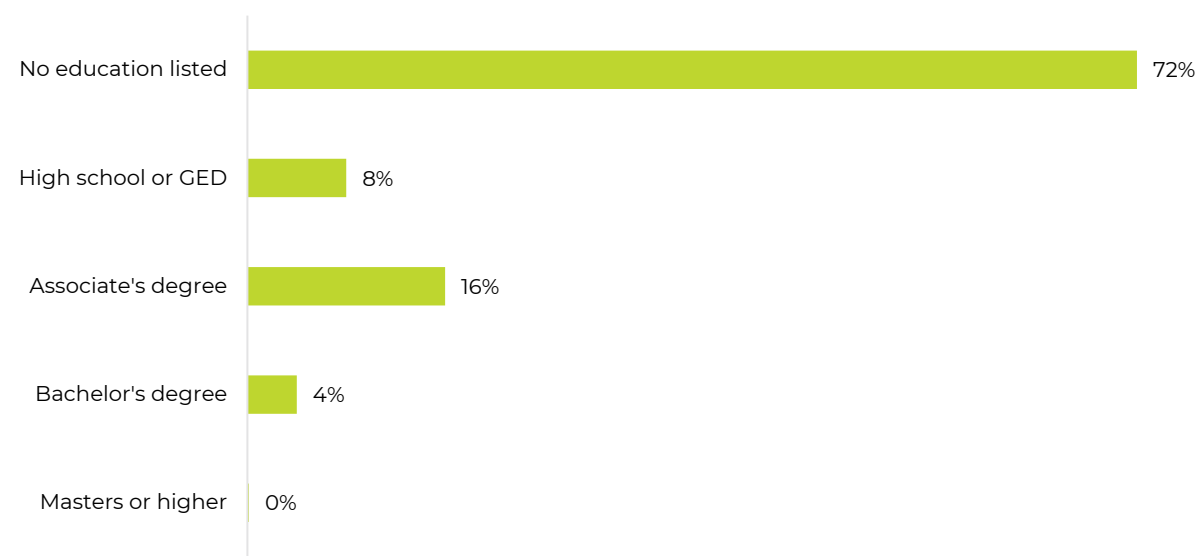
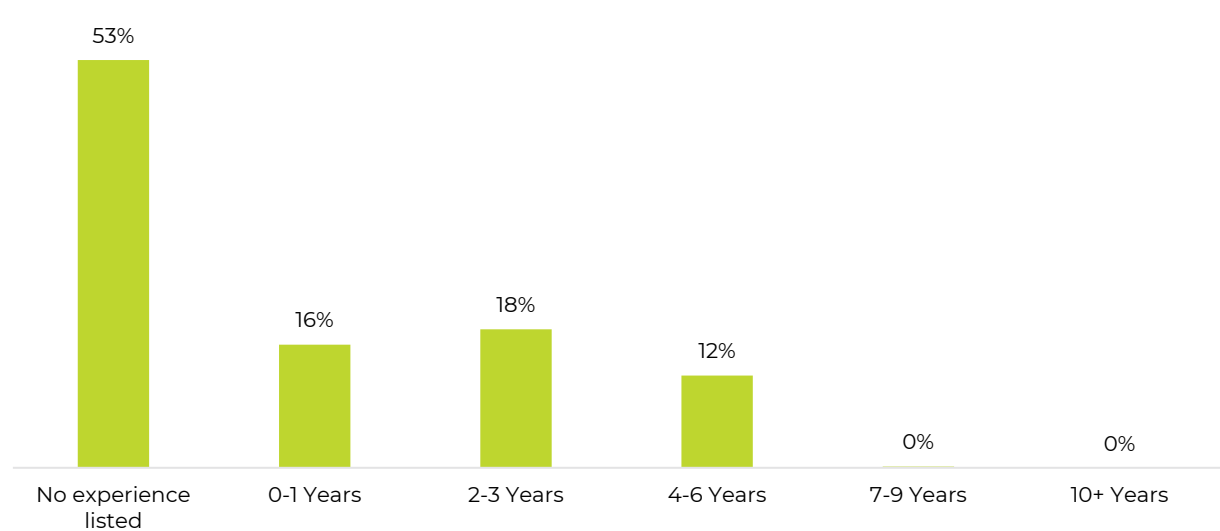


Exhibit 10 shows the employer-preferred minimum level of experience in job postings related to the selected occupations in the Far North.

Exhibit 10. Employer-preferred experience levels for the studied occupations



Education and Training Requirements

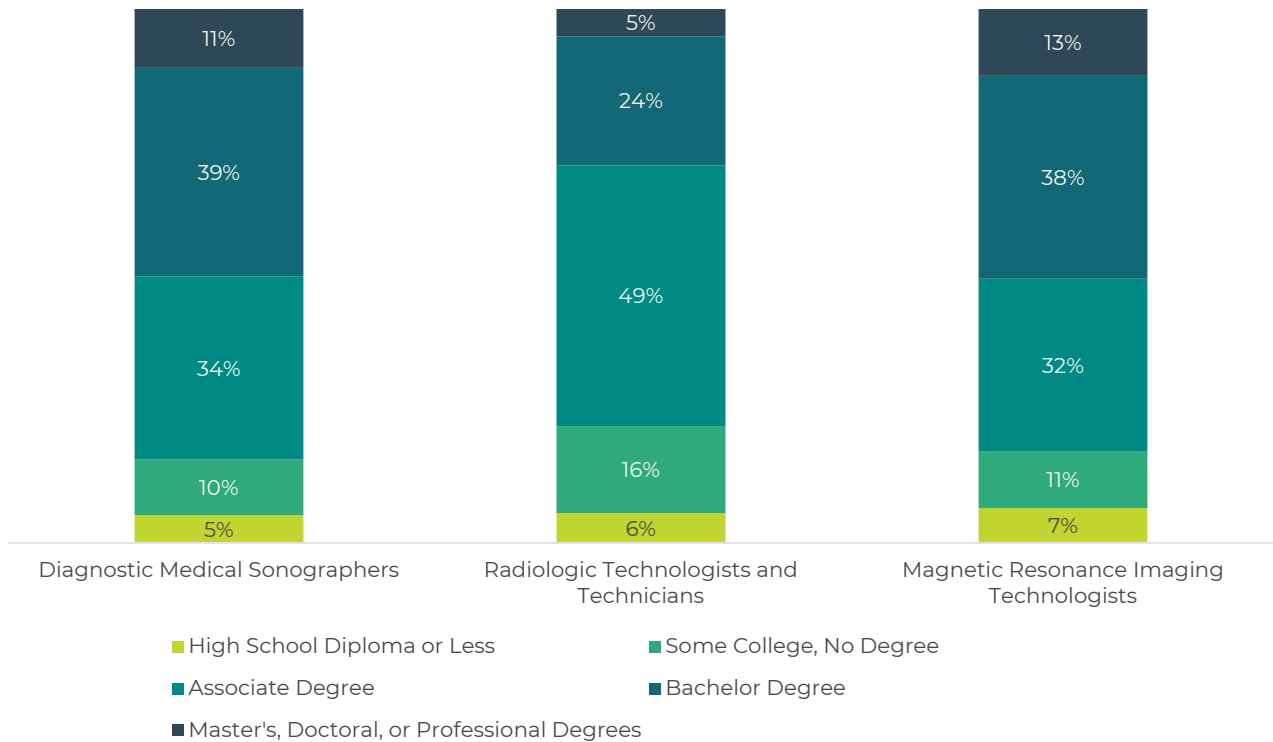
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns each occupation a typical entry-level education, related work experience, and on-the-job training category in its projection data. Exhibit 11 summarizes these requirements by occupation.

Exhibit 11. Typical entry-level job requirements for the studied occupations

Occupation	Entry-Level Education	Work Experience	On-The-Job Training
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Associate's degree	None	None
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	Associate's degree	None	None
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists	Associate's degree	Less than 5 years	None

The U.S. Census Bureau tracks the highest education level attained by workers in all occupations. Exhibit 12 presents this data for the current U.S. workforce in the studied occupations.

Exhibit 12. Educational attainment for workers 25 years and older by occupation, 2021-22



Educational Supply

Educational supply for an occupation can be estimated by analyzing the number of awards issued in related Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) or Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.

Certification Requirements

Diagnostic medical sonographers are not required to be certified in California, although many employers require certification.⁶ Radiologic technologists and technicians are required to be certified, with different certifications required for different machines. One of the main credentialing organizations is the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, which has credentials like Breast Sonography (BS), Cardiac Interventional Radiography (CI), Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MR), Mammography (M), Radiography (R), Sonography (S), Vascular Interventional Radiography (VI), and Vascular Sonography (VS)⁷. While certification is not required for magnetic resonance imaging technologists only using MRI machines, many employers require such certifications. Additionally, many roles require MRI technologists to operate X-rays, which may require a fluoroscopy license⁸.

Community college supply

There are no community colleges in the Far North currently offering programs under the Radiologic Technology (1225.00) TOP code. The closest community college programs are an Associate's degree at Yuba College or Folsom Lake, or certificates with 8 to 16 units at Folsom Lake.

Other postsecondary supply

There are no other postsecondary institutions in the Far North offering programs under the Medical Radiologic Technology/Science – Radiation Therapist (51.0907) or Radiologic Technology/Science - Radiographer (51.0911) CIP codes.

⁶ Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. "State Licensure". n.d. <https://www.sdms.org/advocacy/state-licensure>

⁷ American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. 2025. "Registered Technologist (R.T.) Credential Options." <https://www.arrt.org/pages/earn-arrt-credentials/rt-credential-options>.

⁸ California Department of Public Health. 2024. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/RHB-Certification/FluoroFAQ.aspx>

Conclusion and Recommendations

Data insights

Demand— Job growth for medical imaging and radiology technicians in the Far North is on par with growth for the North Far North and California. There is 9% job growth expected for medical imaging and radiology technician jobs in the Far North, and 10% job growth expected for the North Far North and California.

Living Wage— Entry-level wages for medical imaging and radiology technicians surpass the family living wage. All occupations related to medical imaging and radiology have entry-level wages that exceed the family living wage of \$35.35 in Shasta's community college district.

Education— Medical imaging and radiology technician jobs align well with community college offerings. All medical imaging and radiology technician occupations typically require an associate's degree for entry-level education, and between 43% and 65% of incumbent workers have some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment.

Supply Gap— There is a significant supply-demand gap for medical imaging and radiology technicians. There are 47 projected annual openings and no awards or programs offered in the Far North.

Recommendation

Based on the current analysis, the North Far North COE recommends that community colleges **proceed with** creating new programs related to medical imaging and radiology.

New Program Recommendation		
Proceed	Use Caution	Do Not Proceed
☒	☐	☐

Appendix A. Methodology and Data Sources

Labor market and educational supply data compiled in this report derive from a variety of sources. Occupations were identified by using the Center of Excellence TOP-to-CIP-to-SOC Crosswalk: <http://coeccc.net/>. This report's findings were primarily determined with labor market and educational supply data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the economic modeling firm and job postings aggregator Lightcast, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Data Sources

The following table summarizes the data sources used in this study.

Data Type	Source
Labor Market Information and Job Postings	Traditional labor market information data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm. Lightcast's occupational employment data are based on final Lightcast industry data and final Lightcast staffing patterns. Wage estimates are based on Occupational Employment Statistics (QCEW and non-QCEW employee classes of worker) and the American Community Survey (self-employed and extended proprietors). 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 or family to afford basic expenses. The data assesses the cost of housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation, and taxes. The Chancellor's Office uses wage data to calculate the percentage of students who attained a regional living wage. For more information, visit https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California/ .
Typical Education Level, On-the-job Training, 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, visit 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, knowledge areas, work activities, and interests associated with occupations. For more information, visit https://www.onetonline.org/help/online/ .
Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates	The California Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Division is a source of labor market and workforce data. For more information, visit labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov .
Educational Supply	The CCCCO Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes, and faculty and staff. For more information, visit https://datamart.cccco.edu. The Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory System (COCI) collects data on courses and programs offered by the California Community Colleges. For more information, visit https://coci2.ccctechcenter.org/. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) collects data from providers of postsecondary education, including the number of postsecondary awards earned (completions). For more information, visit https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/survey-components/7/completions.
Student Metrics and Demographics	DataVista, a statewide data system supported by the 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, visit https://datavista.cccco.edu/ .
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer Certification	Society of Medical Diagnostic Sonographers lists licensure requirements by state at https://www.sdms.org/advocacy/state-licensure
Radiologic Technologists and Technician Certifications	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists is the most common certifying body for all radiologic certification. Multiple types of certifications are listed at https://www.arrt.org/pages/earn-arrt-credentials/rt-credential-options .
Fluoroscopy licensure	The California Department of Public Health lists additional information about the fluoroscopy license and who needs it at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/RHB-Certification/FluoroFAQ.aspx

Living Wage

Beginning in October 2024, to determine if an occupation meets the living wage threshold, the NFN COE compared the 25th percentile hourly wage of an occupation in the subregion to the living wage for a single adult (no dependents) living in the county where the requesting community college district was located.

This change aligned with the Chancellor’s Office methodology for calculating the share of students earning a living wage after leaving the California Community College system, as reported in the Data Vista living wage metric (802S). For details, see the *DataVista Metric Definition Dictionary*.

The NFN COE updated this practice as needed to remain consistent with the Chancellor’s Office. The table below summarizes hourly living wages by community college district and county.

2024 Single Adult Living Wage			
Community College District	County	Hourly	Annual
Butte-Glenn	Butte	\$16.77	\$35,416
Feather River	Plumas	\$15.11	\$31,909
Lake Tahoe	El Dorado	\$22.11	\$46,703
Lassen	Lassen	\$14.81	\$31,274
Los Rios	Sacramento	\$21.17	\$44,709
Mendocino-Lake	Mendocino	\$17.06	\$36,039
Redwoods	Humboldt	\$16.59	\$35,046
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint	Shasta	\$16.99	\$35,874
Sierra Joint	Placer	\$23.92	\$50,519
Siskiyou Joint	Siskiyou	\$14.51	\$30,639
Yuba	Sutter	\$17.08	\$36,074
California Minimum Wages			
All industries, except fast food and healthcare (Effective January 2026)		\$16.90	\$35,152
Fast food (Effective April 2024)		\$20.00	\$41,600
Healthcare (Effective July 2025)		\$18.63-\$24.00, depending on facility type	\$38,750-\$49,920

Sources: University of Washington Self Sufficiency Standard and State of California Department of Industrial Relations, “Minimum Wage,” https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/minimum_wage.htm

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