

Labor Market Analysis for Program Review:

Nuclear Medicine Technologist in
Greater Sacramento

Prepared by the North Far North Center of Excellence
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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

- **There are few projected annual job openings for nuclear medicine technologists.** There are only 7 annual job openings for local nuclear medicine technologists, although job openings suggest there may be more opportunities for travel nuclear medicine technologists.
- **Entry-level earnings for nuclear medicine technologists exceed the living wage for a single working adult and a working family.** The living wage for a working family is \$41.91, and entry-level wages for nuclear medicine technologists are \$67.67 per hour.
- **Educational attainment for nuclear medicine technologists aligns well with community college offerings.** Sixty-nine percent of nuclear medical technologists have some college or an associate's degree as their highest level of educational attainment.
- **There are no programs specifically focused on nuclear medicine technology with in-person instruction in the Greater Sacramento subregion.**

Recommendation

Based on the findings, the North Far North COE recommends that community colleges **proceed with caution** when developing programs related to nuclear medicine technology. Key considerations include:

- Nuclear medicine technologists earn high wages, and most have an associate's degree or some college as their highest level of educational attainment.
- Community colleges need to ensure a sufficient supply of clinical placements for required externships. Externship clinical hours are required for certification.
- Community colleges should study Moorpark's successful nuclear medicine technology program to better understand the challenges and opportunities for a program in the Greater Sacramento subregion.
- Community colleges should form partnerships with clinical sites to ensure there are sufficient job openings for travel or local nuclear medicine technologists upon graduation. In the Greater Sacramento subregion there are only 7 projected annual job openings.

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).

Nuclear Medicine Technologists prepare and administer radioactive isotopes for exploratory and diagnostic medical testing. They also calculate radioactive exposure in patients.

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

- Nuclear Medicine Technologists (29-2033)

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:

- Nuclear Medical Technology/Technologist (51.0905)

Occupational Demand

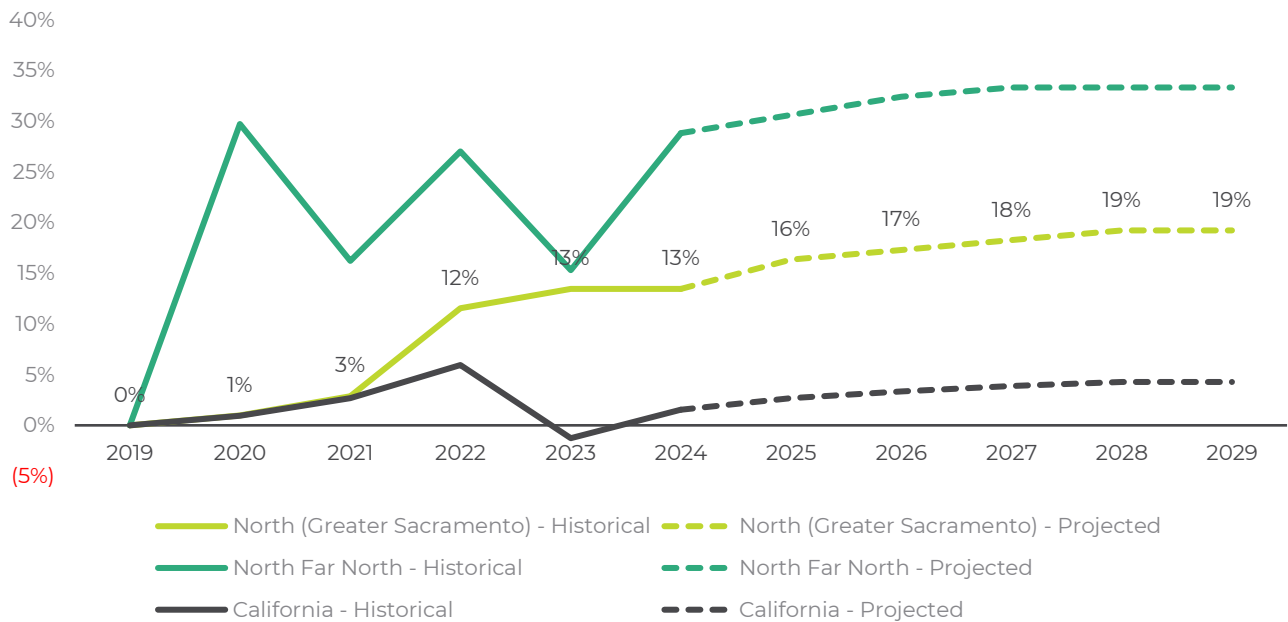
Exhibit 1 summarizes the five-year projected job growth for the targeted occupational groups in the Greater Sacramento subregion, the 22-county North Far North region, and California.²

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

Occupational Group	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	2024-2029 Annual Openings
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	118	6	5%	7
Greater Sacramento	118	6	5%	7
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	143	5	3%	8
North Far North	143	5	3%	8
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	1,519	41	3%	84
California	1,519	41	3%	84

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 Greater Sacramento, the 22-county North Far North region, and California.

Exhibit 2. Changes in employment, 2019-2029



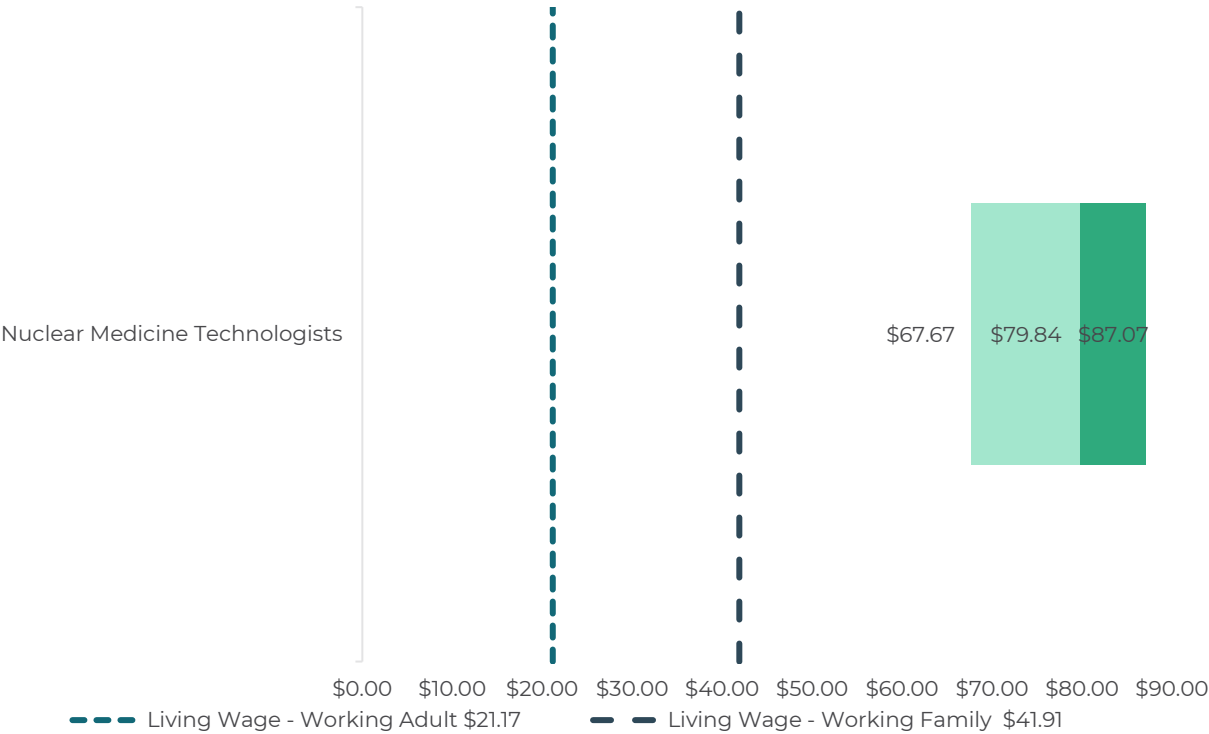
² The 22-county North Far North is a dual region. It is represented by the North (Greater Sacramento) subregion that covers seven counties, including El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, and the 15-county Far North subregion which includes Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt,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

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 includes wages from employed and self-employed workers. Also, it's important to note that living wage thresholds vary by county, and in the Greater Sacramento 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

Requesting College	Living Wage – Working Adult	Living Wage – Working Family
Folsom Lake	\$21.17	\$41.91



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 39 online job postings for the selected occupations across the Greater Sacramento subregion. Job posting data comes from and represents unique advertisements posted online during the last 12 months, from November 2024 to October 2025. Postings from staffing companies were excluded (an additional 30 postings), which were primarily for travel nuclear medicine technology roles (80% of staffing agency postings).

Exhibit 4. Job postings by occupation

Occupation	Number of Job Postings	Share of Postings	Median Advertised Salary
Nuclear Medicine Technologist	39	100%	\$73.60
Total	39	100%	\$73.60

Top employers

Exhibit 5 shows the employers with the most job postings for the selected occupations across Greater Sacramento.

Exhibit 5. Employers with the most job postings

Employer	Number of Job Postings
CommonSpirit Health	10
Sutter Health	10
University of California Davis Health	5
Adventist Health	3
United States Department of Veteran Affairs	2

Top titles

Exhibit 6 shows the job titles with the most job postings for the selected occupations across Greater Sacramento.

Exhibit 6. Job titles with the most job postings

Job title	Number of Job Postings
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	36
Nuclear Medicine Technicians	3

Skills and qualifications

Exhibit 7 shows the most requested skills in job postings by occupation in Greater Sacramento.⁵

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

Specialized Skills	Common or Employability Skills	Software and Technology Skills
• Anatomy • Physiology • Medical Terminology • Radiation Protection • Electrical Safety • Radiopharmacology • Pediatrics • Pathology • Positron Emission Tomography • Electronic Medical Record	• Communication • Prioritization • Quality Control • Cooperation • Organizational Skills • Research • Time Management • Scheduling • Clerical Work • Ability to Meet Deadlines • Transcribing	• Epic EMR • Microsoft Office/Microsoft Excel

Exhibit 8 shows the employer-preferred minimum level of education in job postings related to the selected occupations in Greater Sacramento.

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.

Exhibit 8. Employer-preferred education levels for the studied occupations

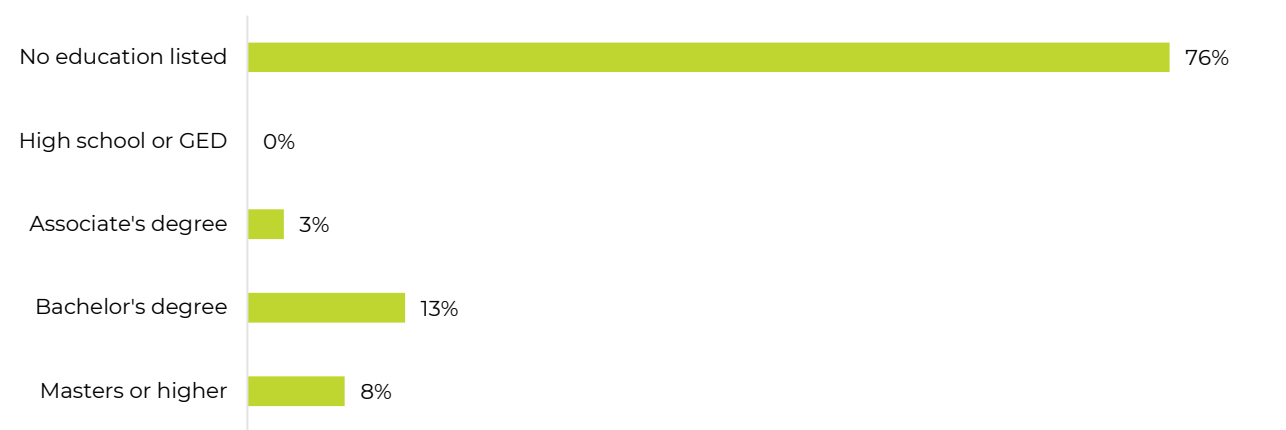
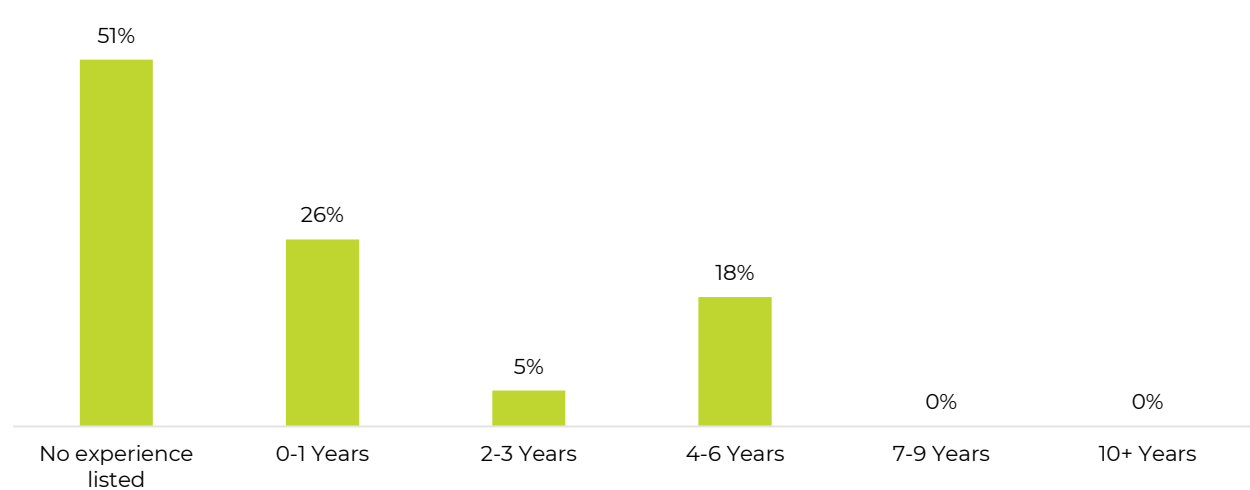


Exhibit 9 shows the employer-preferred minimum level of experience in job postings related to the selected occupations in Greater Sacramento.

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



Education and Training Requirements

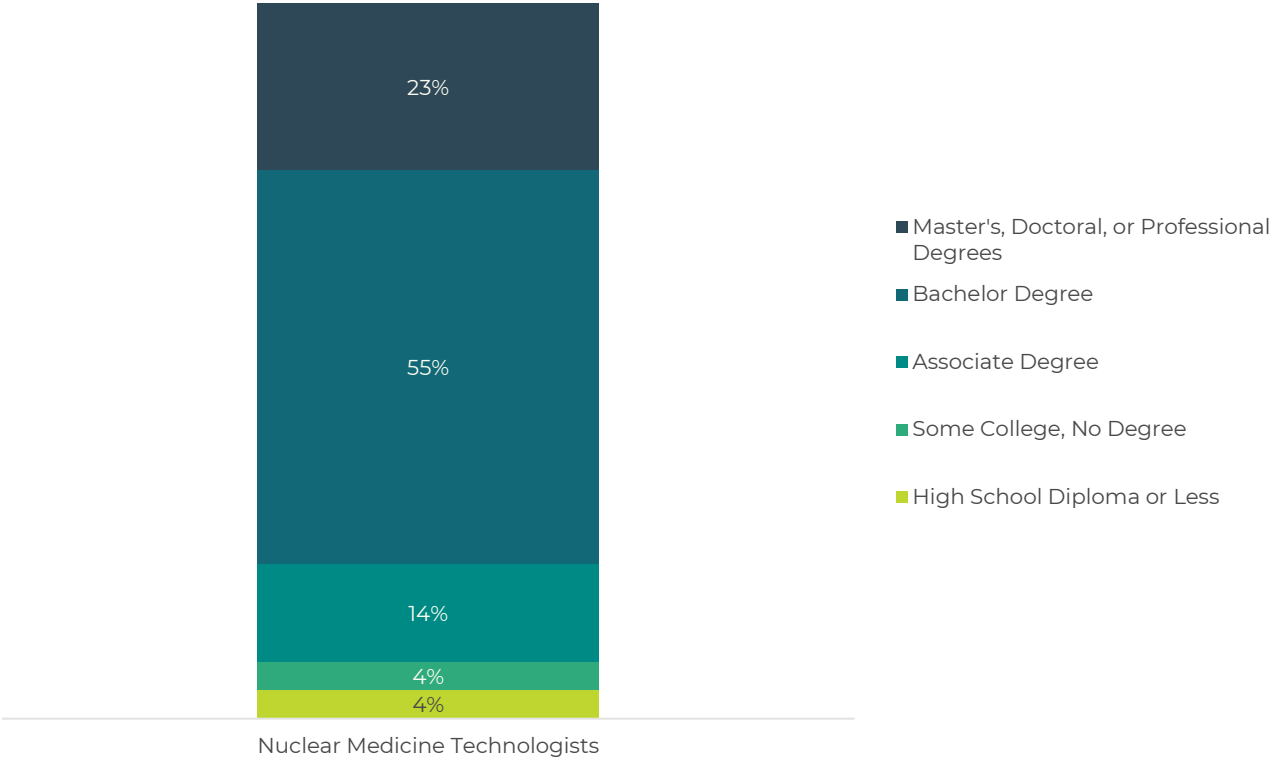
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns each occupation a typical entry-level education, related work experience, and on-the-job training category in its projection data. Exhibit 10 summarizes these requirements by occupation.

Exhibit 10. Typical entry-level job requirements for the studied occupations

Occupation	Entry-Level Education	Work Experience	On-The-Job Training
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	Associate's degree	None	None

The U.S. Census Bureau tracks the highest education level attained by workers in all occupations. Exhibit 11 presents this data for the current U.S. workforce in the studied occupations.

Exhibit 11. 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.

Community college supply

There are multiple types of programs within radiologic technology, including computed tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and others. Exhibit 12 lists the program names of each program in the Greater Sacramento subregion. None of the programs currently offered at community colleges in the subregion expressly focus on nuclear medicine or qualify for nuclear medicine technology credentials. Moorpark College in Southern California is the only college with a program that qualifies for a Nuclear Medicine Technology (N) credential through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). Exhibit 12 lists the program names of each program in the Greater Sacramento region. Exhibit 13 summarizes the three-year average of awards (certificates and degrees) conferred by the Greater Sacramento community college programs relevant to the field of radiology.

Exhibit 12. Active community college programs and titles

College	Program Title	Award Type
Folsom Lake	Computed Tomography	Certificate of Achievement of 8-16 semester units
Folsom Lake	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	Certificate of Achievement of 8-16 semester units
Folsom Lake	Vascular-Interventional Radiography	Certificate of Achievement of 8-16 semester units
Yuba	Radiologic Technology	A.S. Degree

Exhibit 13. Average annual community college awards by TOP program

TOP Program and Code	College	2022-23 Annual Awards	2023-24 Annual Awards	2024-25 Annual Awards	Three-Year Average Awards
Radiologic Technology -1225.00	Folsom Lake	3	2	5	3
	Yuba	23	23	21	22
Totals		26	25	26	26

Note: Values in the table are rounded to the nearest whole number. However, subtotals and totals are calculated using unrounded values.

Other postsecondary supply

No schools are offering in-person instruction in the Greater Sacramento subregion for nuclear medical technology. However, Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, a private for-profit institution, does offer a FAFSA-eligible associate's degree in nuclear medicine technology. Their program is a two-year program with fully online instruction and potential in-person clinical externship sites

across California, with two of their 74 externship sites located in Sacramento and Woodland. This program enrolls cohorts averaging 25 individuals per year and has competitive enrollment.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Data insights

Demand— There are few projected annual job openings for nuclear medicine technologists. There are only 7 annual job openings for local nuclear medicine technologists, although job openings suggest there may be more opportunities for travel nuclear medicine technologists.

Living Wage— Entry-level earnings for nuclear medicine technologists exceed the living wage for a single working adult and a working family. The living wage for a working family is \$41.91, and entry-level wages for nuclear medicine technologists are \$67.67 per hour.

Education— Sixty-nine percent of nuclear medical technologists have some college or an associate's degree as their highest level of educational attainment.

Supply Gap— While there are other radiology programs in the subregion producing an average of 26 awards, none of those programs are eligible for nuclear medicine credentialing. Given there are 7 projected annual openings for credentialed nuclear medicine technologists, a supply gap exists.

Recommendation

Based on the current analysis, the North Far North COE recommends that community colleges **exercise caution** in creating new programs related to nuclear medicine technology. Community colleges need to ensure a sufficient supply of clinical placements for required externships. Community colleges should also study Moorpark's successful nuclear medicine technology program to better understand the challenges and opportunities for a program in the Greater Sacramento subregion. Community colleges should also form partnerships with clinical sites to ensure there are sufficient job openings for travel or local nuclear medicine technologists upon graduation.

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 CCCC 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 the 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/ .

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 2025)		\$16.00	\$33,280
Fast food (Effective April 2024)		\$20.00	\$41,600
Healthcare (Effective October 2024)		\$18.00-\$23.00, depending on facility type	\$37,440-\$47,840

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

For more information, contact:

The North Far North Center of
Excellence for Labor Market Research

Anna Hoehenrieder, Research Analyst
anna.hoehenrieder@losrios.edu

Ebony J. Benzing, Co-Director
ebony.benzing@losrios.edu

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