

Labor Market Assessment: Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (TOP 1227.00 Diagnostic Medical Sonography) (CIP 51.0910 Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician)



Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence, July, 2026

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Summary

Program LMI Endorsement	All LMI Criteria Met	Some LMI Criteria Met (Proceed with Caution)	LMI Criteria NOT Met
	☐	☒	☐

Program LMI Endorsement Criteria		
Supply Gap	Yes ☐	No ☒
	<i>Comments:</i> There are 77 annual job openings projected throughout the Inland Empire/Desert region, which is less than the 147 annual average awards conferred by educational institutions over the last 3 years . Supply data includes both community college awards (8) and non-community college awards (139).	
Living Wage	Yes ☒	No ☐
	<i>Comments:</i> The occupation has entry-level hourly wages above the IE/D living wage of 20.42¹ .	
Education	Yes ☒	No ☐
	<i>Comments:</i> This occupation has some college or postsecondary degree or associate degree as its typical entry-level education level . Additionally, more than 33% of all workers in the field (45%) have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education . See Exhibit 9 for more details.	

The Inland Empire/ Desert (IE/D) Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (IE/D COE) reviewed the following occupation to prepare this report:

- Middle-Skill (typically require training/education above a HS diploma but less than a bachelor's degree)
 - Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)

Summary of findings

Demand

- The number of jobs related to the assessed occupation is projected to increase by 18% through 2029, with 77 annual job openings (new and replacement jobs).
- The entry-level hourly earnings for this occupation is above the living wage at the 25th percentile hourly wage at \$40.30 in IE/D.
- There were 235 online job postings from 57 employers over the past 12 months, with the highest postings for ultrasound technologists.
- Most job postings for this occupation require a high school diploma or equivalent (51%), greater than an associate degree (45%), and a bachelor's degree or above (5%).

Supply

- On average, there were 147 annual awards conferred by educational institutions over the last 3 years in related fields: eight from community colleges and 139 from other institutions (e.g., 4-year universities, private schools).
- California community college students who exited these programs in the 2023-24 academic year earned a median annual wage of \$73,948 (\$35.55 per hour).
- 57% of students who exited programs in California in 2023-24 reported that they are now earning a living wage.

¹ The [UW self-sufficiency standard](#) is currently used by the CO and other COEs, the self-sufficiency standard was last updated by UW in 2024.

Introduction

California Community College Diagnostic Medical Sonography (TOP 1227.00) programs prepare students for employment by teaching the techniques used to assist physicians in diagnosing disease or injury through high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) that create body images showing the shape and composition of body tissues (Taxonomy of Programs, 2023). The knowledge, skills, and abilities trained by diagnostic medical sonography programs lead to employment in occupation related to sonography.

Job Demand

In 2024, there were 871 jobs in the occupation related to sonography in the IE/D region. Regional employment for this occupation is projected to increase by 18% through 2029, with 77 job openings projected annually. Exhibit 1 displays the job count, five-year projected job growth, and job openings in the region.

Exhibit 1. Five-year projections for the occupation related to sonography, IE/D Region, 2024-2029

Occupation	SOC	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024 - 2029 % Change	5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	29-2032	871	1,030	18%	384	77
Total		871	1,030	18%	384	77

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

Job Postings

The following analysis for the occupation related to sonography using online job posting data.

Important note: The data produced in this section were generated by leveraging online job posting data sourced from Lightcast, which is the labor market analytics software tool COEs use to produce these briefs. The job posting data is collected from scraping online job boards such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor and many others. The process Lightcast uses to assemble this data does have some limitations due to methods that recruitment professionals sometimes use (e.g., posting one job to fill multiple positions). For example, the number of jobs posted is not necessarily the same as the number of job vacancies.² While not perfect, Lightcast leverages machine learning and other AI technologies to enrich, de-duplicate and aggregate this information to make it a meaningful dataset.

Exhibit 2 displays the number of job ads posted for the occupation related to sonography over the last 12 months and the median posting duration. Over the previous 12 months, there were 235 unique job postings for the occupation related to sonography in the region from 57 employers.

Exhibit 2. Job ads and posting duration, IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026

Job Title	Job Ads	Median Posting Duration
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	235	21 days
Total	235	

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

² "Job Posting Analytics (JPA) Methodology." Lightcast Knowledge Base, <https://kb.lightcast.io/en/articles/6957446-job-posting-analytics-jpa-methodology>

Earnings

Exhibit 3 displays the hourly earnings for the occupation related to sonography compared to both the UW Self-Sufficiency Standard for the IE/D of \$20.42³ and the MIT IE/D living wage of \$28.84.⁴

Exhibit 3. Projected hourly earnings by percentile, IE/D Region, 2024



SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

The projected entry-level earnings (that is, the earnings of the lowest paid 25% of employees in the IE/D) for diagnostic medical sonographers were above the UW Self-Sufficiency Standard for the IE/D (see Exhibit 3). Additionally, the entry-level earnings were also above the MIT living wage for an adult with no children (\$28.84) in projected entry-level earnings (see Exhibit 3).

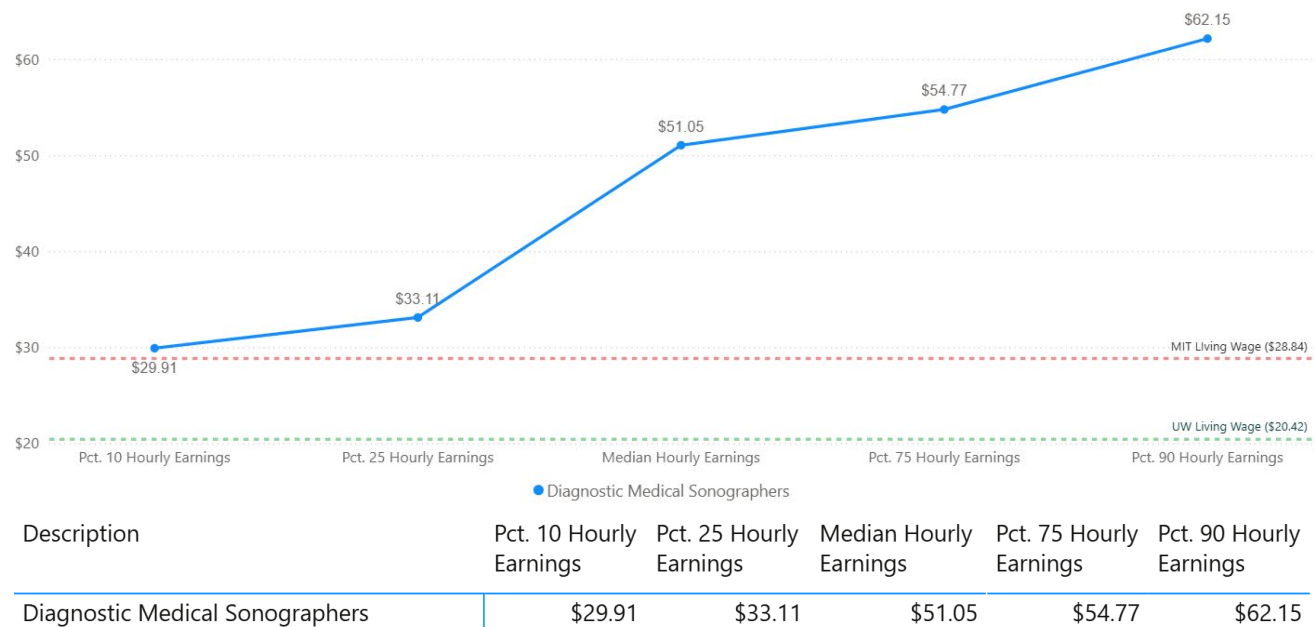
³ The [UW self-sufficiency standard](#) is currently used by the CO and other COEs, the self-sufficiency standard was last updated by UW in 2024. To provide an alternative perspective, the COE will provide an alternative living wage calculation from MIT in the analysis below as an additional reference point. MIT estimates, the living wage for an adult with no kids living in 2024 is \$28.84 in Riverside County and \$27.60 in San Bernadino County.

⁴ *ibid.*

Advertised Salary from Online Job Ads

Exhibit 4 displays the regional online advertised salaries for the occupation related to sonography over the last 12 months. The salary information from online job ad data suggests employers advertise entry-level hourly wages of \$33.11 (estimated to be equal to an annual salary of \$68,869).

Exhibit 4. Hourly earnings of job postings by percentile, IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026



SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

Online Job Advertisements: top job titles, skills, education & work experience.

Exhibit 5 displays the job titles most frequently used in job postings for the occupation related to sonography over the last 12 months. Assessing the top advertised job titles may provide insight into the types of positions sought by employers.

Exhibit 5. Job titles most frequently used in job ads, IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026

Job Title	Unique Postings
Ultrasound Technologists	57
Ultrasound Technicians	47
Sonographers	31
Echo Technicians	22
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	17
Tech Engineers	14
Echocardiography Technologists	8
Diagnostic Sonographers	5
Lead Ultrasound Technologists	5

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

Exhibit 6 displays the employers posting the most job ads for this occupation during the last 12 months. Showing employer names can provide insight into where students may find employment after completing a program and may inform job development and other employer engagement targets for faculty and staff involved in related programs. RadNet and Kaiser Permanente had the highest unique job posts for this occupation in the last 12 months. Posting intensity is the ratio of total job posts to unique job posts, which are de-duplicated. A higher posting intensity can represent the level of effort and activity the organization is putting into hiring for that position. The following report comes directly from Lightcast’s Job Posting Analytics dashboard.

**Exhibit 6. Employers posting the most job ads,
IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026**

Company	Total/Unique (Jul 2025 - Jun 2026)	Posting Intensity	Median Posting Duration
RadNet	69 / 27	3 : 1 	23 days
Kaiser Permanente	72 / 20	4 : 1 	18 days
HCA Healthcare	56 / 14	4 : 1 	17 days
Uhs	28 / 14	2 : 1 	22 days
Loma Linda University	69 / 13	5 : 1 	29 days
Universal Health Services	14 / 12	1 : 1 	23 days
Desert Valley Hospital	22 / 8	3 : 1 	16 days
Riverside Medical Clinic	18 / 6	3 : 1 	29 days
Siemens Healthineers	10 / 5	2 : 1 	12 days
Prime Healthcare Services	14 / 5	3 : 1 	9 days

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

Exhibit 7 displays the top common, specialized, and computer skills that were included in the job postings over the last 12 months. Today's demand is an important indicator of which skills employers are looking for in the current market. Analyzing skills from a historical perspective as well as projecting the future needs of employers may provide insight into how the job posting skills demand compares to the market as a whole. Rapidly growing skills are those that are increasing in demand at a faster rate than the market as a whole.⁵

**Exhibit 7. Top 10 in-demand skills from employer job ads,
IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026**

Specialized skills	Total Postings	Skill Growth Relative to Market	Common skills	Total Postings	Skill Growth Relative to Market
Medical Ultrasonography	214	Growing	Interpersonal Communications	52	Growing
Radiology	93	Growing	Communication	43	Stable
Obstetrics And Gynaecology	66	Growing	Detail Oriented	29	Stable
Biopsies	63	Growing	Management	24	Stable
Anatomy	52	Growing	Critical Thinking	22	Rapidly Growing
Medical Imaging	34	Growing	Scheduling	22	Growing
Patient Positioning	34	Rapidly Growing	Customer Service	15	Stable
Doppler Ultrasonography	26	Growing	Self-Motivation	15	Rapidly Growing
Medical Records	26	Growing	Writing	15	Growing
Cardiac Stress Testing	18	Stable	Assertiveness	13	Stable

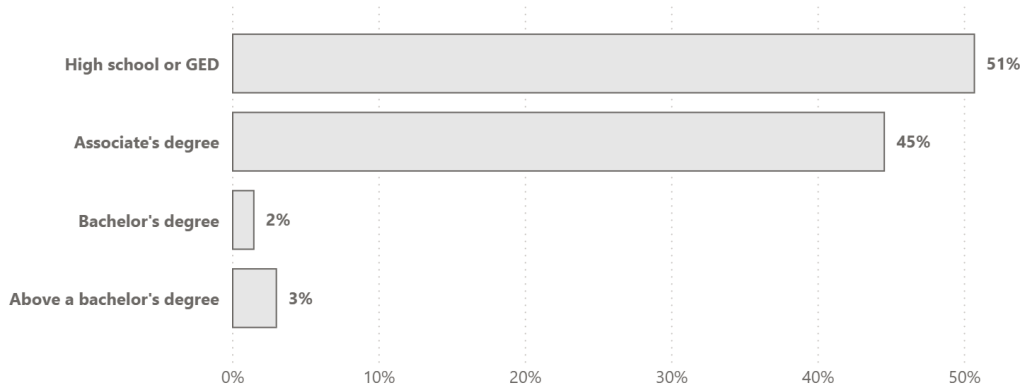
Computer Skills	Total Postings	Skill Growth Relative to Market
R (Programming Language)	9	Rapidly Growing
SAP Business Connector	4	Lagging
Epic EMR	3	Rapidly Growing
Microsoft Excel	3	Growing
Microsoft Outlook	3	Rapidly Growing
Microsoft Word	3	Stable

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

Exhibit 8 includes the minimum educational requirements from job postings for this occupation, with high school diploma or equivalent (51%), greater than associate degree (45%), and bachelor's degree or above (5%).

⁵ "What are Lightcast Skill Projects", Lightcast Knowledge base, <https://kb.lightcast.io/en/articles/8496296-what-are-lightcast-skill-projections>

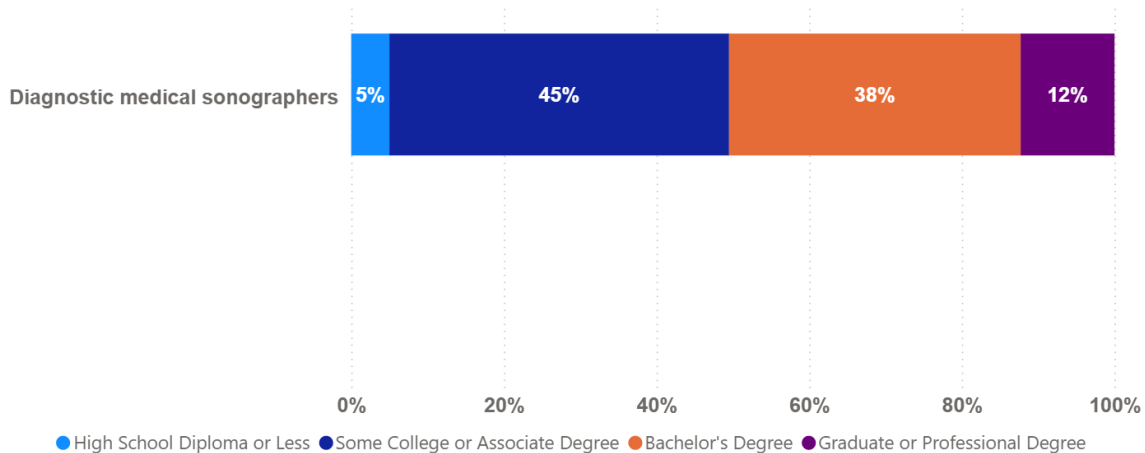
Exhibit 8 Minimum educational requirements in job postings for this occupation, IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026



SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

For the assessed occupation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) education attainment data in Exhibit 9 for current professionals in the occupation of interest indicates that 45% of workers have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

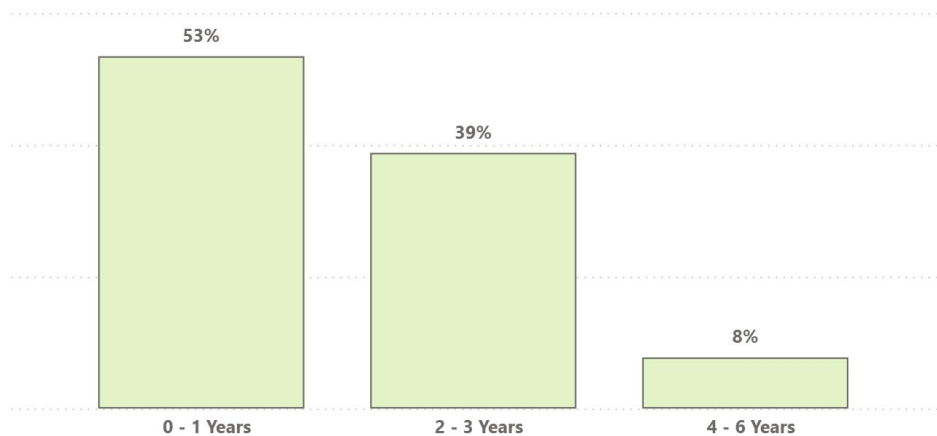
Exhibit 9 National-level Education Attainment for the Occupation



SOURCE: BLS 2023

Exhibit 10 displays the work experience typically required from employer job ads for this occupation. The majority (53%) of employers listing minimum experience requirements sought candidates with one year or less of previous work experience.

Exhibit 10 Work experience requirements, IE/D Region, July 2025–June 2026



SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.2

Student Completions and Program Outcomes

Exhibit 11 displays student completions for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (TOP 1227.00) programs over the last three academic years (2022-2025). In the previous three academic years, one regional community college has issued an average of eight awards in relevant programs.

Exhibit 11 Annual average community college awards for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (TOP 1227.00), IE/D, 2022-2025

Top Code ▲	Program	College	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	2024-2025 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1227.00	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Mt. San Jacinto	5	9	10	8
Total			5	9	10	8

SOURCE: MIS DATA MART

Non-Community College Supply

Exhibit 12 displays award completion data available for these IE/D non-community college programs over the last three academic years (2021-2024): Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician (CIP 51.0910).

In the previous three academic years, three regional non-community college institutions issued an average of 139 awards in relevant programs.

Exhibit 12 Annual average non-community college awards for sonography programs, IE/D, 2021-2024

CIP ▲	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
51.0910	Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	Loma Linda University	8	6	7	7
51.0910	Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	Platt College-Ontario	70	50	61	60
51.0910	Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	Platt College-Riverside	66	63	85	71
Total			144	119	153	139

SOURCE: IPEDS

Strong Workforce Program Outcomes

California SWP program outcome data may provide useful insight into the likelihood of success for the proposed program. Community college student outcome information based on the selected TOP code and region is provided in Exhibit 13.

Exhibit 13 Diagnostic Medical Sonography strong workforce program outcomes, IE/D & California, AY 2023-24

Program Metric Title	Inland Empire	Statewide
Students	22	178
Earned 9+ Career Education Units	95%	66%
Earned an Award: Degree or Cert or Attained Appren. Journey Level Status	-	31%
Transferred to a Four-Year Institution: Four-Year Postsecondary Institution	0%	-
Median Annual Earnings	-	\$73,948
Median Change in Earnings	-	120%
Attained Living Wage	-	57%

SOURCE: DATAVISTA

Appendix: Methodology

Exhibit 11 displays the average annual California Community College (CCC) awards conferred during the three academic years between 2022 and 2025 from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart. Awards are the combined total during the timeframe, divided by three in this case to calculate an annual average. This is done to minimize the effect of atypical variations that might be present in a single year.

Community college student outcome information is from DataVista and based on the selected TOP code and region. These metrics are based on records submitted to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) by community colleges, which come from self-reported student information from CCC Apply and the National Student Clearinghouse. Employment and earnings metrics are sourced from California's Employment Development Department's Unemployment Insurance database. When available, outcomes for completers are reported to demonstrate the impact that earning a degree or certificate can have on employment and earnings. For more information on the types of students included for each metric, please see the web link for DataVista's Strong Workforce Program Metrics Data Element Dictionary in the Resources section (DataVista, 2025).

Appendix: References

Type of Data	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. https://lightcast.io/
Living Wage (UW)	Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024. http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/California . The COE refers to the Self-Sufficiency Wage as a "living wage." This calculation 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. The living wage for one adult in San Bernardino County is \$20.07 per hour (\$57,408 annually). The living wage for one adult in Riverside County is \$20.76 per hour (\$43,854 annually). The average of the two, \$20.42 per hour (\$42,474 annually), is used to represent the Inland Empire/Desert living wage.
Living Wage (MIT)	<i>Living wage data sourced from the Living Wage Institute via</i> https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/06065 ; https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/06071 , Accessed on June 6, 2026. The living wage is derived from MIT's Living Wage 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://livingwage.mit.edu/pages/methodology . The living wage for one adult in San Bernardino County is \$27.60 per hour (\$52,353.60 annually). The living wage for one adult in Riverside County is \$28.84 per hour (\$59,987 annually). The higher of the two, \$28.84 per hour (\$59,987 annually), is used to represent the Inland Empire/Desert 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

Type of Data	Source
Educational Supply	The CCCC 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 aims to provide up-to-date and useful information on students within the California Community Colleges and its Adult Education partners. DataVista is a modernization of the supporting architecture and visualization of metrics previously available on the LaunchBoard. DataVista is a collaboration between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and WestEd, see: https://datavista.cccco.edu/data_views/swp_report