Labor Market Analysis for Program Review:
TOP Code: 0430.00/ Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology
CIP Code: 41.0101/Biology/Biotechnology Technology/Technician
(Biotechnology, Certificate of Achievement)
(Biotechnology, Associate of Science)
South Central Coast Center of Excellence, September 2026

FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

Summary

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

Program LMI Endorsement Criteria		
Criterion	**Finding**	**Comments**
Supply Gap	☑ Met	There is projected to be **111 annual job openings** in the South Central Coast (SCC) Region for these biotechnology occupations, which **is more than the 21 awards conferred by educational institutions**.
Self-Sufficiency Standard Living Wage[1]	☑ Not Met	**The majority (63%) of annual job openings** for these biotechnology occupations **have entry-level hourly wages below the Ventura County living wage of $24.53**.
Education	☑ Met	**A majority (72%) of annual job openings** for these biotechnology occupations typically require an **associate degree.** Additionally, between **33% and 50% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education**.
Additional Considerations		
Emerging Occupation(s)	None	N/A

The South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (SCC COE) prepared this report to determine whether there is a supply gap in the SCC regional labor market related to three middle-skill occupations:

- *Biological Technicians (19-4021)*
- Life, Physical, and Social Science Technici*ans, All Other (19-4099)*
- *Medical Equipment Repairers (49-9062)*

[1] The living wage endorsement criteria in this report uses the University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare Self-Sufficiency Standard, which the COE refers to as a living wage; the living wage for Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, last updated in March 2024.

Based on the available data there appears to be a supply gap for these biotechnology occupations and typical education requirements for these occupations align with a community college education. However, the majority of annual job openings have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage. **Therefore, due to some 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 the occupations included in this report.

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
Biological Technicians (19-4021)	31	21	$22.47	Bachelor's Degree	33%
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other (19-4099)	53	0	$26.58	Associate' Degree	33%
Medical Equipment Repairers (49-9062)	26	Accounted for Above	$23.39	Associate Degree	50%
Total	**111**	**21**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Demand:

- The number of jobs related to these biotechnology occupations is projected to grow 2% through 2030 in the SCC region. There is projected to be 111 annual job openings due to new job creation and replacements.
- Hourly entry-level wages for these biotechnology occupations in Ventura County range from $22.47 to $26.58; the majority (63%) of annual job openings have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage ($24.53 for Ventura County).
- There were 255 online job postings for these biotechnology occupations over the past 12 months. The highest number of postings were for quality control analysts, quality control inspectors and quality control associates.
- The typical entry-level education for these biotechnology occupations ranges from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree.
- Between 33% and 50% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

Supply:

- There was an average of 21 awards conferred by one community college in the SCC Region from 2022 to 2025.
- Non-community college institutions did not confer any related awards from 2021 to 2024.
- SCC community college students that exited Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had a median annual wage of $56,790 (or $27.30 per hour) after exiting the program.

- Throughout California, 83% of Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) students that exited their program in 2022-23 reported that they are working in a job closely related to their field of study. Due to a small number of students, data for this metric was unavailable at the district and region level.

Demand

Occupational Projections:

Exhibit 2 compares historical and projected changes in employment for these occupations compared to the number of jobs in 2020. Notably, employment for these biotechnology occupations throughout the state declined 3% from 2020 to 2025, which is a smaller decline when compared to employment for these occupations in the SCC Region (16%). However, employment for these occupations declined 42% from 2020 to 2025 in Ventura County. From 2025 to 2030, employment for these occupations is projected to grow in California and the SCC Region but is projected to continue to decline in Ventura County.

Exhibit 2: Historical and Projected Employment for Biotechnology Occupations in the SCC Region, 2020-2030

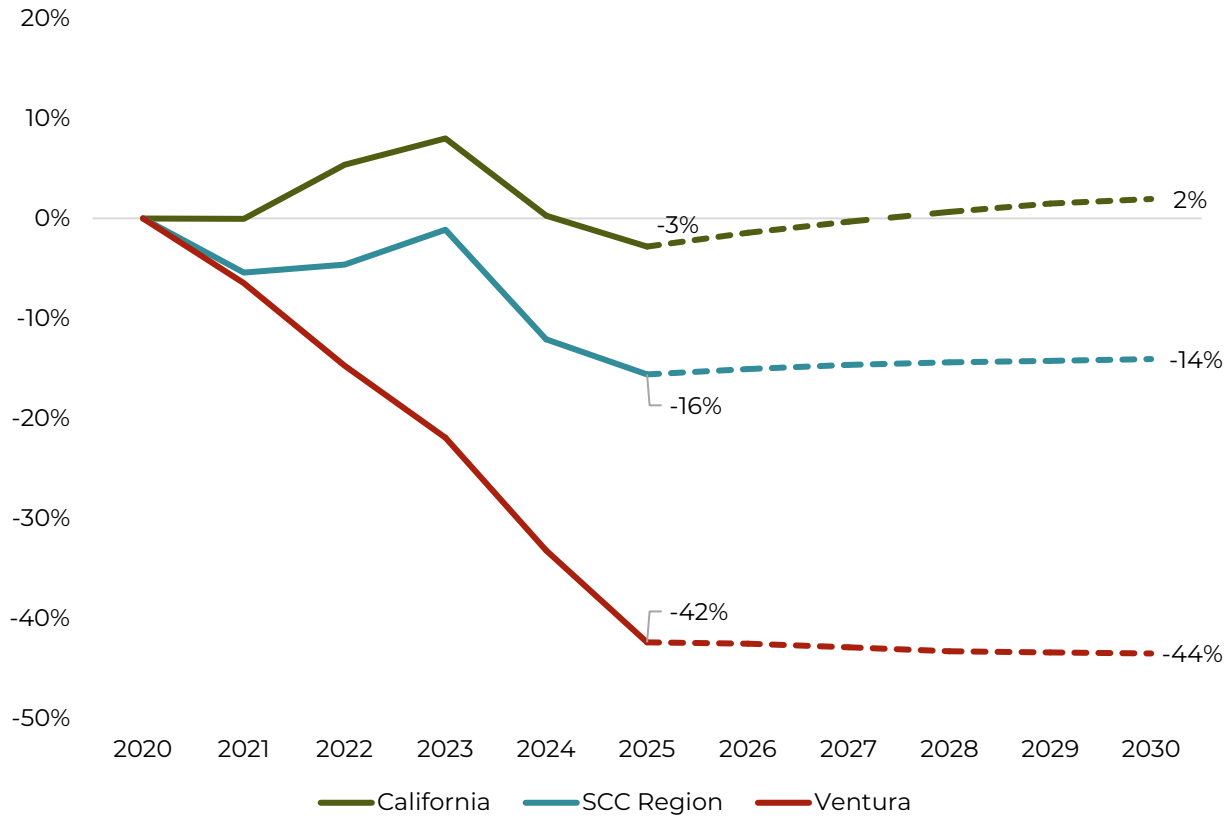


Exhibit 3 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these biotechnology occupations. In the SCC Region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase 2% by 2030. There is projected to be 111 jobs available annually due to new job creation and replacements. Santa Barbara County has the highest number of jobs and annual openings with employment being projected to increase 4% through 2030.

Exhibit 3: Occupational Demand in the SCC Region[2]

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Northern Los Angeles	215	214	(1)	(0.04%)	24
San Luis Obispo	134	143	9	7%	18
Santa Barbara	331	344	13	4%	40
Ventura	251	246	(5)	(2%)	27
SCC Region	**929**	**946**	**17**	**2%**	**111**

Wages:

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these biotechnology occupations in relation to the living wage of the county where the requesting community college is located. This report was requested by Moorpark College, which is in Ventura County. Wages for other counties are included below to provide a complete analysis of the SCC Region.

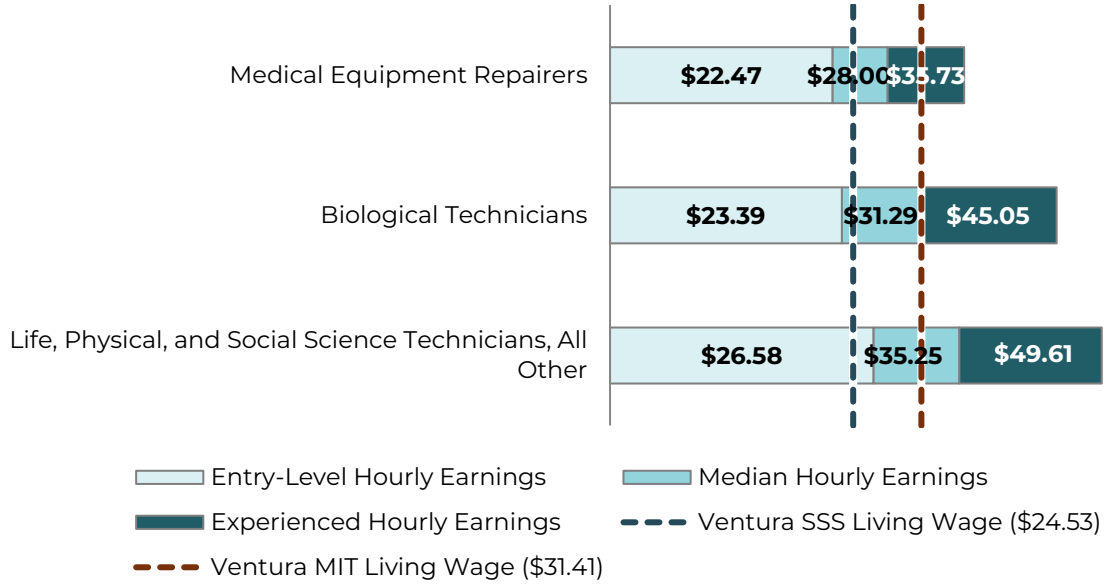
In addition to the Self Sufficiency Standard living wage, data for the MIT Living Wage, updated on February 15, 2026, is provided as a reference. Currently, the MIT Living Wage in Ventura County is $31.41. Both figures account for geographic-specific costs of necessities such as housing, food, health care, and transportation to assess the cost of living, and are notated in the exhibits below.

Ventura

The majority (63%) of annual openings for these biotechnology occupations have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($24.53 in Ventura County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $22.47 and $26.58. Median hourly earnings for these biotechnology occupations in Ventura County are above the living wage. Exhibit 4, on the next page, shows the wage range for each of these biotechnology occupations in Ventura County and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

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

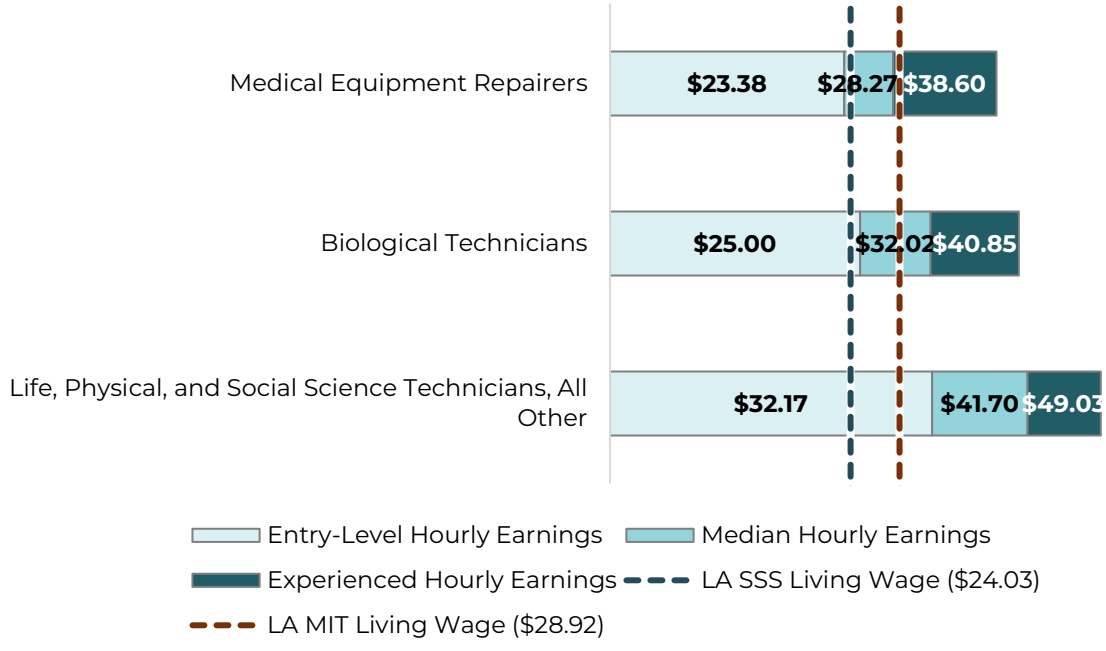
Exhibit 4: Wages by Occupation in Ventura County



Northern Los Angeles

The majority (63%) of annual openings for these biotechnology occupations have entry-level wages above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $23.38 and $32.17. Median hourly earnings for all occupations in Northern Los Angeles County are above the living wage. Exhibit 5 shows the wage range for each of these biotechnology occupations in Northern Los Angeles and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in Northern Los Angeles County

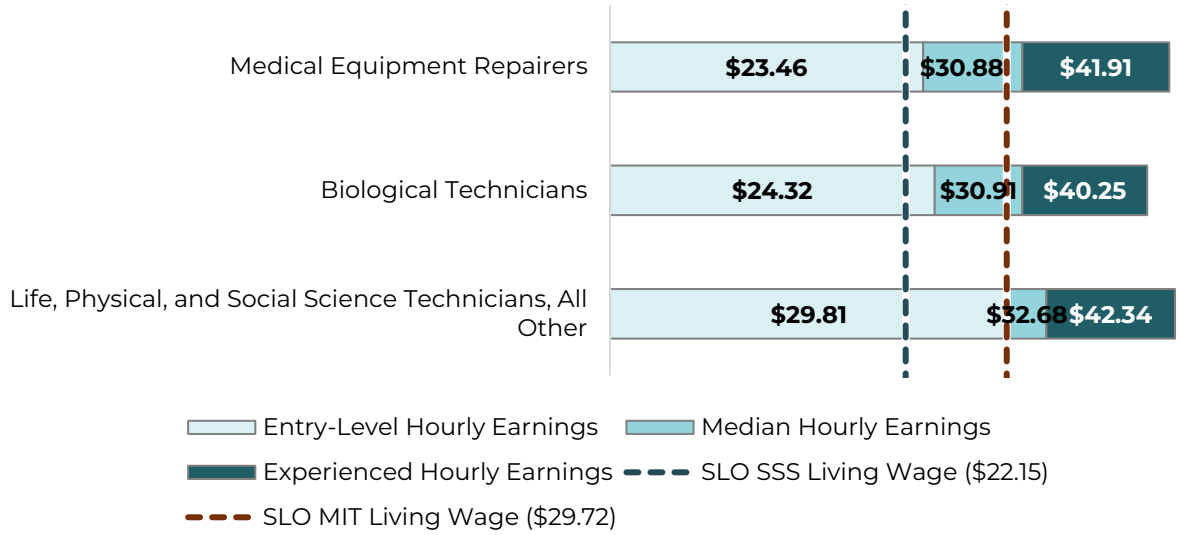


San Luis Obispo

All (100%) of annual openings for these biotechnology occupations have entry-level wages above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($22.15 in San Luis Obispo

County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $23.46 and $29.81. Exhibit 6 shows the wage range for each of these biotechnology occupations in San Luis Obispo County and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

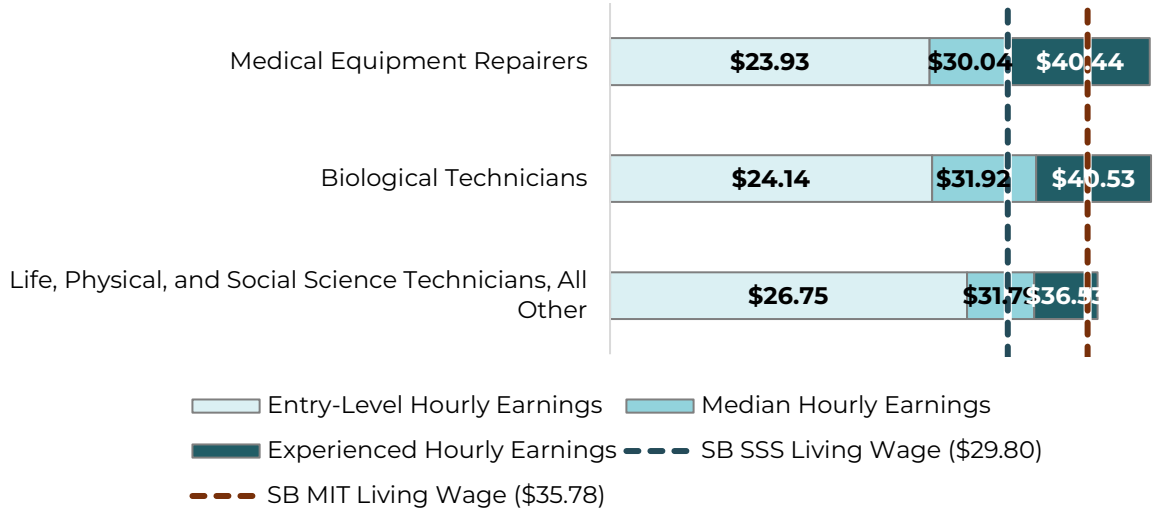
Exhibit 6: Wages by Occupation in San Luis Obispo County



Santa Barbara

All (100%) annual openings for these biotechnology occupations have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($29.80 in Santa Barbara County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $23.93 and $26.75. Median level wages are above the living wage for all three occupations. Exhibit 7 shows the wage range for each of these biotechnology occupations in Santa Barbara County and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

Exhibit 7: Wages by Occupation in Santa Barbara County



Job Quality

Based on the SCC COE's analysis of traditional labor market and job quality indicators[3], the occupations analyzed in this report are considered Medium-Quality in Ventura County, as shown in Exhibit 8.

Exhibit 8: Job Quality Level by County

Occupation	Northern LA	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Ventura	SCC Region
Biological Technicians	Medium	High	Unclassified	Medium	Medium
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	High
Medical Equipment Repairers	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low

To better understand measures of job quality for these occupations in Ventura County, Exhibit 9 shows which job quality criteria were met for each occupation. Notably, all three occupations met the criteria for the number of hours worked per week. Two of the three occupations met the criteria for demand, employer sponsored health care, and have low automation risk.

Exhibit 9: Job Quality Indicators for Biotechnology Occupations in Northern Los Angeles County

Job Quality Measure	Biological Technicians	Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	Medical Equipment Repairers
# of Jobs	**Not Met**	**Not Met**	**Not Met**
Positive Projected Change	**Met**	**Not Met**	**Met**
Demand (Annual Openings)	**Met**	**Met**	**Not Met**
Living Wage (SSS)	**Not Met**	**Not Met**	**Met**
Living Wage (MIT)	**Not Met**	**Not Met**	**Not Met**
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance	**Met**	**Met**	**Not Met**
# of Hours Worked Per Week	**Met**	**Met**	**Met**
Automation Risk	**Met**	**Met**	**Not Met**
U.S. News & World Report Best Job	**Not Met**	**Not Met**	**Met**

Job Postings:

There were 255 online job postings related to these biotechnology occupations listed in the past 12 months in the SCC Region. Exhibit 10 shows the number of job postings by county. Approximately 63% of job postings were in Ventura County.

[3] "South Central Coast Labor Market Landscape: Assessing Job Quality in the South Central Coast Region," South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research, last modified October 2025, https://coeccc.net/south-central-coast/2025/09/south-central-coast-labor-market-landscape-assessing-job-quality-in-the-scc-region/.

Exhibit 10: Number of Job Postings by County (n=255)

County	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Ventura	161	63%
Northern Los Angeles	45	18%
Santa Barbara	35	14%
San Luis Obispo	14	5%
Total Postings	**255**	**100%**

Of the 255 postings, the majority (83%) were for *Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other (19-4099)* followed by *Biological Technicians (19-4021)*, as shown in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11: Number of Job Postings by Occupation (n=255)

Occupation	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	212	83%
Biological Technicians	27	11%
Medical Equipment Repairers	16	6%
Total Postings	**255**	**100%**

The top employers in the region, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 12.

Exhibit 12: Top Employers by Number of Job Postings (n=255)

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Randstad	25	10%
AppleOne	11	4%
Astrix	9	4%
AllSTEM Connections	8	3%
Adecco	7	3%
Astrix Technology	7	3%
Antelope Valley College	7	3%
Ultimate Staffing	5	2%
Spectraforce Technologies	5	2%
Astrix Technology Group	5	2%

The top specialized, soft, and computer skills listed by those most frequently mentioned in job postings (denoted in parentheses) are shown in Exhibit 13.

Exhibit 13: Top Skills by Number of Job Postings (n=255)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Good Manufacturing Practices (138)	Quality Control (157)	Microsoft Office (45)
Chemistry (88)	Detail Oriented (99)	Laboratory Information Management Systems (44)
Pharmaceuticals (85)	Operations (99)	Microsoft Excel (23)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Biology (69)	Communication (97)	Microsoft Outlook (19)
Continuous Improvement Process (62)	Investigation (94)	Document Management Systems (14)
Data Analysis (61)	Troubleshooting (Problem Solving) (94)	Microsoft PowerPoint (14)
Laboratory Equipment (59)	Problem Solving (56)	TrackWise (14)
Biochemistry (53)	Management (54)	Microsoft Word (9)
Biotechnology (52)	Microsoft Office (45)	Veeva (7)
Corrective And Preventive Action (CAPA) (51)	Organizational Skills (43)	Productivity Software (6)

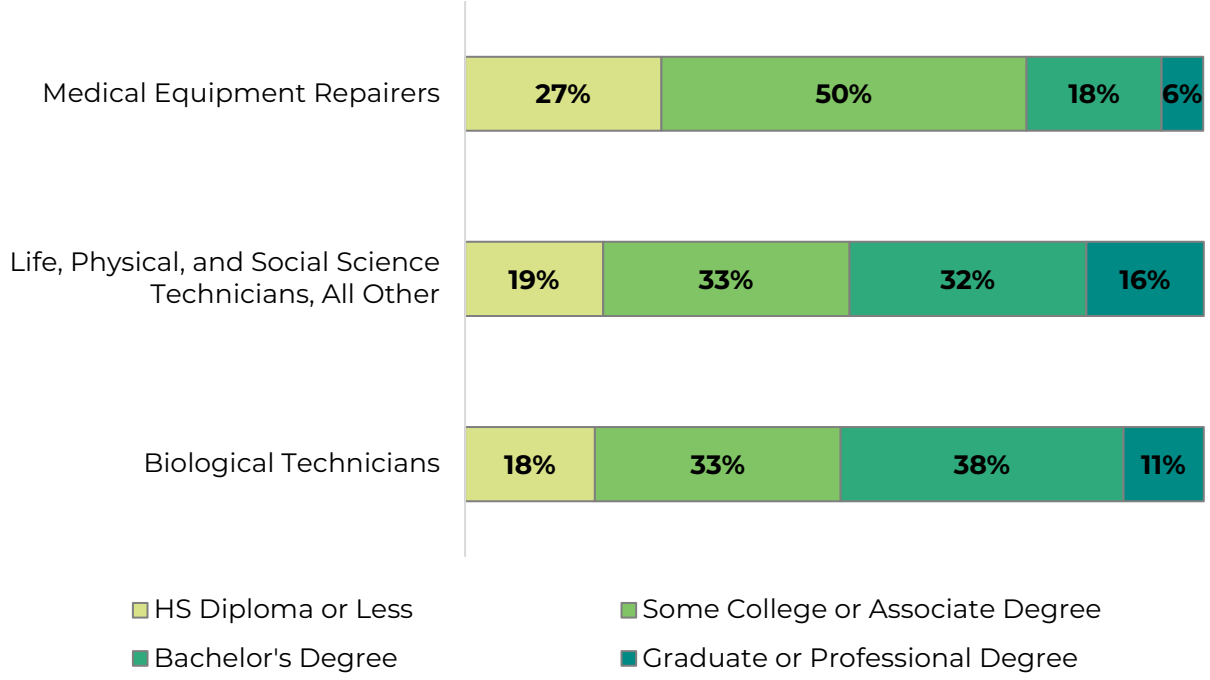
Educational Attainment:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following as the typical entry-level education for these biotechnology occupations:

- Associate Degree
  - *Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other (19-4099)*
  - *Medical Equipment Repairers (49-9062)*
- Bachelor's Degree
  - *Biological Technicians (19-4021)*

The national-level educational attainment data indicates between 33% and 50% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Exhibit 14 shows the educational attainment for each occupation, sorted by highest community college educational attainment to lowest.

Exhibit 14: National-level Educational Attainment for Occupations



Of the 85% of the cumulative job postings for these biotechnology occupations that listed a minimum education requirement in the SCC Region, 50% (110) requested a bachelor's degree, 33% requested a high school or GED (72), and 13% (28) requested an associate degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply:

Exhibit 15 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes:

- Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00)

No awards were conferred for the following TOP codes:

- Biomedical Instrumentation Insurance (0934.60)
- Laboratory Science Technology (0955.00)

The college with the only completions in the region is Moorpark College (21).

Exhibit 15: Regional Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees), 2022-2025

College	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	2024-2025 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0430.00 (Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology)				
Moorpark	9	16	38	21
Supply Total/Average	**9**	**16**	**38**	**21**

Exhibit 16 shows the annual average community college awards by type from 2022-23 to 2024-25. The plurality of the awards are for cerfiticates between 8 and less than 16 semester units, followed by associate degrees.

Exhibit 16: Annual Average Community College Awards by Type, 2022-2025

Community College Student Outcomes:

Exhibit 17 shows the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) metrics for Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs at Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD), the SCC Region, and California. Of the 82 Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) throughout the region in the 2024-25 academic year, 100% (82) attended a VCCCD college.

VCCCD students that exited Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had the same median annual earnings ($56,790 or $27.30 per hour) compared to all Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) students in the SCC Region ($56,790 or $27.30 per hour); both figures are higher than statewide ($50,448 or $24.25 per hour). Due to the low number of students throughout VCCCD and the SCC Region, several metrics (such as the percentage of students that attained the living wage) are unavailable.

Exhibit 17: Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00)
Strong Workforce Program Metrics, 2024-25[4][5]

SWP Metric	VCCCD	SCC Region	California
SWP Students	82	82	2,787
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	32%	0%	22%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	61%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	26%	0%	15%
SWP Students Who Transferred to a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	11%
SWP Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study (2022-23)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	83%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	$56,790 ($27.30)	$56,790 ($27.30)	$50,448 ($24.25)
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	36%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	45%

Non-Community College Supply:

To comprehensively analyze the regional supply, it is crucial to include data from other institutions offering related training programs. Over the past three years (2021-2024), there were no awards conferred by non-community college institutions under the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes:

- Computational Biology (26.1104)
- Biomedical Technology/Technician (15.0401)
- Biology/Biotechnology Technology/Technician (41.0101)
- Science Technologies/Technicians, Other (41.9999)

[4] All SWP metrics are for 2024-25 unless otherwise noted. Metrics data is sourced from DataVista.
[5] Data that is not available in DataVista is denoted in Exhibit 15 as "data unavailable." Data may not be available for various reasons, including cases where data is masked to protect personally identifiable information.

Regional Demographics

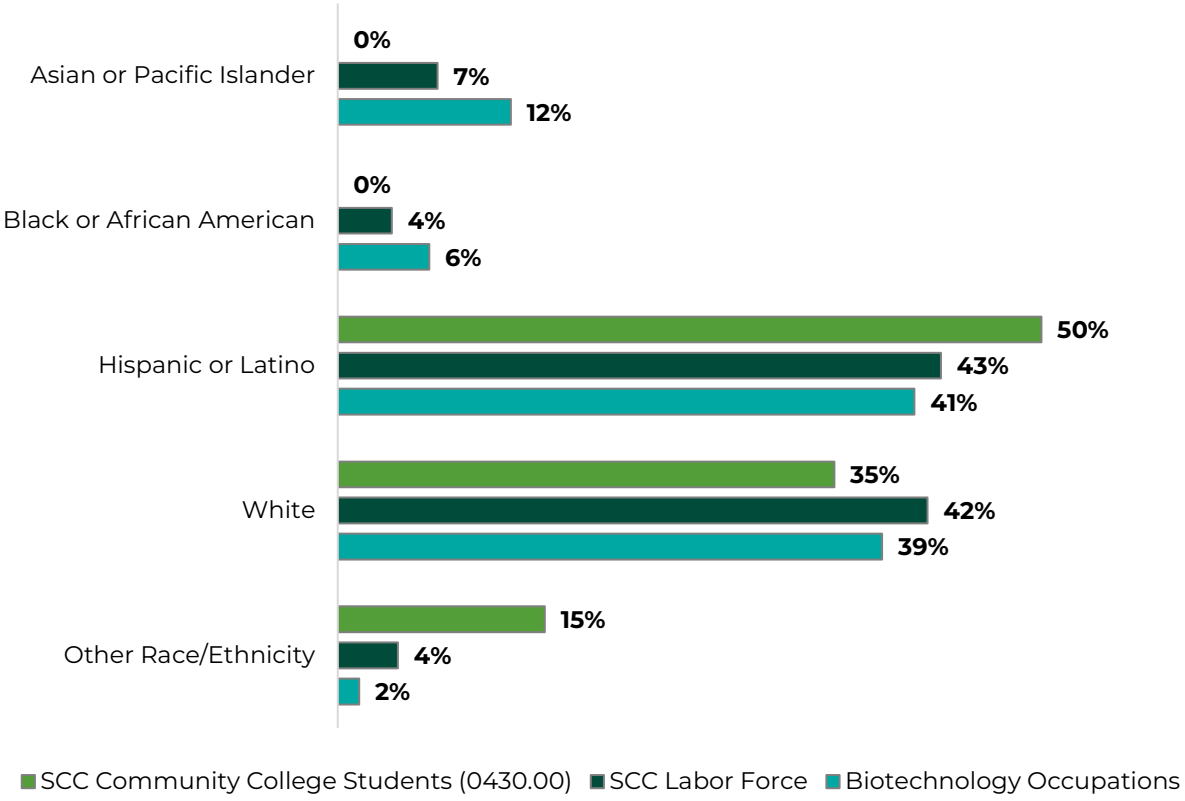
This section examines demographic data for SCC community college students in Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs compared to the SCC labor force, along with occupational data, to identify potential diversity and equity issues addressable by community college programs.

Ethnicity:

Exhibit 18 compares the ethnicity of SCC community college students enrolled in Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for the three biotechnology occupations included in this report.

Notably, 39% of workers employed in these biotechnology occupations are white, which is lower than the labor force (42%) and community college Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) students (35%). Conversely, 50% of community college of Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) students are Hispanic or Latino, which is higher than the labor force (43%), workers in these biotechnology occupations (39%).

Exhibit 18: Program and County Demographics by Ethnicity

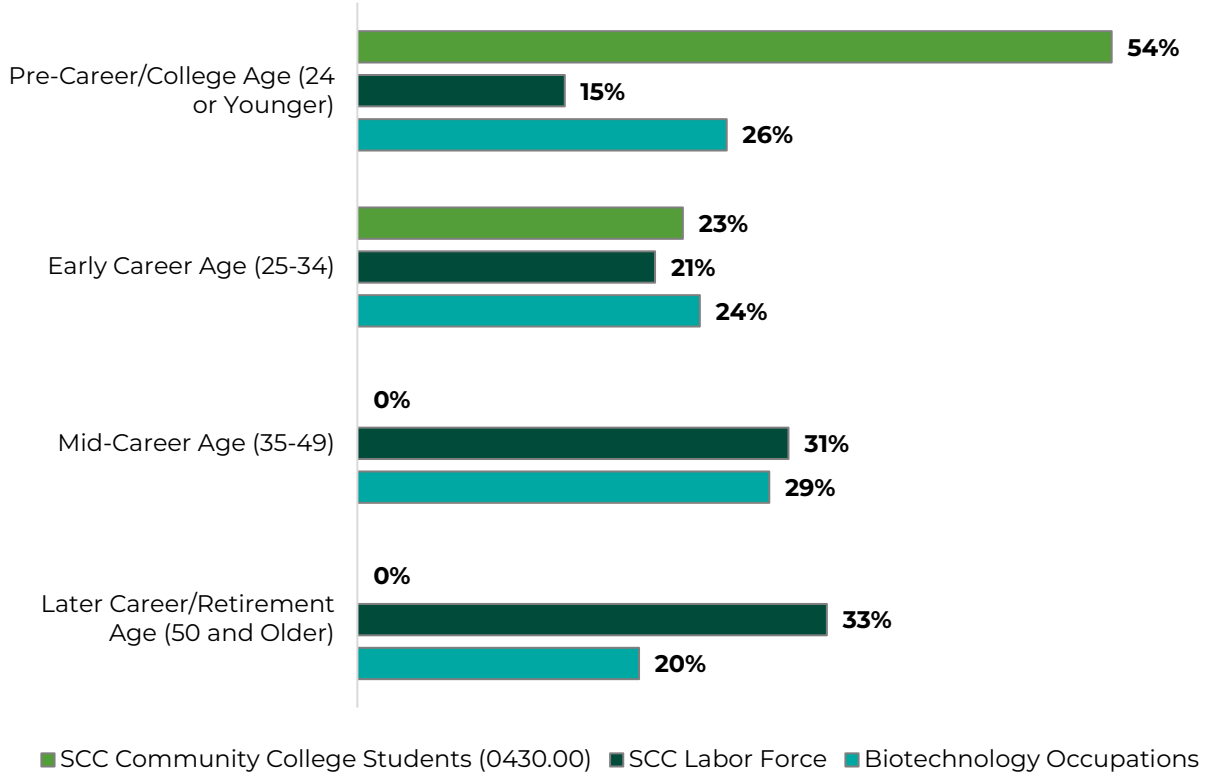


Age:

Exhibit 19 compares the age of SCC community college students enrolled in Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for the three biotechnology occupations included in this report.

The majority (54%) of community college Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) students are Pre-Career/College Age (24 or Younger), which is significantly higher than the labor force (15%) and workers in these biotechnology occupations (26%).

Exhibit 19: Program and County Demographics by Age

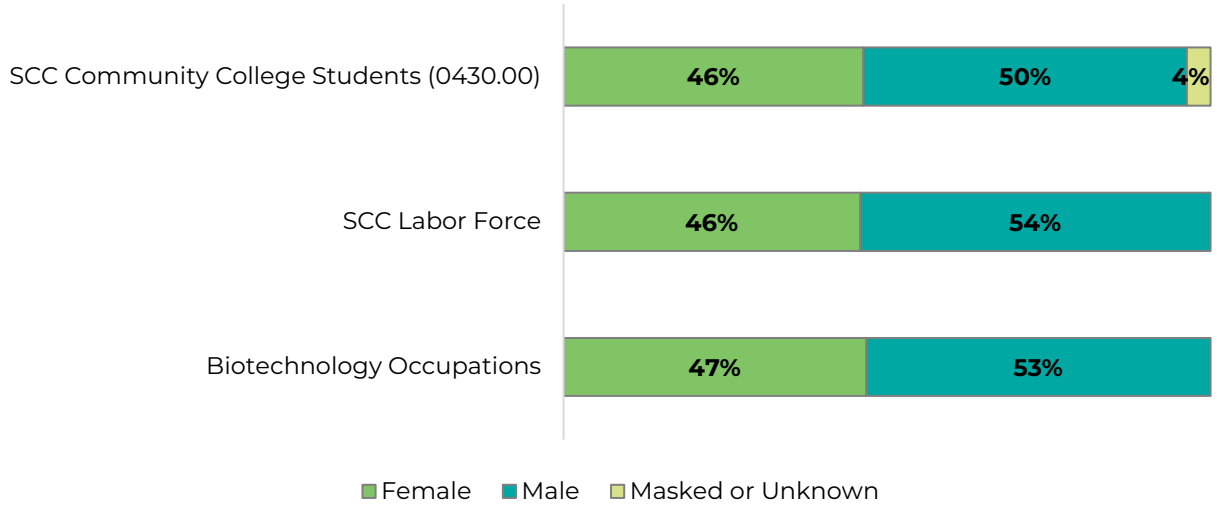


Sex:

Exhibit 20 compares the sex of SCC community college students enrolled in Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for these biotechnology occupations.

There is a slight majority of male Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00) students (50%) and workers in these biotechnology occupations (53%), which is similar with the labor force (54% male). Examining disaggregated data for each occupation (not shown), only one occupation has a majority of male workers: *Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other (19-4099)* (59%), which has the highest entry-level wages of all three biotechnology occupations.

Exhibit 20: Program and County Demographics by Sex



Appendix A: Methodology

Traditional Labor Market Data

The SCC 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.

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

Program supply data is drawn from two systems: Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

Using a TOP-SOC crosswalk, the SCC 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 SCC 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.

Online Job Postings Data

Online job postings data, also known as 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. 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.

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.

Additionally, 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.[6] For these reasons, job postings could be assigned to the wrong employer, industry, or occupation within Lightcast's database.

Geography

The South Central Coast region encompasses San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, as well as parts of Northern Los Angeles County. Exhibit 22 shows the 34 ZIP codes used to define Northern Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 21: Northern Los Angeles ZIP Codes

ZIP Code	Primary City
91310	Castaic
91321	Newhall
91322	Newhall
91350	Santa Clarita
91351	Canyon Country
91354	Valencia
91355	Valencia
91380	Santa Clarita
91381	Stevenson Ranch
91382	Santa Clarita
91383	Santa Clarita
91384	Castaic
91385	Valencia
91386	Canyon Country
91387	Canyon Country
91390	Santa Clarita
93510	Acton

ZIP Code	Primary City
93532	Lake Hughes
93534	Lancaster
93535	Lancaster
93536	Lancaster
93539	Lancaster
93543	Littlerock
93544	Llano
93550	Palmdale
93551	Palmdale
93552	Palmdale
93553	Pearblossom
93563	Valyermo
93584	Lancaster
93586	Lancaster
93590	Palmdale
93591	Palmdale
93599	Palmdale

Though traditional labor market information is available at the ZIP code level, it does not always add up to data reported at the county level for multiple reasons:

- ZIP codes are not official geographically bounded areas, unlike states and counties.
- ZIP codes may cross county lines, such as ZIP code 93461, which is primarily in San Luis Obispo County, but also crosses into Kern County.

For these reasons, the number of jobs and average annual openings for each county may not add up to the total for the SCC Region. However, considering jobseekers may cross county lines for opportunities, the traditional labor market data is reflective of opportunities available to jobseekers in the SCC Region.

Additionally, job postings data is available only at the city or county level. To analyze job postings for the entire SCC region, the SCC COE developed a list of cities available in Lightcast for analysis. Additionally, demographic data is not available at the ZIP code level but is available at the Census Bureau's Public `Use Microdata Area (PUMA) level. Demographic data was sourced via IPUMS and analyzed by the SCC COE.

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

Appendix B: Data Sources

Data Type	Source
Occupational Projections, Wages, and Job Postings	Traditional and real-time labor market information are captured using data from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm.
Living Wage	Per the CCCCO, this report's endorsement criteria uses the University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare Self-Sufficiency Standard last updated in March 2024. The MIT Living Wage, updated on February 15, 2026, is a nationally recognized living wage metric and is provided for reference.
Typical Education and Training Requirements, and Educational Attainment	The Bureau of Labor Statistics (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.
Emerging Occupation Descriptions, Additional Education Requirements, and Employer Preferences	The O*NET database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledge, work activities, and interests associated with occupations.
Educational Supply	The CCCCO Data Mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes and faculty and staff. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Integrated Data System (IPEDS) collects data on the number of postsecondary awards earned (completions).
Job Quality	To classify each occupation as High, Medium, or Low Quality, the SCC COE identified nine criteria, five of which are considered traditional labor market information indicators (Traditional LMI Indicators) and four of which are considered Job Quality Indicators. These criteria were used to determine occupations that have significant employment and demand, pay at or above the living wage, typically provide employer-sponsored health insurance and full-time hours, have a lower risk of automation, and are considered a "Best Job" by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, see the SCC COE's *South Central Coast Labor Market Landscape* report.
Student Metrics and Demographics	Data Vista, a statewide data system supported by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office provides data on progress, success, employment, and earnings outcomes for California community college students.
Population and Occupation Demographics	The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source for detailed population and housing information. Data is sourced from IPUMS USA, a database providing access to ACS and other Census Bureau data products.

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.

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