

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 12 annual job openings in the South Central Coast (SCC) Region for <i>Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)</i>, which is less than the 64 awards conferred by educational institutions However, the educational programs that train for this middle skill occupation also train for six other occupations that account for 347 annual openings. Therefore, supply is overstated and there is likely a supply gap for Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021).
Self-Sufficiency Standard Living Wage ¹	 Met	Typical entry-level wages for Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021) are \$35.26, which is above the Santa Barbara living wage of \$29.80.
Education	 Met	The typical entry-level education for <i>Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)</i> is an associate degree. Additionally, 47% 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
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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 one middle-skill occupation:

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.

- *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*

Based on the available data there is likely a supply gap for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*. While the supply figures in this report are greater than demand, the educational programs that train for this occupation also train for six other occupations that account for 347 annual openings. Therefore, supply is overstated and there is likely a supply gap for this occupation. Additionally, entry-level wages are above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage and typical education requirements for this occupation align with a community college education. **Therefore, due to all 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 (25 th Percentile)	Typical Entry-Level Education	Community College Educational Attainment
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)	12	64	\$35.26	Associate Degree	47%
Total	12	64	N/A	N/A	N/A

Demand:

- The number of jobs related to *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* is projected to grow 12% through 2030 in the SCC region. There is projected to be 12 annual job openings due to new job creation and replacements.
- Typical hourly entry-level wages for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in Santa Barbara County are \$35.26, which is above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage (\$29.80 for Santa Barbara County).
- Though job postings data was unavailable for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*, this report utilized the keyword “aerospace” along with four other occupations related to the proposed Aerospace Technology program. Across these occupations, there were 549 online job postings over the past 12 months. The highest number of postings were for CNC Machinists, Manufacturing Technicians, and Machinists.
- The typical entry-level education for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* is an associate degree.
- Notably, 47% 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 64 awards conferred by two community colleges 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 Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had a median annual wage of \$55,596 (or \$26.73 per hour) after exiting the program and 54% attained the regional living wage (Self-Sufficiency Standard).
- Throughout the state, 81% of Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) students that exited their program in 2022-23 reported that they are working in a job closely related to their field of study. This data was unavailable at the regional level.

Demand

Occupational Projections:

Exhibit 2 compares historical and projected changes in employment for this occupation compared to the number of jobs in 2020. Notably, employment for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* throughout the state grew 33% from 2020 to 2025, which is similar when compared to employment for this occupation in the SCC Region. However, employment declined 40% from 2020 to 2025 in Santa Barbara County. From 2025 to 2030, employment for this occupation is projected to grow in California and the SCC Region but is projected to remain flat in Santa Barbara County.

Exhibit 2: Historical and Projected Employment for Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians, 2020-2030

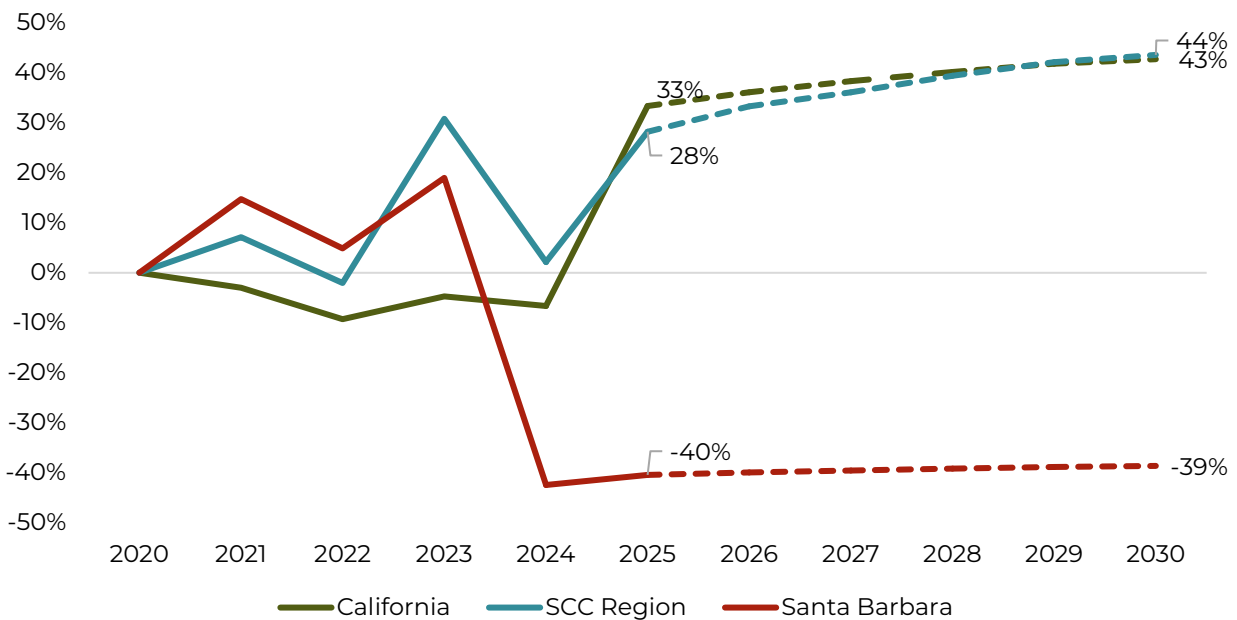


Exhibit 3 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*. In the SCC Region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase 12% by 2030. There is projected to be 12 jobs available annually due to new job creation and replacements. Northern Los Angeles County has the highest number of jobs and annual openings, with employment projected to increase 14% through 2030.

Exhibit 3: Occupational Demand in the SCC Region²

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Northern Los Angeles	57	65	8	14%	7
San Luis Obispo	4	6	1	30%	1
Santa Barbara	20	20	1	3%	2
Ventura	22	24	2	10%	2
SCC Region	103	115	12	12%	12

Wages:

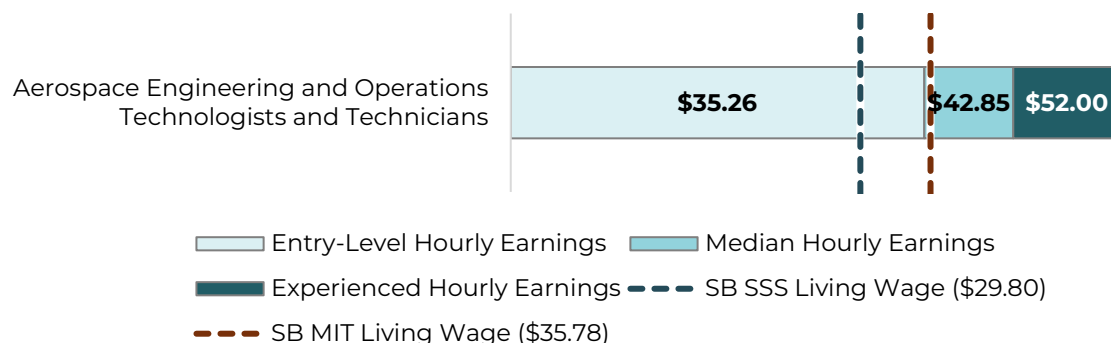
The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in relation to the living wage of the county where the requesting community college is located. This report was requested by Allan Hancock College, which is in Santa Barbara 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 Santa Barbara County is \$35.78. 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.

Santa Barbara

Typical entry-level wages for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* are \$35.26, which is above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult (\$29.80 in Santa Barbara County). Exhibit 4 shows the wage range for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in Santa Barabra County and how it compares to the regional living wage.

Exhibit 4: Wages by Occupation in Santa Barbara County

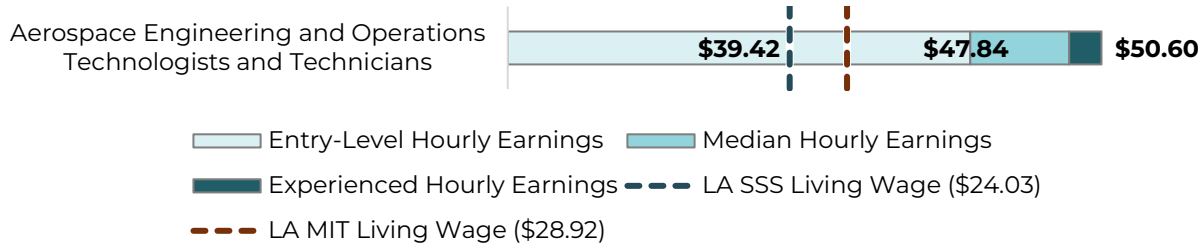


Northern Los Angeles

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.

Typical entry-level wages for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* are \$39.42, which is above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Exhibit 5 shows the wage range for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in Northern Los Angeles and how it compares to the regional living wage.

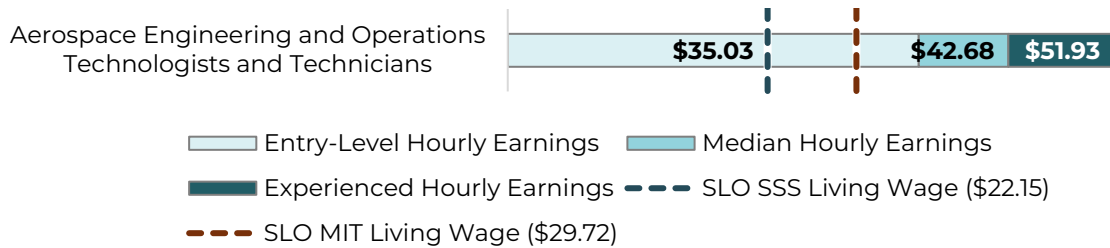
Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in Northern Los Angeles County



San Luis Obispo

Typical entry-level wages for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* are \$35.03, which is above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult (\$22.15 in San Luis Obispo County). Exhibit 6 shows the wage range for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in San Luis Obispo County and how it compares to the regional living wage.

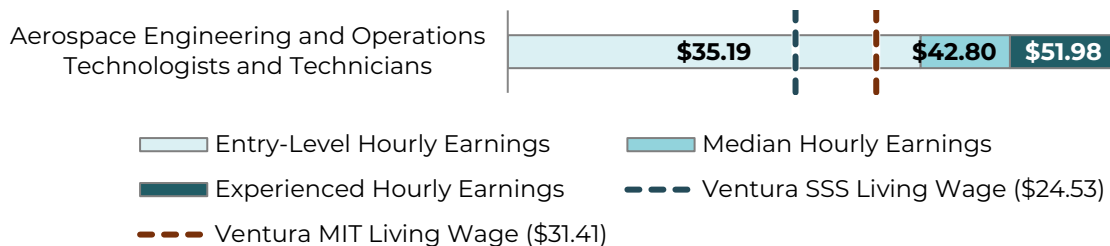
Exhibit 6: Wages by Occupation in San Luis Obispo County



Ventura

Typical entry-level wages for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* are \$35.19, which is above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult (\$24.53 in Ventura County). Exhibit 7 shows the wage range for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in Ventura County and how it compares to the regional living wage.

Exhibit 7: Wages by Occupation in Ventura County



Job Quality

Based on the SCC COE's analysis of traditional labor market and job quality indicators³, the occupation analyzed in this report is considered Medium-Quality across the SCC Region and within Santa Barbara County, as shown in Exhibit 8.

Exhibit 8: Job Quality Level by County

Occupation	Northern LA	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Ventura	SCC Region
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

To better understand measures of job quality for these occupations in Santa Barbara County, Exhibit 9 shows which job quality criteria were met for each occupation. Notably, *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* met both living wage criteria (Self-Sufficiency Standard and MIT Living Wage), the number of hours worked per week, and employer sponsored health insurance. However, this occupation did not meet the criteria for number of jobs, demand, positive projected change, automation risk, and was not considered a “Best Job” by U.S News & World Report in 2025.

Exhibit 9: Job Quality Indicators for Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians in Santa Barbara County

Job Quality Measure	Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians
# of Jobs	Not Met
Positive Projected Change	Not Met
Demand (Annual Openings)	Not Met
Living Wage (SSS)	Met
Living Wage (MIT)	Met
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance	Met
# of Hours Worked Per Week	Met
Automation Risk	Not Met
U.S. News & World Report Best Job	Not Met

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/>.

Job Postings:

Notably, there was no online job postings data available for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* in the SCC Region. When expanding the search to include postings throughout the country, there were only 14 online job postings over the past 12 months nationally for this occupation. Considering the low number of postings, it is likely that postings for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* are classified under different occupations.

To provide a more complete analysis of online job postings, this report utilizes the keyword “aerospace” along with four other occupations related to the proposed Aerospace Technology program: *Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3026)*, *Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3023)*, *Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians (49-3011)*, and *Machinists (51-4041)*. The following information on job postings reflects this data.

There were 549 online job postings related to this proposed Aerospace Technology program listed in the past 12 months in the SCC Region. Exhibit 10 shows the number of job postings by county. Approximately 42% of job postings were in Ventura County.

Exhibit 10: Number of Job Postings by County (n=549)

County	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Ventura	230	42%
Northern Los Angeles	219	40%
Santa Barbara	77	14%
San Luis Obispo	23	4%
Total Postings	549	100%

Of the 549 postings, the majority (66%) were for *Machinists (51-4041)*, followed by *Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3026)*, as shown in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11: Number of Job Postings by Occupation (n=549)

Occupation	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Machinists	364	66%
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	102	19%
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	45	8%
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	38	7%
Total Postings	549	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=549)

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Aerotek	111	20%
Northrop Grumman	34	6%
AppleOne	33	6%

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Regal Rexnord Corp	21	4%
Johnson Service Group	17	3%
Teledyne	17	3%
APR Consulting	15	3%
Parker Hannifin	13	2%
Empirical Systems Aerospace	13	2%
Princeton Tool	12	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=549)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Machining (258)	Operations (223)	Mastercam (CAD/CAM Software) (64)
Lathes (212)	Troubleshooting (Problem Solving) (159)	Microsoft Excel (60)
Tooling (195)	Detail Oriented (143)	Microsoft Office (44)
Computer Numerical Control (CNC) (184)	Communication (113)	G-Codes (37)
Blueprinting (156)	Problem Solving (93)	Microsoft PowerPoint (37)
Calipers (156)	Mathematics (87)	Microsoft Outlook (27)
Micrometer (151)	English Language (77)	Angular (Web Framework) (25)
Mills (149)	Planning (65)	SAP Applications (20)
CNC Machining (117)	Microsoft Excel (60)	SolidWorks (CAD) (18)
Hand Tools (111)	Reliability (52)	Microsoft Word (16)

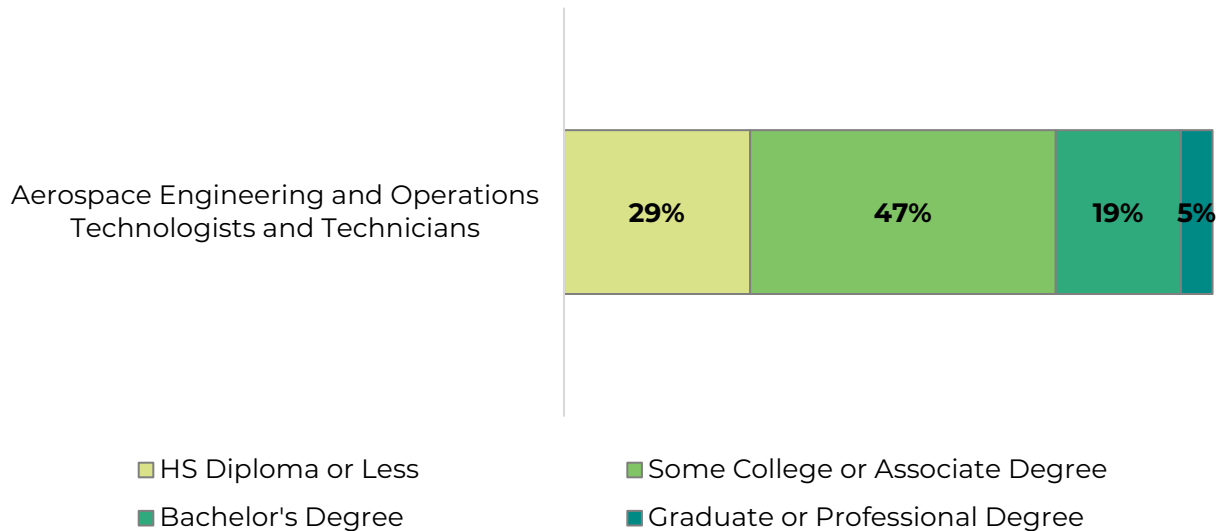
Educational Attainment:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following as the typical entry-level education for this occupation:

- Associate degree
 - *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*

The national-level educational attainment data indicates that 47% 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 *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*.

Exhibit 14: National-level Educational Attainment for Occupations



Of the 47% of the cumulative job postings for related to the proposed Aerospace Technology program that listed a minimum education requirement in the SCC Region, 95% (247) requested a high school diploma or GED, 4% (11) requested an associate degree, and 1% (2) requested a bachelor's 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:

- Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00)

No awards were conferred for the following TOP codes:

- Aircraft Electronics (Avionics) (0950.40)

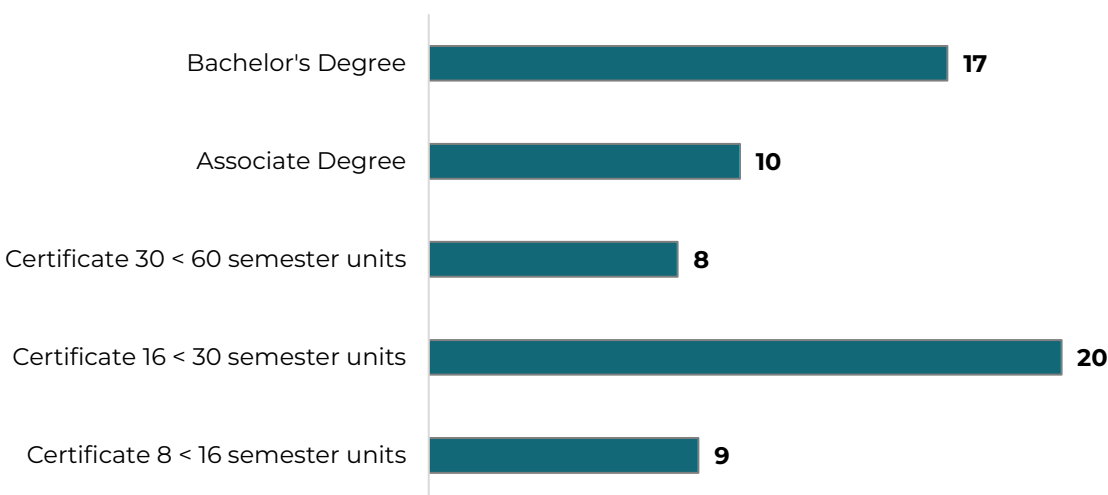
The college with the most completions in the region is Antelope Valley (48), followed by Cuesta College (16).

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
0950.00 Aeronautical and Aviation Technology				
Antelope Valley	39	52	53	48
Cuesta	0	24	23	16
Supply Subtotal/Average	39	76	76	64
Supply Total/Average	39	76	76	64

Exhibit 16 shows the annual average community college awards by type from 2022-23 to 2024-25. The plurality of the awards are for certificates between 16 and less than 30 semester units, followed by bachelor's 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 Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs throughout the SCC Region, and California. According to the Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI), there are currently no active Aeronautical

and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs offered at Allan Hancock College (AHC). Therefore, data for AHC is unavailable.

Of the 1,485 Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) students throughout the state in the 2024-25 academic year, 11% (170) attended a SCC Region community college. SCC Region students that exited Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had higher median annual earnings (\$55,596 or \$26.73 per hour) in comparison to students statewide (\$47,166 or \$22.68 per hour). A higher percentage of SCC Region Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) students attained the living wage (54%) when compared to all Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) in the state (50%).

Exhibit 17: Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00)
Strong Workforce Program Metrics, 2024-25^{4,5}

SWP Metric	AHC	SCC Region	California
SWP Students	Insufficient Data	170	1,485
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	Insufficient Data	68%	68%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	77%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	Insufficient Data	40%	21%
SWP Students Who Transferred to a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	1%
SWP Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study (2022-23)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	81%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	\$55,596 (\$26.73)	\$47,166 (\$22.68)
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	43%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	54%	50%

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:

- Aeronautical/Aerospace Engineering Technology/Technician (15.0801)
- Avionics Maintenance Technology/Technician (47.0609)

Regional Demographics

This section examines demographic data for SCC community college students in Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs compared to the SCC labor force, along with occupational data, to identify potential diversity and equity issues addressable by community college programs.

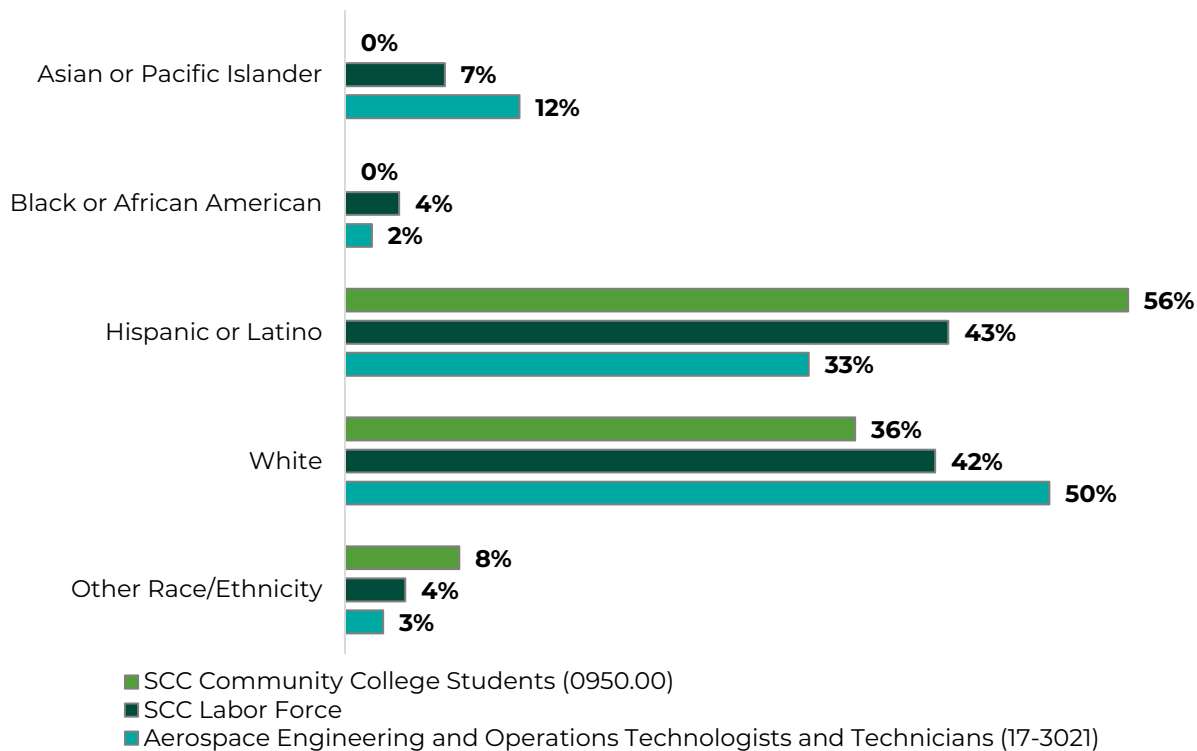
⁴ All SWP metrics are for 2024-25 unless otherwise noted. Metrics data is sourced from DataVista.
⁵ Data that is not available in DataVista is denoted in Exhibit 15 as “data unavailable.” Data may not be available for various reasons, including cases where data is masked to protect personally identifiable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

Ethnicity:

Exhibit 18 compares the ethnicity of SCC community college students enrolled in Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation- specific data for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*.

Notably, 12% of *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* are Asian or Pacific Islander, which is higher than the labor force (7%) and community college Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) students (0%). Conversely, 56% of community college Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) students are Hispanic or Latino, which is higher than the labor force (43%) and *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* (33%).

Exhibit 18: Program and County Demographics by Ethnicity

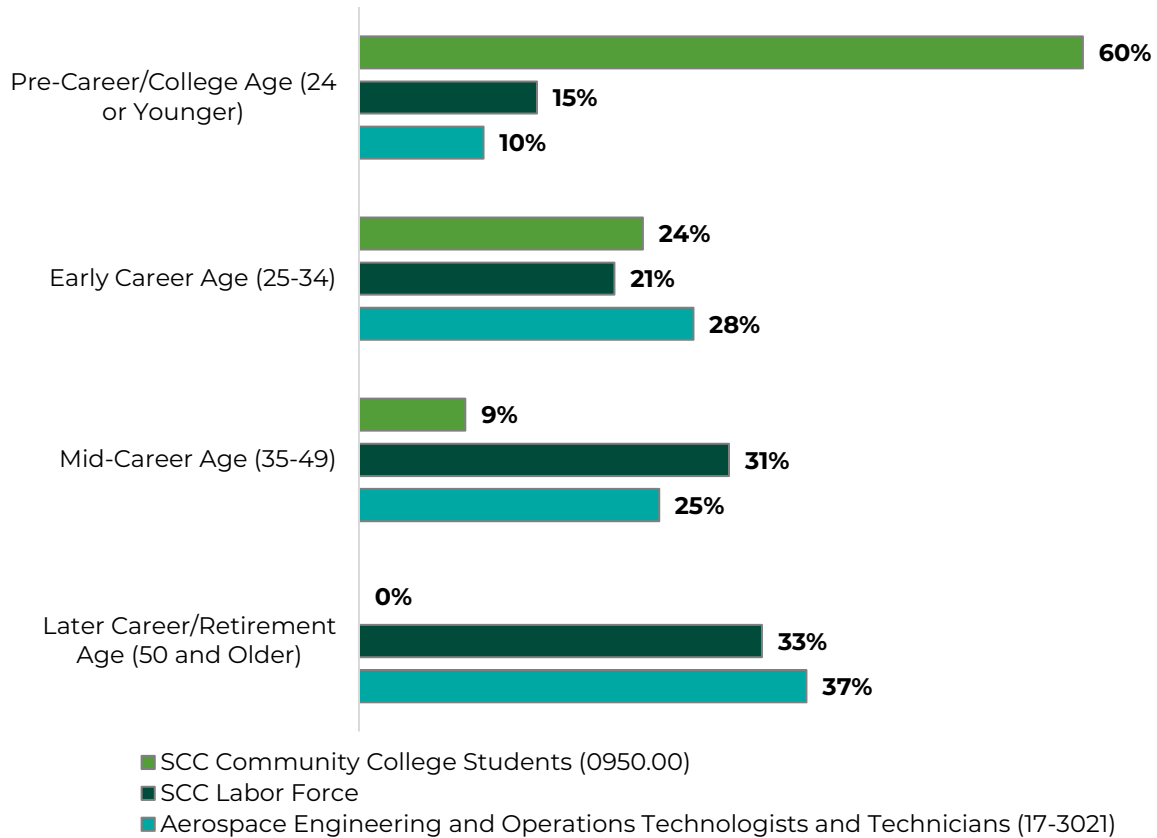


Age:

Exhibit 19 compares the age of SCC community college students enrolled in Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*.

The majority of community college Aeronautical and Aviation Technology students are Pre-Career/College Age (24 or Younger) (60%) which is significantly higher than both the overall SCC labor force (15%) and *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* (10%).

Exhibit 19: Program and County Demographics by Age

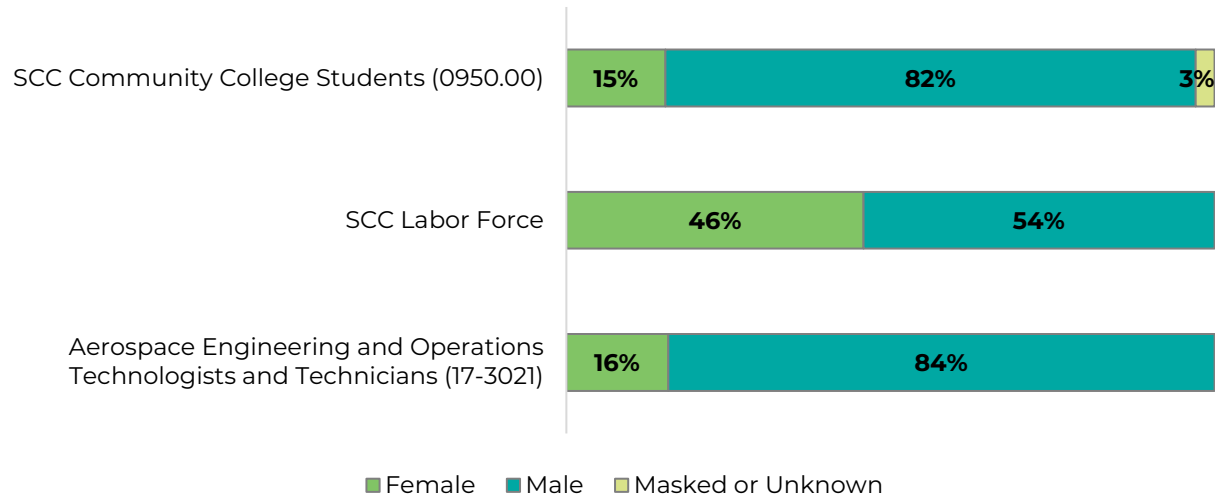


Sex:

Exhibit 20 compares the sex of SCC community college students enrolled in Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)*.

There is a significant majority of male Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00) students (82%), and *Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)* (84%), which is higher than the labor force (54% male).

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	ZIP Code	Primary City
91310	Castaic	93532	Lake Hughes
91321	Newhall	93534	Lancaster
91322	Newhall	93535	Lancaster
91350	Santa Clarita	93536	Lancaster
91351	Canyon Country	93539	Lancaster
91354	Valencia	93543	Littlerock
91355	Valencia	93544	Llano
91380	Santa Clarita	93550	Palmdale
91381	Stevenson Ranch	93551	Palmdale
91382	Santa Clarita	93552	Palmdale
91383	Santa Clarita	93553	Pearblossom
91384	Castaic	93563	Valyermo
91385	Valencia	93584	Lancaster
91386	Canyon Country	93586	Lancaster
91387	Canyon Country	93590	Palmdale
91390	Santa Clarita	93591	Palmdale
93510	Acton	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 CCCCCO, 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 CCCCCO 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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