Labor Market Analysis for Program Recommendation: TOP Code: 3007.00/Cosmetology and Barbering CIP Code: 12.0410/Nail Technician/Specialist and Manicurist *(Manicuring Certificate of Achievement)*

South Central Coast Center of Excellence, November 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 **352 annual job openings** in the South Central Coast (SCC) Region for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*, which **is more than the 218 awards conferred by educational institutions**.
Self-Sufficiency Standard Living Wage[1]	☑ **Not Met**	Typical entry-level hourly wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are $16.75, which is **significantly below the Santa Barbara County living wage of $29.80.**
Education	☑ **Met**	The typical entry-level education for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* is a **postsecondary nondegree award**. Additionally**, 23% 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 one middle-skill occupation:

- *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*

[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 *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* and typical education requirements for this occupation align with a community college education. However, entry-level wages are significantly 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
Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)	352	218	$16.75	Postsecondary nondegree award	23%
Total	**352**	**218**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Demand:

- The number of jobs related to *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* is projected to grow 11% through 2030 in the SCC region. There is projected to be 353 annual job openings due to new job creation and replacements.
- Hourly entry-level wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are $16.75 which is significantly below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage ($29.80 for Santa Barbara County).
- There were 44 online job postings for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* over the past 12 months. The highest number of postings were for nail technicians, licensed nail technicians, and instructors.
- The typical entry-level education for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* is a postsecondary nondegree award.
- Approximately 23% 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 67 awards conferred by two community colleges in the SCC Region from 2022 to 2025.
- Non-community college institutions conferred 151 related awards from 2021 to 2024.
- SCC community college students that exited Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had a median annual wage of $28,240 (or $13.58 per hour) after exiting the program.
- Throughout the SCC Region, 64% of Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students that exited their program in 2022-23 reported that they are working in a job closely related to their field of study.

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 *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* throughout the SCC Region grew 68% from 2020 to 2025, which is higher when compared to employment for this occupation in California and throughout Santa Barbara County. From 2025 to 2030, employment for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* is projected to increase in Santa Barbara County, the SCC Region, and California.

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

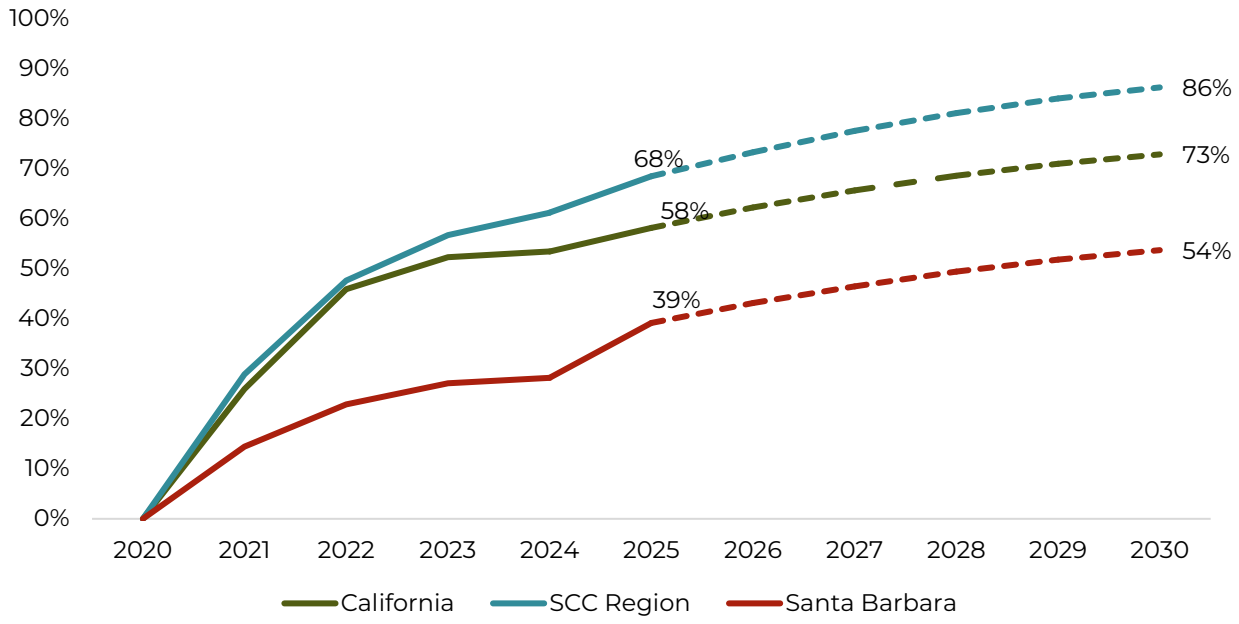


Exhibit 3 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*. In the SCC Region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to grow 11% by 2030. There is projected to be 352 jobs available annually due to job creation. Northern Los Angeles County has the highest number of jobs and annual openings.

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	1,035	1,170	134	13%	148
San Luis Obispo	260	272	12	4%	31
Santa Barbara	355	392	37	10%	47
Ventura	947	1,037	90	10%	124
SCC Region	**2,597**	**2,870**	**274**	**11%**	**352**

Wages:

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* in relation to the living wage of the county where the

[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.

requesting community college is located. This report was requested by Santa Barbara City College, which is in Santa Barbara County. Wages for other counties are included below to provide a complete analysis of the SCC Region.

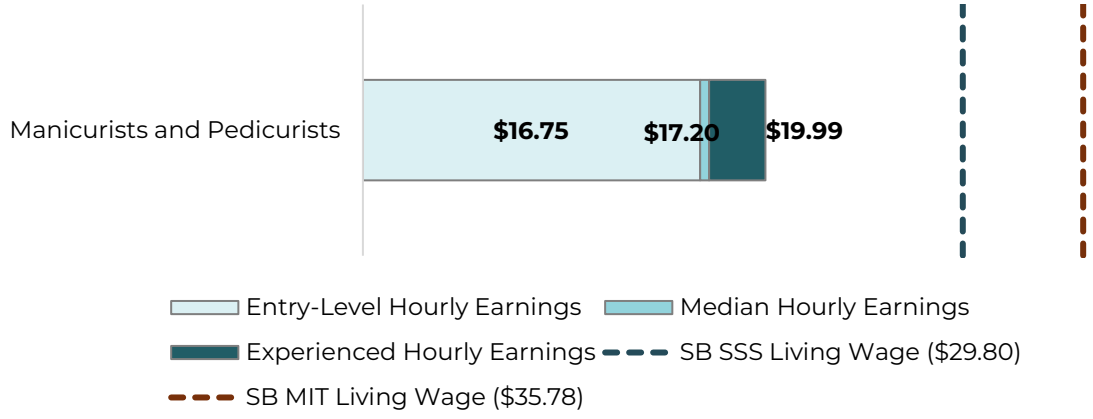
In addition to the Self Sufficiency Standard living wage, data for the MIT Living Wage, updated on February 15, 2026, is provided as a reference. Currently, the MIT Living Wage in Santa Barbara County is $29.80. Both figures account for geographic-specific costs of necessities such as housing, food, health care, and transportation to assess the cost of living, and are notated in the exhibits below.

It is important to note that approximately 23% of *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are considered self-employed in the SCC Region. Self-employed workers have different earning dynamics than wage and salaried workers, making direct comparisons difficult. Higher self-employment rates and low wages seen throughout this analysis are consistent with other studies. A report published by the UCLA Labor Center, in collaboration with California Healthy Nail Salon, found that wages for nail salon workers are low for various reasons, including being paid under the table.[3]

Santa Barbara

Typical entry-level hourly wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are $16.75, which is significantly below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($29.80 in Santa Barbara County). Notably, wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are below the living wage even at the experienced level. Exhibit 4 shows the wage range for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* in Santa Barbara County and how they compare to the regional living wage.

Exhibit 4: Wages by Occupation in Santa Barbara County

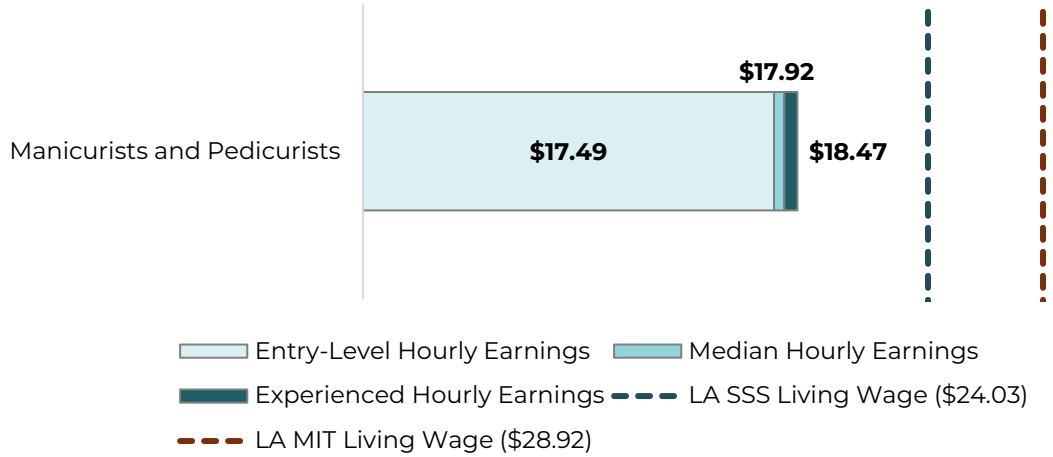


[3] UCLA Labor Center and California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative. (2024, March). Nail Files California: A Study of Nail Salon Workers and Their Industry. https://www.labor.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Nail-Files-California-3.18.2024.pdf

Northern Los Angeles

Typical entry-level hourly wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are $17.49, which is below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($24.03 in Los Angeles County). Notably, wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are below the living wage, even at the experienced level. Exhibit 5, shows the wage range for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* and how it compares to the regional living wage.

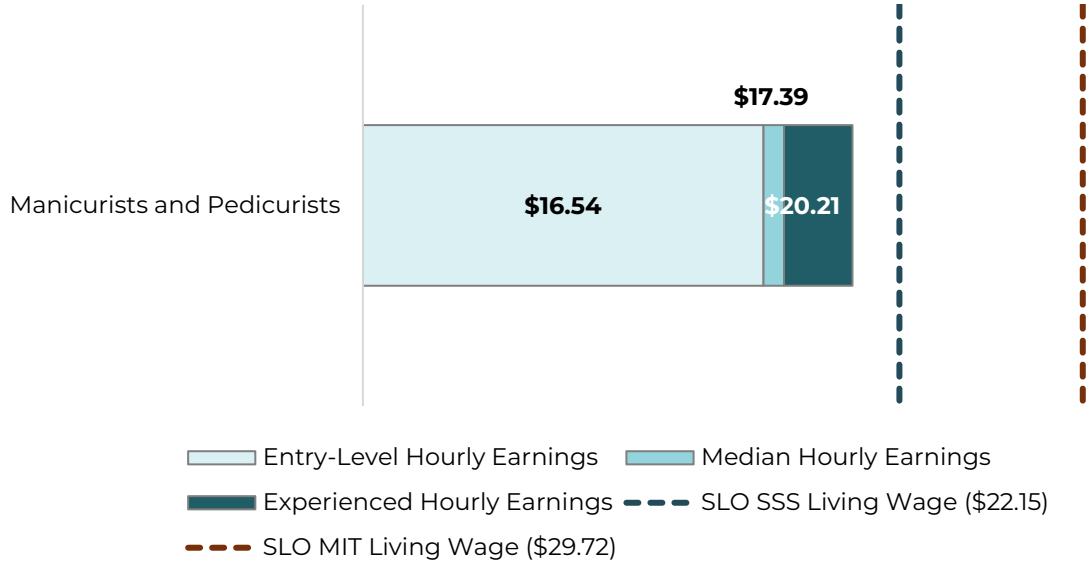
Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in Northern Los Angeles County



San Luis Obispo

Typical entry-level hourly wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are $16.54, which is below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($22.15 in San Luis Obispo County). Notably, wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are below the living wage even at the experienced level. Exhibit 6 shows the wage range for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* in San Luis Obispo County and how it compares to the regional living wage.

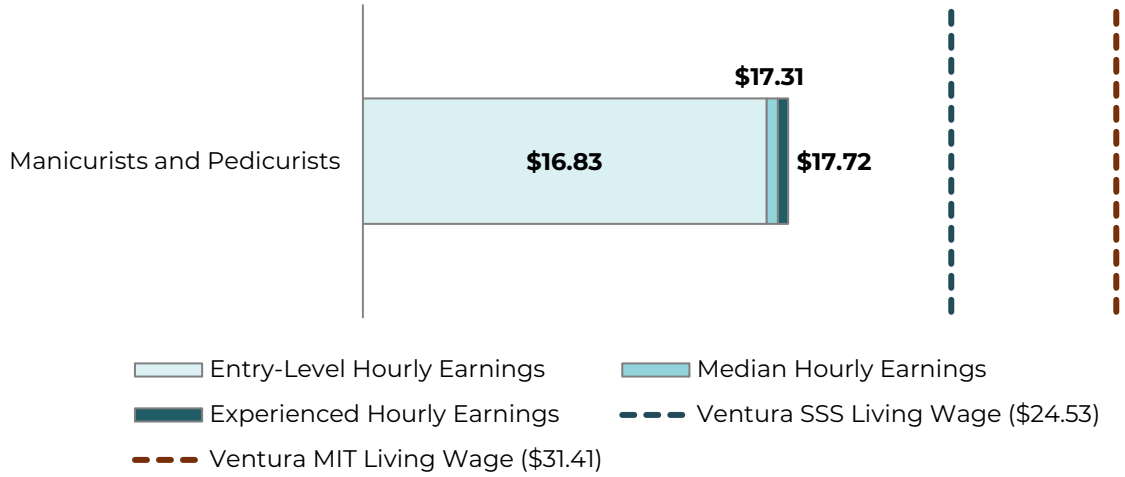
Exhibit 6: Wages by Occupation in San Luis Obispo County



Ventura

Typical entry-level hourly wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are $16.83 which is below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($24.53 in Ventura County). Notably, wages for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are below the living wage even at the experienced level. Exhibit 7 shows the wage range for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* 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 indicators[4], the occupations analyzed in this report are 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
Manicurists and Pedicurists	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	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, this occupation met the criteria for the number of jobs, projected job change, demand, and number of hours worked per week. However, this occupation has entry-level wages below the living wage and was not considered a "Best Job" by U.S. News & World Report in 2025.

Exhibit 9: Job Quality Indicators for Manicurists and Pedicurists in Santa Barbara County

Job Quality Measure	Manicurists and Pedicurists
# of Jobs	**Met**
Positive Projected Change	**Met**

[4] "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 Quality Measure	Manicurists and Pedicurists
Demand (Annual Openings)	**Met**
Living Wage (SSS)	**Not Met**
Living Wage (MIT)	**Not Met**
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance	**Not Met**
# of Hours Worked Per Week	**Met**
Automation Risk	**Not Met**
U.S. News & World Report Best Job	**Not Met**

Job Postings:

There were 44 online job postings related to *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* listed in the past 12 months in the SCC Region. Exhibit 10 shows the number of job postings by county. Approximately 32% of job postings were in Northern Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 10: Number of Job Postings by County (n=44)

County	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Northern Los Angeles	14	32%
Ventura	13	30%
Santa Barbara	12	27%
San Luis Obispo	5	11%
Total Postings	**44**	**100%**

Due to the analysis focusing on one occupation, *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*, all job postings reflected that occupation, as shown in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11: Number of Job Postings by Occupation (n=44)

Occupation	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Manicurists and Pedicurists	44	100%
Total Postings	**44**	**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=44)

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Herespa	6	14%
Bliss Nails & Spa	4	9%
Lu Ross Academy	3	7%
Tipsy Nails	3	7%
Springtide Limited	2	5%
American Beauty College	2	5%
Le Reve	2	5%

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
European Wax	2	5%
Trilogy at Monarch Dunes - Shea Homes	1	2%
Covenant Living At The Samarkand	1	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=44)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Manicure (38)	Customer Service (16)	Operating Systems (2)
Pedicure (18)	Communication (14)	
Nail Care (12)	Detail Oriented (8)	
Sanitation (11)	Energetic (7)	
Dermabrasion (7)	Teaching (7)	
Cosmetology (6)	Cleanliness (6)	N/A
Disinfecting (6)	Scheduling (6)	
Anatomy (5)	Enthusiasm (5)	
Eyelash Extensions (5)	Sales (5)	
Retail Sales (5)	Greeting Customers (4)	

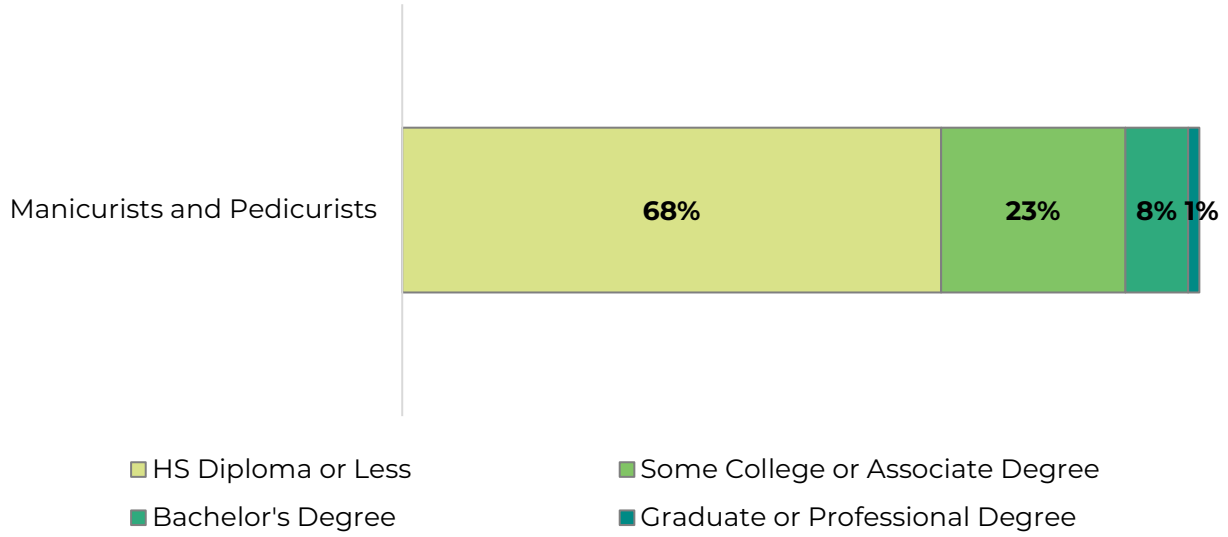
Educational Attainment:

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

- Postsecondary nondegree award
    - *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*

The national-level educational attainment data indicates 23% 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 5% of the cumulative job postings for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* that listed a minimum education requirement in the SCC Region, 100% (2) requested a high school diploma or GED.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply:

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

- Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00)

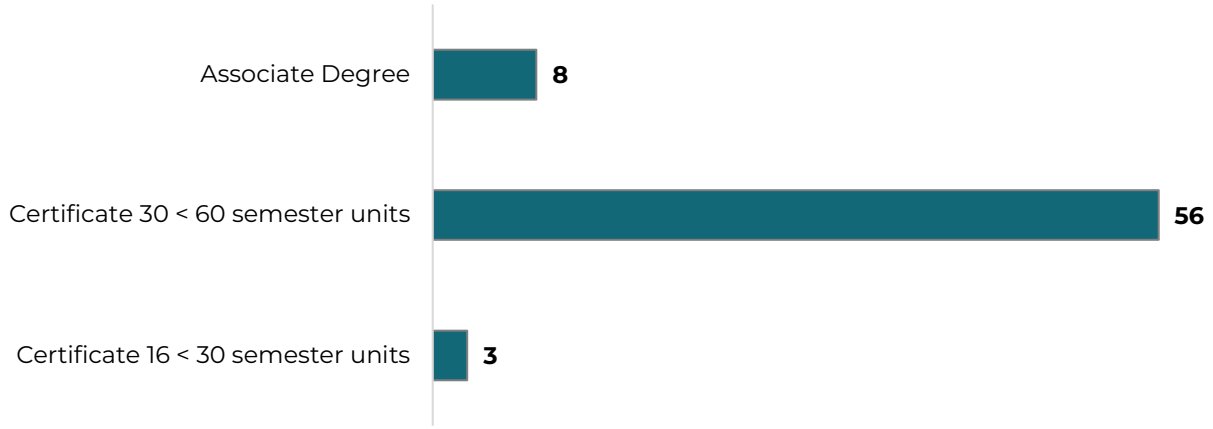
The college with the most completions in the region is Santa Barbara (40), followed by Allan Hancock (26).

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
3007.00 (Cosmetology and Barbering)				
Allan Hancock	52	25	2	26
Santa Barbara	5	41	75	40
Supply Subtotal/Average	**57**	**66**	**77**	**67**
Supply Total/Average	**57**	**66**	**77**	**67**

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 30 and less than 60 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 Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), the SCC Region, and California. Due to a small number of students at SBCC and the SCC Region, several metrics are unavailable. Of the 6,824 Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students throughout California in the 2024-25 academic year, 2% (188) attended SBCC.

SBCC students that exited Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had similar median annual earnings ($28,232 or $13.57 per hour) compared to all Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students in the SCC Region ($28,240 or $13.58 per hour); both figures are higher than statewide ($27,486 or $13.21 per hour). Notably, only 15% of Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students in the state attained the living wage.

Exhibit 17: Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00)
Strong Workforce Program Metrics, 2024-25[5][6]

SWP Metric	SBCC	SCC Region	California
SWP Students	188	188	6,824
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	78%	78%	53%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	76%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	38%	39%	27%
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	76%	68%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	$28,232 ($13.57)	$28,240 ($13.58)	$27,486 ($13.21)
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	57%	64%	26%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage (2023-24)	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	15%

[5] All SWP metrics are for 2024-25 unless otherwise noted. Metrics data is sourced from DataVista.
[6] 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.

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 151 awards conferred by non-community college institutions under the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes:

- Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General (12.0401)
- Nail Technician/Specialist and Manicurists (12.0410)

Exhibit 18 shows the number of awards conferred by non-community college institutions from 2021 to 2024.

Exhibit 18: Regional Non-Community College Awards, 2021-2024

CIP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
12.0401	Cosmetology/ Cosmetologist, General	Design's School of Cosmetology	28	54	56	70
		Lu Ross Academy	33	59	84	59
		Modern Beauty Academy	7	15	17	13
Supply Subtotal/Average			**68**	**128**	**157**	**118**
12.0410	Nail Technician/ Specialist and Manicurist	Lu Ross Academy	16	20	23	20
		Modern Beauty Academy	14	10	16	13
Supply Subtotal/Average			**30**	**30**	**39**	**33**
Supply Total/Average			**98**	**158**	**196**	**151**

Regional Demographics

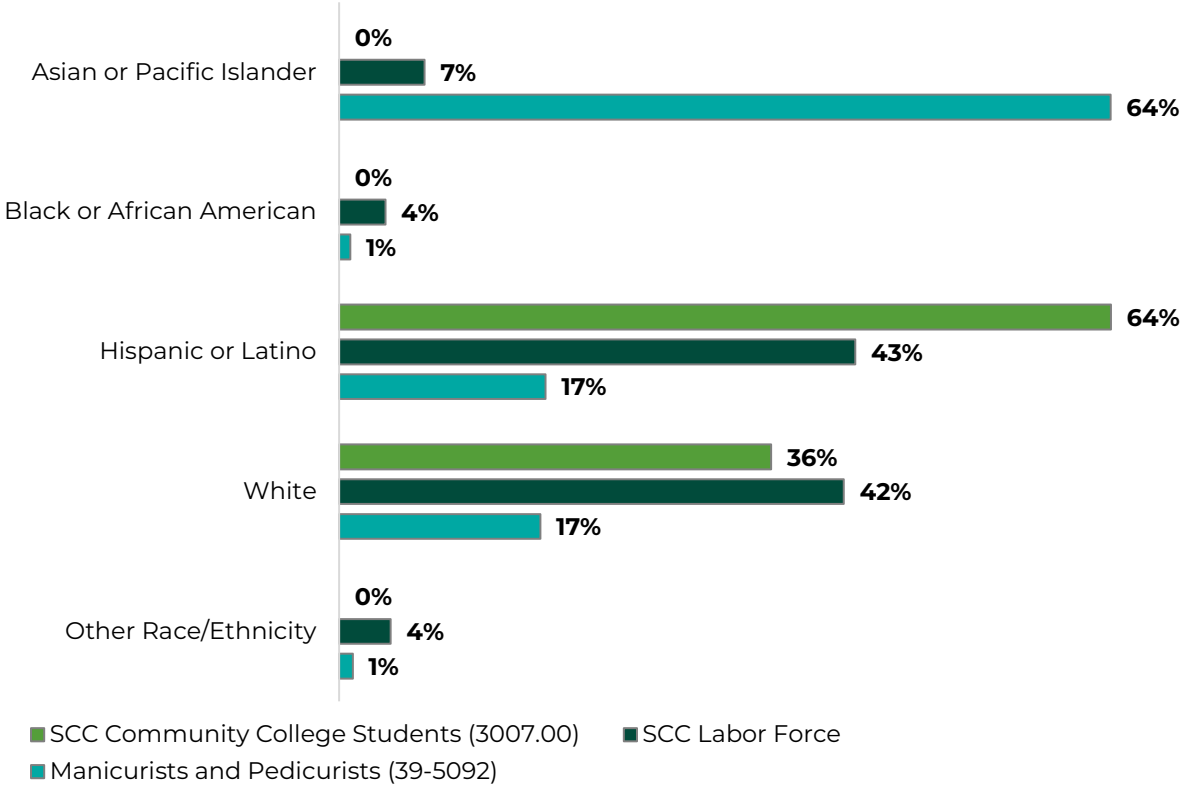
This section examines demographic data for SCC community college students in Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs compared to the SCC labor force, along with occupational data, to identify potential diversity and equity issues addressable by community college programs.

Ethnicity:

Exhibit 19 compares the ethnicity of SCC community college students enrolled in Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*.

Notably, 64% of *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* are Asian or Pacific Islander which is significantly higher than the labor force (7%) and community college Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students (0%).

Exhibit 19: Program and County Demographics by Ethnicity

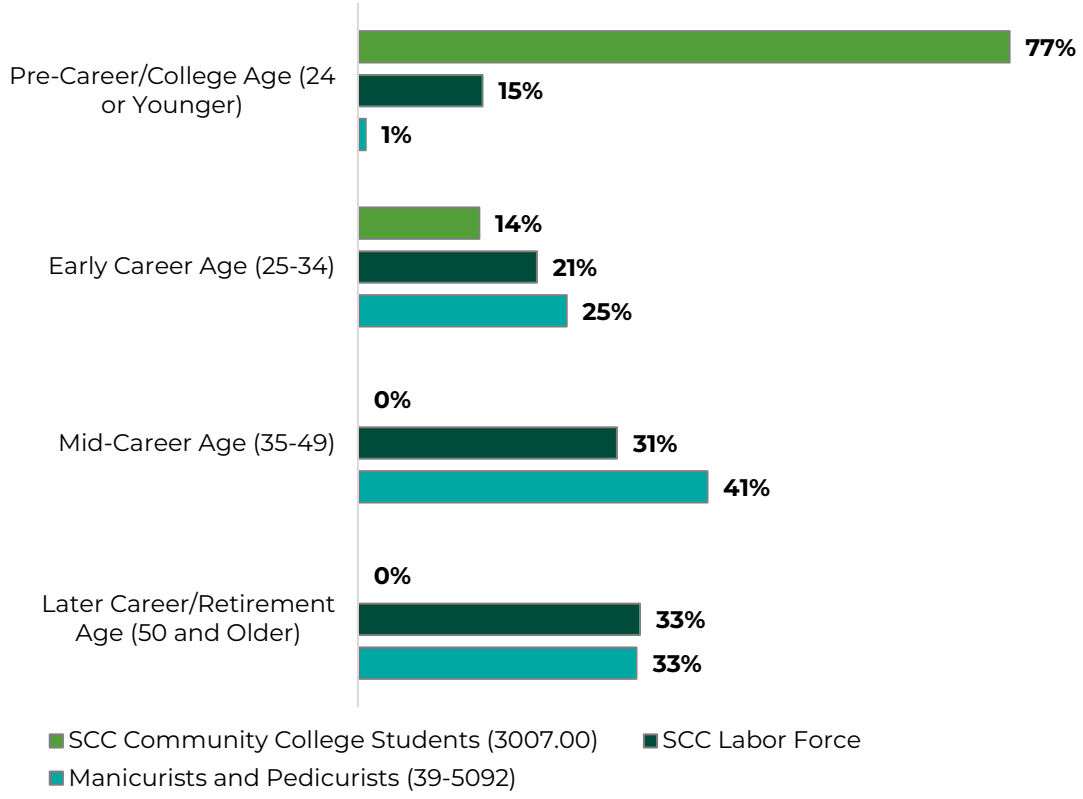


Age:

Exhibit 20 compares the age of SCC community college students enrolled in Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*.

Notably, 77% of community college Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students are Pre-Career/College Age (24 or Younger), which is higher than the labor force (15%) and *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* (1%).

Exhibit 20: Program and County Demographics by Age

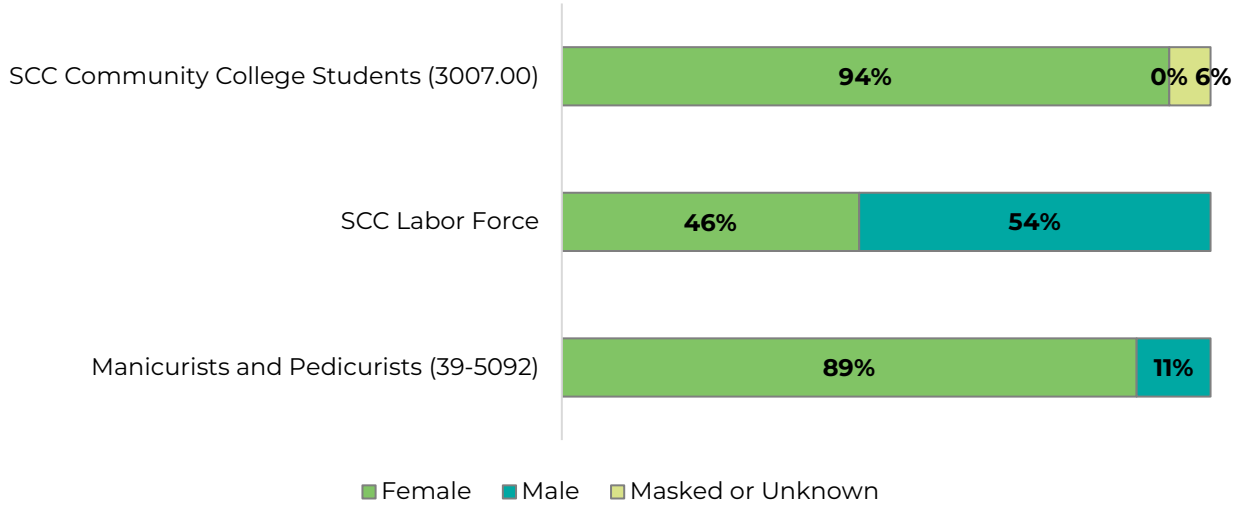


Sex:

Exhibit 21 compares the sex of SCC community college students enrolled in Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)*.

There is a significant majority of female Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00) students (94%) and workers in *Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)* (89%), which contrasts with the labor force (45% female).

Exhibit 21: 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.[7] 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 22: 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.

[7] 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.

For more information, please contact the South Central Coast Center of Excellence:

Jacob Poore, Director
jacob.poore@canyons.edu

Ashley Kernan, Research Manager
ashley.kernan@canyons.edu

November 2026

