



Labor Market Analysis for Program Recommendation

Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations

West Valley College

Prepared by the Bay Region Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

May 2025

Recommendation

Based on all available data, there appears to be an “undersupply” of Physical Therapy Assistant workers compared to the demand for this cluster of occupations in the Bay Region and in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region (Santa Clara County). There is a projected annual gap of about 1,523 students in the Bay Region and 80 students in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region.

Introduction

This report provides student outcomes data on employment and earnings for TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant programs in the state and region. It is recommended that these data be reviewed to better understand how outcomes for students taking courses on this TOP code compare to potentially similar programs at colleges in the state and region, as well as to outcomes across all CTE programs at West Valley College and in the region.

This report profiles Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the 12 county Bay Region and in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region for program recommendation at West Valley College.

- **Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021):** Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training.
Typical Entry-Level Educational: Associate’s degree
Typical On-the-Job Training: None
Percentage of individuals 25+ with an associate degree, certificate, or some postsecondary coursework as their highest level of education attainment: 59%

Occupational Demand

Table 1. Employment Outlook for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region

Occupation	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	5-yr Total Openings	Annual Openings	25% Hourly Wage	Median Hourly Wage
Physical Therapist Assistants	8,680	10,257	1,577	18%	7,940	1,588	\$29	\$38
Total	8,680	10,257	1,577	18%	7,940	1,588	\$29	\$38

Source: Lightcast 2025.1

The Bay Region includes: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma Counties

Table 2. Employment Outlook for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region

Occupation	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	5-yr Total Openings	Annual Openings	25% Hourly Wage	Median Hourly Wage
Physical Therapist Assistants	390	493	103	26%	399	80	\$36	\$45
Total	390	493	103	26%	399	80	\$36	\$45

Source: Lightcast 2025.1

Silicon Valley Sub-Region includes: Santa Clara County

Job Postings in the Bay Region and Silicon Valley Sub-Region

Table 3. Number of Job Postings by Occupation for the latest 12 months

Occupation	Bay Region	Silicon Valley
Physical Therapist Assistants	2,057	455

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Table 4a. Top Job Titles in Job Postings for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region

Title	Bay	Title	Bay
Physical Therapist Assistants	862	Home Health Physical Therapists	26
Physical Therapy Assistants	559	Outpatient Travel Physical Therapists	22
Home Health Physical Therapy Assistants	92	Front Desk/Chiropractic Assistants	20
Chiropractic Assistants	62	Physical Therapists/Physical Therapy Assistants	18
Skilled Nursing Facility Physical Therapy Assistants	53	Physical Therapists/Rehabilitation Managers	14
Chiropractic Assistants/Receptionists	44	Chiropractic Office Assistants	13
Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants	40	Directors of Allied Health	10
Outpatient Physical Therapists	39	Office Managers/Chiropractic Assistants	9
Physical Therapy Technicians	37	Student Assistants	9

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Table 4b. Top Job Titles in Job Posting for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region

Title	Silicon Valley	Title	Silicon Valley
Physical Therapist Assistants	196	Directors of Allied Health	4
Physical Therapy Assistants	136	Physical Therapists/Physical Therapy Assistants	4

Title	Silicon Valley	Title	Silicon Valley
Physical Therapy Technicians	16	Student Assistants	4
Skilled Nursing Facility Physical Therapy Assistants	15	Home Health Physical Therapists	3
Home Health Physical Therapy Assistants	13	Physical Therapists/Rehabilitation Managers	3
Outpatient Physical Therapists	13	Front Desk/Chiropractic Assistants	2
Chiropractic Assistants/Receptionists	11	PTA Presidents	2
Chiropractic Assistants	10	Welcome Coordinators	2
Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants	8	Allied Health Physical Therapy Assistants	1

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Industry Concentration

Table 5. Industries Hiring for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region

Industry - 6 Digit NAICS (No. American Industry Classification) Codes	Jobs in Industry (2023)	Jobs in Industry (2028)	% Change (2023-28)	% Occupation Group in Industry (2023)
Offices of Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapists, and Audiologists	611	790	29%	40%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	197	205	4%	13%
Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)	132	158	20%	9%
Hospitals (Local Government)	120	142	19%	8%
Home Health Care Services	111	159	44%	8%
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	69	71	2%	4%
HMO Medical Centers	57	67	18%	4%
Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals	44	60	36%	3%
All Other Outpatient Care Centers	18	23	27%	1%
Hospitals (State Government)	18	22	22%	1%

Source: Lightcast 2025.1

Table 6. Top Employers Posting Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region and the Silicon Valley Sub-Region

Employer	Bay	Employer	Silicon Valley
CoreMedical Group	84	Powerback Rehabilitation	26
AMN Healthcare	59	CoreMedical Group	21
Jackson Therapy Partners	44	Silver Creek Physical Therapy	14
DRG Home Therapies	43	Consonus Healthcare Services	12
Fusion Medical Staffing	43	Genesis HealthCare	12
Powerback Rehabilitation	42	CompHealth	11

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Educational Supply

There is one community college in the Bay Region issuing 20 awards on average annually (last 3 years ending 2023-24) on TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant. In the Silicon Valley Sub-Region, there are no community colleges that issued awards on average annually (last 3 years) on this TOP code.

There are two other CTE educational institutions in the Bay Region issuing 45 awards on average annually (last 3 years ending 2022-23) on CIP 51.0806- Physical Therapy Assistant. There are no other CTE educational institution in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region issuing awards on average annually (last 3 years) on this CIP code.

Table 7a. Community College Awards on TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant in the Bay Region

College	Subregion	Associate Degree	Total
Ohlone	East Bay	20	20
Total	-	20	20

Source: Data Mart

Note: The annual average for awards is 2021-22 to 2023-24.

Table 7b. Other CTE Institutions Awards on CIP 51.0806- Physical Therapy Assistant in the Bay Region

College	Subregion	Associate degree	Total
Carrington College-Pleasant Hill Campus	East Bay	20	20
Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts	Mid-Peninsula	25	25
Total	-	45	45

Source: Data Mart

Note: The annual average for awards is 2020-21 to 2022-23.

Gap Analysis

Based on the data included in this report, there is a labor market gap in the Bay Region with 1,588 annual openings for the Physical Therapy Assistant occupational cluster and 65 annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 1,523 students. In the Silicon Valley Sub-Region, there is also a gap with 80 annual openings and no annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 80 students.

Student Outcomes

Table 8. Four Employment Outcomes Metrics for Students Who Took Courses on TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant

Metric Outcomes	Bay All CTE Program	West Valley College All CTE Program	State 1222.00	Bay 1222.00	Silicon Valley 1222.00	West Valley College 1222.00
Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study	74%	67%	90%	100%	NA	NA
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	\$53,090	\$45,753	\$39,405	\$48,707	NA	NA
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	24%	25%	52%	39%	NA	NA
Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage	54%	38%	58%	53%	NA	NA

Source: Launchboard Strong Workforce Program Median of 2018 to 2021.

Skills, Certifications and Education

Table 9. Top Skills in Job Postings for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region

Skill	Posting	Skill	Posting
Physical Therapy	1,429	Orthopedics	108
Rehabilitation	681	Billing	106
Treatment Planning	509	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	86
Patient Treatment	397	Nursing Homes	75
Nursing	240	Medical Terminology	73
Home Health Care	227	Geriatrics	72
Caregiving	225	Medical Records	70
Patient Education And Counseling	182	Direct Patient Care	69
Exercise Therapy	149	Program Development	69
Patient Assistance	144	Care Coordination	67

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Table 10. Certifications in Job Postings for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region

Certification	Posting	Certification	Posting
Physical Therapy Assistant License	290	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant	6
Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification	228	Functional Skills Qualification	6
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification	193	American Red Cross (ARC) Certification	5
Valid Driver's License	58	Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)	3
Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Certification	12	American Red Cross CPR Certification	3
Registered Nurse (RN)	11	Licensed Marriage And Family Therapist (LMFT)	3
Doctor Of Physical Therapy	11	Advanced Life Support	2
Board Certified/Board Eligible	8	Certified Phlebotomy Technician	2
Security Clearance	7	Personal Trainer Certification	2
Basic Cardiac Life Support	6	Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Certification	1

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Table 11. Education Requirements for Physical Therapy Assistant Occupations in the Bay Region

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Total
High school or GED	98	18%
Associate degree	321	60%
Bachelor's degree & higher	120	22%

Source: Lightcast 2025.1; "Job Posting Analytics." May. 2024 - Apr. 2025

Note: 76% of records have been excluded because they do not include a degree level. As a result, the chart above may not be representative of the full sample.

Methodology

Occupations for this report were identified by use of job descriptions and skills listed in O*Net. Labor demand data is sourced from Lightcast occupation and job postings data. Educational supply and student outcomes data is retrieved from multiple sources, including CCCCCO Data Mart and CTE Launchboard.

Sources

O*Net Online

Lightcast

CTE LaunchBoard www.calpassplus.org

Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey

Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

CCCCCO Data Mart

Contacts

For more information, please contact:

- Yumi Huang, Research Analyst, Bay Region Center of Excellence, yung@baccc.net or (831) 275-0043
- Marcela Reyes, Director, Research and Center of Excellence, marcela@baccc.net or (831) 219-8875