FALL 2025

Health

Los Angeles County Sector Profiles Project

Prepared by the Los Angeles Center of Excellence

POWERED BY

California Community Colleges

FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

A project supported by funding from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Workforce and Economic Development Division

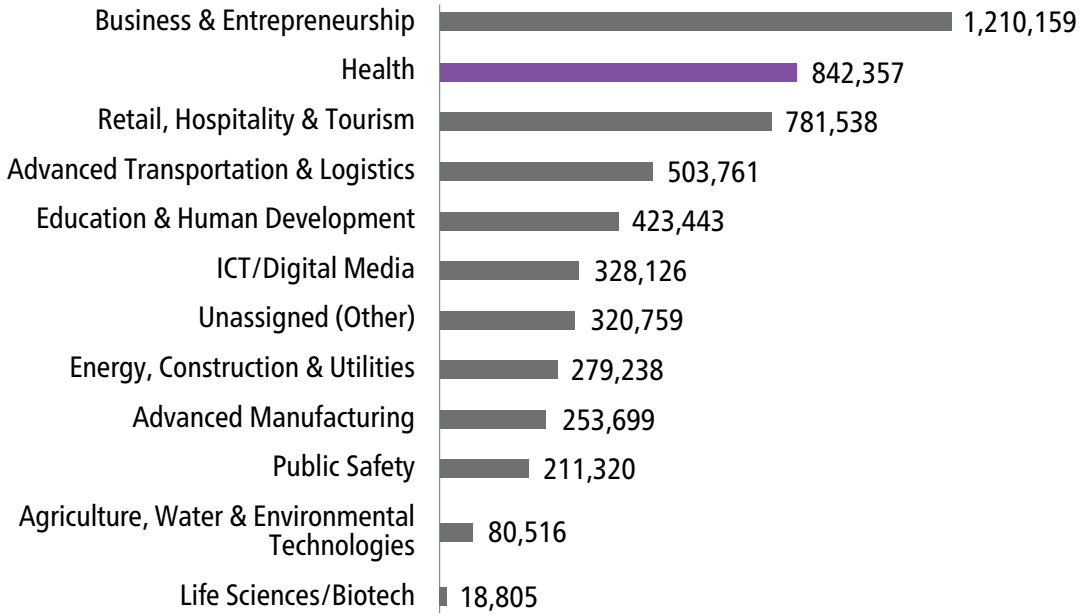
Introduction

To support the collaborative planning and development of career education (CE) programs and to inform regional investments in Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence developed a series of sector profiles examining labor market and community college program data that identify opportunity areas for workforce development in the region.

These sector profiles highlight middle-skill occupations—jobs that typically require some form of education or training beyond a high school diploma, but less than a bachelor's degree. These occupations are a critical component of the overall workforce and support the economic vitality of the county and state.

The profiles bring attention to community college programs aligned with key middle-skill occupations and by analyzing the number of awards being conferred by postsecondary institutions, identify whether a shortage or oversupply of workers exist for these priority occupations in the sector.

2024 Sector Employment



Health
IN L.A. COUNTY

842,357 **Jobs in 2024**	936,859 **Projected Jobs in 2029**
94,502 **New Jobs by 2029**	11% **Projected Job Growth, 2024-2029**
$126,580 **Median Annual Earnings, 2024**	16% **Of Los Angeles County Employment, 2024**

Regional Importance

As in other regions of the state, Los Angeles County's health sector is dealing with a number of challenges: workforce strain resulting from increased retirements and separations triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic; rising labor costs and inflation; federal and state funding issues, including the expansion of Medi-Cal; and disparities and insufficient access to care affecting thousands of residents. Sector assets in the region include a number of leading medical research institutions and large health systems, such as Kaiser Permanente and Dignity Health, and several cutting-edge medical centers, including Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and USC Medical Center.

A statewide and regional shortage of registered nurses, which was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, has garnered substantial attention. One bottleneck in closing the gap in trained nurses is attributed to the education pipeline and limited program slots at community colleges. Students frustrated with long waitlists for nursing programs are enrolling at proprietary schools, which although more costly, promise faster routes toward certification.

Sources:

- Primary Care Development Corporation, "Primary Care Access in Los Angeles County: Supervisorial District Profiles," Primary Care Development Corporation, 2020, https://www.pcdc.org/wp-content/uploads/PCDC-Los-Angeles-Supervisorial-District-Report-FINAL.pdf.
- Ashley Smith, "Long wait for students to enroll in some community college nursing programs," EdSource, October 12, 2023, https://edsource.org/2021/community-college-students-look-to-improve-access-to-enter-some-campus-nursing-programs/662289.

L.A. Jobs First:

"The Los Angeles County Regional Report," which is part of the Governor's "California Jobs First" initiative, identifies economic priorities for the region. The health care sector was selected as a target sector due to its critical role in the county's public health infrastructure and the many services and benefits it provides, especially to disinvested groups. The report notes the health care industry will play an increasingly important role in coming years as the county's aging population grows and requires increased care. Also acknowledged is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health care workforce by accelerating retirements and separations.

Sources:

- California Jobs First, "Los Angeles County Regional Report, Part 2," California Jobs First, September 2024, https://24053461.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24053461/LA%20County%20CJF%20Regional%20Report%E2%80%93Part%202_093024.pdf.

Top Middle-Skill Occupations

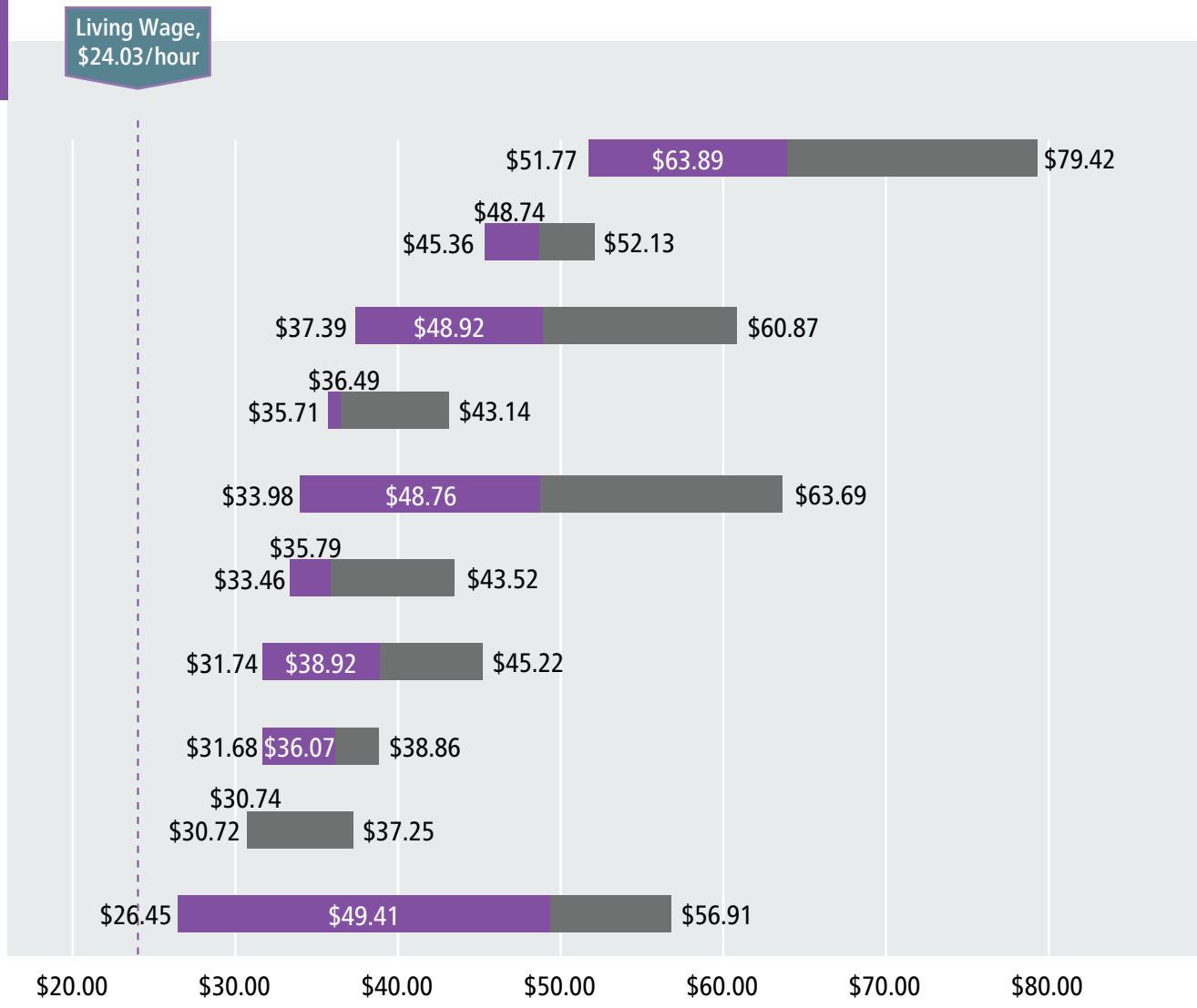
By applying specific criteria to an analysis of employment in the sector, the L.A. COE identified the top 10 occupations in the sector in the county.

- Only middle-skill occupations were included to highlight jobs aligned with community college training.
- To bring attention to jobs that are in demand by employers, only occupations with more than 50 annual openings in the county were selected.
- Finally, to underscore the importance of connecting students with job opportunities that offer sustainable wages, occupations that pay above the region's living wage of $24.03 were chosen for inclusion.

Occupation (SOC Code)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Year % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Education
Registered Nurses (29-1141)	86,116	90,742	5%	5,433	Bachelor's degree
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (29-2061)	25,932	27,586	6%	2,451	Postsecondary nondegree award
Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)	2,936	3,481	19%	578	Associate degree
Dental Hygienists (29-1292)	5,859	6,335	8%	485	Associate degree
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	5,374	5,761	7%	327	Associate degree
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (29-2034)	5,102	5,324	4%	311	Associate degree
Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)	1,182	1,402	19%	194	Associate degree
Surgical Technologists (29-2055)	2,738	2,895	6%	189	Postsecondary nondegree award
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	2,612	2,760	6%	161	Associate degree
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians (29-2031)	2,371	2,387	1%	141	Associate degree

Note: Occupations are grouped by sector according to the occupational titles and codes assigned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

Hourly Wages



Note: The hourly wage ranges include the 25th percentile (entry-level), median, and 75th percentile (experienced) hourly earnings for workers employed in these occupations Los Angeles County.

Job Postings

Job postings can provide insights into workforce trends and employer hiring preferences. Analysis can reveal which competencies and skills employers most value for new hires, areas in which employers are hiring more aggressively than others, and changes in demand for certain types of workers or specific skillsets.

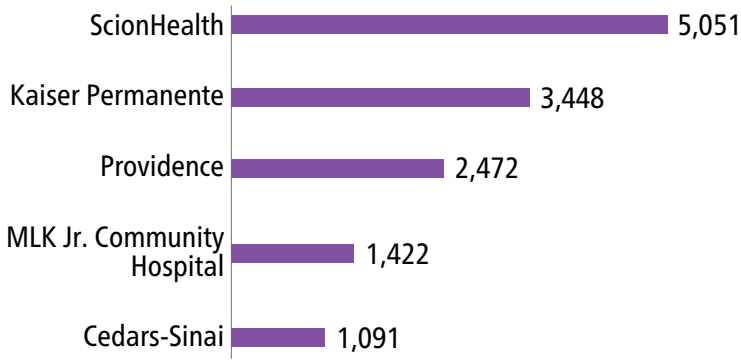
Earnings

Occupational Title	Number of Job Postings	Median Annual Earnings
Registered Nurses	40,449	$117,504
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	2,791	$99,584
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	2,660	$70,912
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	1,275	$109,312
Physical Therapist Assistants	1,189	$79,104
Surgical Technologists	884	$78,080
Respiratory Therapists	810	$93,440
Dental Hygienists	625	$124,672
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	565	$107,264
Occupational Therapy Assistants	511	$81,152

In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software and Technical Skills
• Nursing • Nursing Care • Nursing Process • Medication Administration • Discharge Planning	• Communication • Planning • Management • Leadership • Coordinating	• Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word) • Epic EMR • R (Programming Language) • Clinic Management Systems • HealthStream

Top Employers

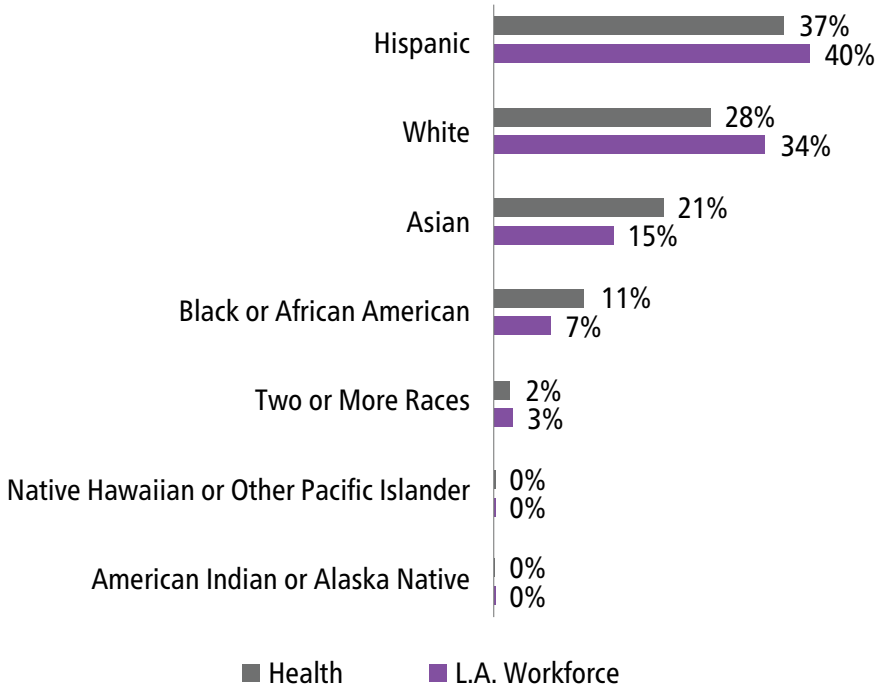


Note: Job posting data was analyzed for the top 10 middle-skill occupations in Los Angeles County from August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025. Postings are limited to in-state employers and exclude staffing companies.

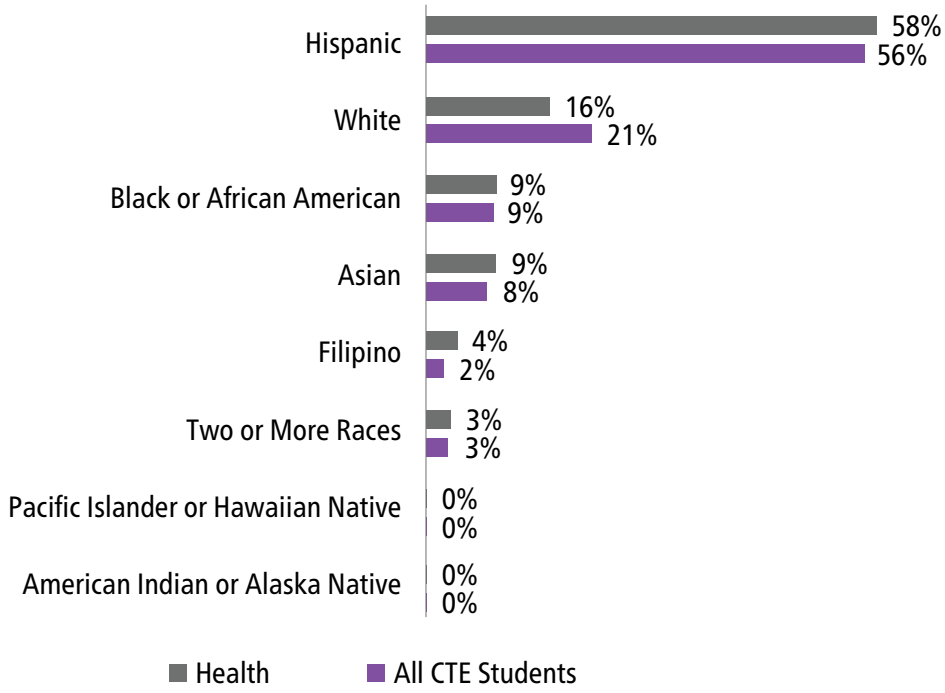
Workforce & Student Demographics

Due to the diversity of their student populations, community colleges play an important role in actively addressing equity gaps and disparities in the labor market while encouraging access to in-demand, well-paid career opportunities for students. Examining workforce race and ethnicity alongside student race and ethnicity can be useful for assessing whether students from diverse backgrounds are equitably transitioning into the workforce and securing opportunities that align with their education. This type of data analysis can assist with identifying barriers to employment or advancement for certain groups and can highlight employment areas that might benefit from promoting inclusive hiring practices.

Workforce Race & Ethnicity



Student Race & Ethnicity



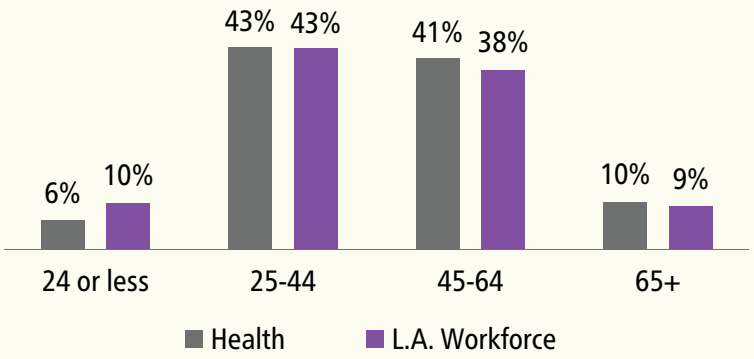
Note: For student data, "All Masked Values," "Unknown," and "Multiple Values Reported" are not included in the above charts. Data shown is from the 2023-24 academic year.

Examining demographics can lend insights into barriers to employment and assist with addressing impending workforce shortages or calibrating institutional allocation of resources.

The L.A. COE recommends three strategies to address equity gaps for community colleges:

- Collaborate with employers to promote diversity in priority jobs and boost interest among underrepresented groups for these roles.
- Develop targeted recruitment and retention strategies for priority programs with significantly underrepresented groups.
- Focus on closing equity gaps in programs that also have existing disparities in high-demand, well-paid jobs.

Workforce Age



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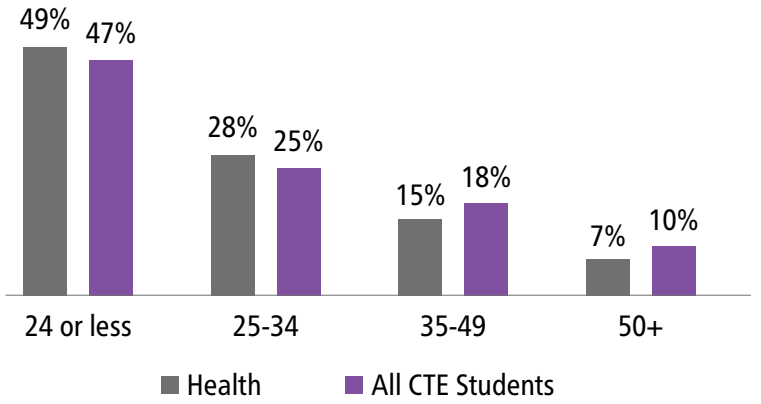
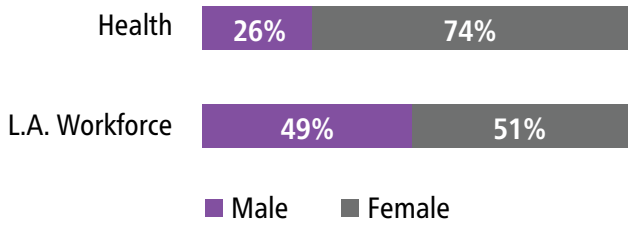
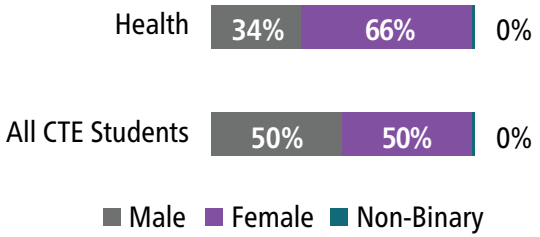
Student Age



Workforce Gender



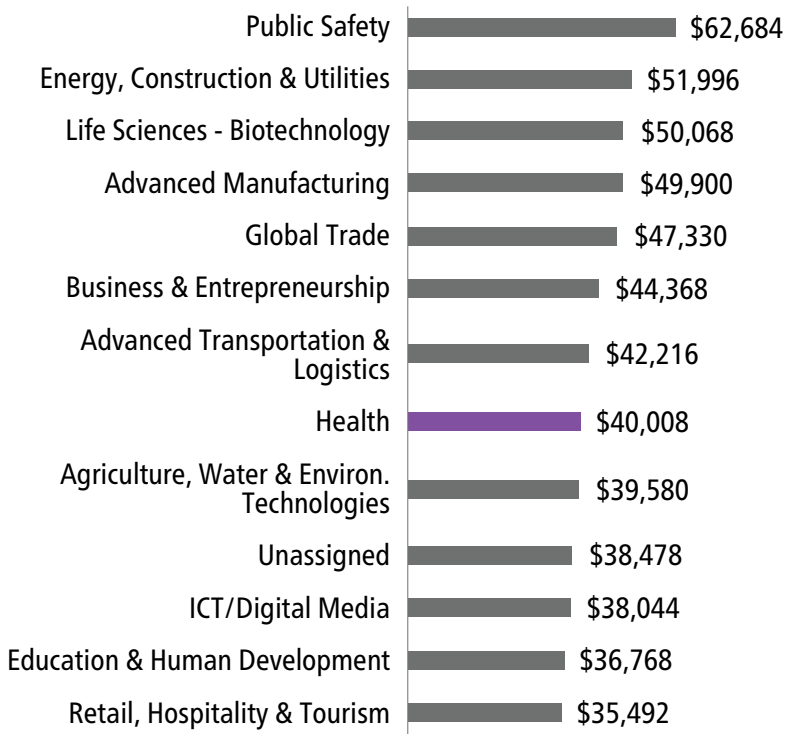
Student Gender



Student Outcomes

Tracking Strong Workforce Program outcomes is critical for evaluating whether regional community colleges are effectively preparing students for in-demand, well-paid jobs. This type of data-driven analysis can assist colleges in assessing whether students are successfully completing programs, securing employment related to their field of study, and increasing their earnings as they transition into the workforce.

Median annual earnings for exiting students, 2022-23



Strong Workforce Program Metrics

	2023-24	2022-23	2022-23	2021-22
Sector	Number of SWP Students	Median Change in Earnings	Percent Earning a Living Wage	Percent with a Job Related to Field of Study
ICT/Digital Media	60,820	29%	34%	68%
Business & Entrepreneurship	59,779	23%	42%	73%
Public Safety	38,218	26%	59%	54%
Health	**36,256**	**38%**	**35%**	**83%**
Education & Human Development	30,660	32%	27%	76%
Unassigned	14,883	30%	31%	74%
Energy, Construction & Utilities	14,621	35%	51%	77%
Retail, Hospitality & Tourism	11,234	32%	30%	66%
Advanced Manufacturing	9,945	40%	49%	81%
Advanced Transportation & Logistics	7,075	50%	37%	80%
Agriculture, Water & Environmental Technologies	3,641	39%	34%	67%
Global Trade	1,439	25%	48%	59%
Life Sciences - Biotechnology	376	93%	47%	N/A

Note: SWP metrics were the most recent year available.

Program Inventory

Analysis of academic offerings and the average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the county can be used by administrators for strategic planning to address program gaps to meet regional workforce needs, to make informed decisions about resource allocations, and to ensure students have access to programs that lead to promising career outcomes.

Program Awards by Community College

Community College	3-Year Average
Cerritos	274
Citrus	122
Compton	55
East LA	374
El Camino	123
Glendale	241
LA City	425
LA Harbor	44
LA Mission	83
LA Pierce	118
LA Southwest	105
LA Trade-Tech	76
LA Valley	160
Long Beach	372
Mt San Antonio	720
Pasadena	343
Rio Hondo	115
Santa Monica	166
West LA	440
TOTAL	**4,358**

Program Awards by Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code

TOP	Program	3-Year Average
0514.20	Medical Office Technology	61
1201.00	Health Occupations, General	345
1202.00	Hospital and Health Care Administration	5
1205.00	Medical Laboratory Technology	25
1205.10	Phlebotomy	29
1208.00	Medical Assisting	311
1208.10	Clinical Medical Assisting	30
1208.20	Administrative Medical Assisting	93
1210.00	Respiratory Care/Therapy	134
1214.00	Orthopedic Assistant	6
1215.00	Electrocardiography	8
1218.00	Occupational Therapy Technology	10
1219.00	Optical Technology	10
1220.00	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology	75
1221.00	Pharmacy Technology	125
1222.00	Physical Therapist Assistant	36
1223.00	Health Information Technology	22
1223.10	Health Information Coding	21
1225.00	Radiologic Technology	150
1228.00	Athletic Training and Sports Medicine	13
1230.00	Nursing	55

continued on next page

TOP codes without existing programs are included below to highlight potential opportunities for program development in the sector.

TOP Codes without Existing Programs

TOP	Program
1206.00	Physicians Assistant
1208.30	Health Facility Unit Coordinator
1209.00	Hospital Central Service Technician
1211.00	Polysomnography
1212.00	Electro-Neurodiagnostic Technology
1213.00	Cardiovascular Technician
1217.00	Surgical Technician
1224.00	School Health Clerk
1226.00	Radiation Therapy Technician
1227.00	Diagnostic Medical Sonography

TOP	Program	3-Year Average
1230.10	Registered Nursing	1,033
1230.20	Licensed Vocational Nursing	174
1230.30	Certified Nurse Assistant	77
1230.80	Home Health Aide	179
1239.00	Psychiatric Technician	37
1240.00	Dental Occupations	78
1240.10	Dental Assistant	187
1240.20	Dental Hygienist	117
1240.30	Dental Laboratory Technician	36
1250.00	Emergency Medical Services	120
1251.00	Paramedic	40
1261.00	Community Health Care Worker	93
1299.00	Other Health Occupations	130
1306.00	Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts	104
1306.20	Dietetic Services and Management	36
1306.60	Dietetic Technology	6
1309.00	Gerontology	13
2104.40	Alcohol and Controlled Substances	336
	TOTAL	**4,358**

The above program inventory provides awards data by TOP code and features a three-year average for the academic years 2021-22 to 2023-24.

Demand & Supply Analysis

Occupations with similar knowledge areas, skills, and abilities (KSAs) have been grouped together to evaluate workforce demand and student supply in Los Angeles County. The table compares workforce demand as measured by annual job openings in the county with the supply of unduplicated students as measured by the number of awards conferred by community colleges and other postsecondary institutions.

Note: Due to variations in employer demand and awards conferred each year, it is important to take into consideration that the over- or under-supply of students may be an underestimation or overestimation.

Occupation	Demand (Annual Openings)	Community College Supply	Other Postsecondary Supply	Undersupply (-) / Oversupply (+)
Registered Nurses (29-1141)	5,433	1,033	2,782	-1,618
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (29-2061)	2,451	229	1,599	-623
Dental Hygienists (29-1292)	485	117	0	-368
Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)	578	42	174	-362
Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)	194	10	62	-122
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	327	134	92	-101
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (29-2034)	311	150	117	-44
Surgical Technologists (29-2055)	189	0	204	+15
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians (29-2031)	141	8	292	+159
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	161	0	677	+516

Appendix: Sector Comparison

Sector	Number of Middle-Skill Occupations	Number of Degrees and Certificates Offered	Number of Los Angeles Community Colleges Issuing Awards
Advanced Manufacturing	46	254	16
Advanced Transportation & Logistics	41	176	14
Agriculture, Water & Environmental Technologies	19	83	9
Business & Entrepreneurship (and Global Trade)	45	510	19
Education & Human Development	6	215	19
Energy, Construction & Utilities	49	235	17
Health	40	318	19
ICT/Digital Media	25	808	19
Life Sciences/Biotech	4	49	11
Public Safety	21	122	19
Retail, Hospitality & Tourism	19	178	17
Unassigned (Other)	12	138	19

Data Dashboard

To further assist with regional planning and strategic investments, the L.A. COE has prepared an interactive online dashboard featuring labor market and community college program data.

Access the dashboard: https://bit.ly/2025LAdata

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Data Sources:

- Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW, non-QCEW, Self-Employed
- Centers of Excellence Skill/Occupation Crosswalk
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office DataVista
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory System (COCI)

Accessibility:

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