Pharmacy Technology (TOP 1221.00)

February 2024

Prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

---

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast[1] Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation – Pharmacy Technology. This report can help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study that align with this occupation group.

Key Findings

- In 2022, there were 2,751 jobs for Pharmacy Technology-related occupations in the South Central Coast Region.

- This number is expected to increase by 6% through 2027.

- Projections show approximately 341 annual openings in the region. An average of 5 awards were conferred in relevant programs, indicating an undersupply.

- Both occupations included in this report have a typical entry-level education of a high school diploma or equivalent.

---

[1] The South Central Coast Region consists of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and the following cities from North Los Angeles County: Canyon Country, Castaic, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Littlerock, Llano, Newhall, Palmdale, Pearblossom, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia.

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

There are two occupations in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that were identified as related to Pharmacy Technology for this analysis. The occupation titles and descriptions, as well as reported job titles, are included in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1 – Occupation, Description, and Sample Job Titles

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
29-2052	**Pharmacy Technicians**	Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders.	Accredited Pharmacy Technician, Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT), Chemotherapy Pharmacy Technician (Chemo Pharmacy Technician), Compounding Technician, OR Pharmacy Tech (Operating Room Pharmacy Tech), RPhT (Registered Pharmacy Technician)
31-9095	**Pharmacy Aides**	Record drugs delivered to the pharmacy, store incoming merchandise, and inform the supervisor of stock needs. May operate cash register and accept prescriptions for filling.	Certified Pharmacist Assistant, Drug Purchaser, Front Counter Clerk, Pharmacist Assistant, Pharmacy Aide, Pharmacy Ancillary, Pharmacy Assistant, Pharmacy Cashier, Pharmacy Clerk

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to Pharmacy Technology occupations are expected to grow 6% through 2027. The occupation – Pharmacy Technicians – is expected to grow the most, 8%.

Exhibit 2 – Five-Year Projections for Pharmacy Technology Occupations in the South Central Coast Region

SOC	Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	2,181	2,353	172	8%	236
31-9095	Pharmacy Aides	570	576	6	1%	105
		2,751	**2,930**	**178**	**6%**	**341**

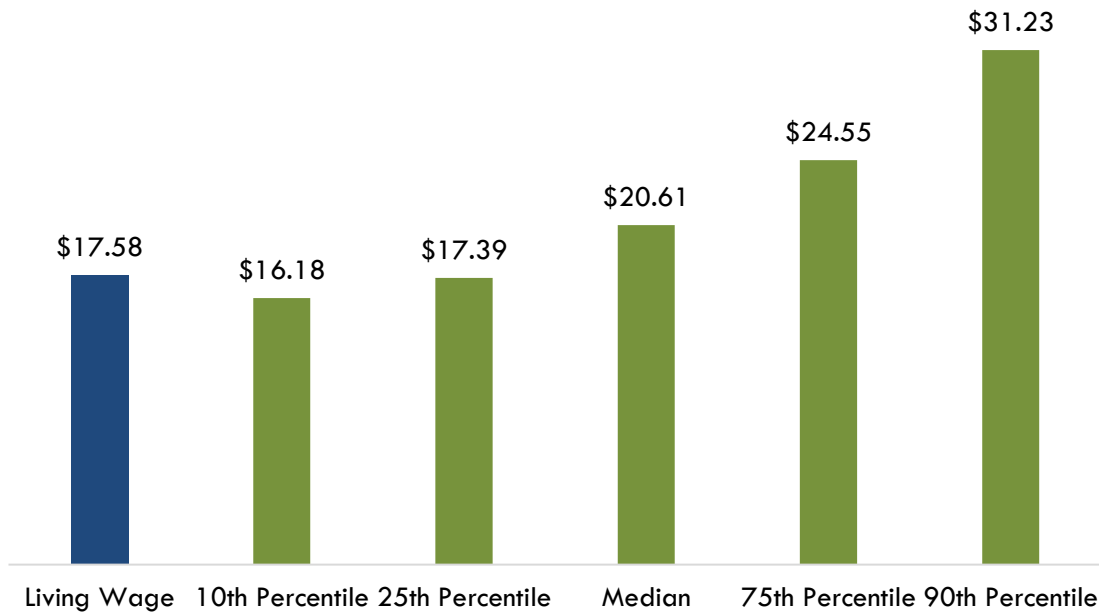Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Earnings

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for these occupations. Entry-level hourly earnings are represented by the 25th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings are represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings are represented by the 75th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

Exhibit 3 – Earnings for Pharmacy Technology Occupations in the South Central Coast Region

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	$18.67	$23.08	$27.28
31-9095	Pharmacy Aides	$16.11	$18.15	$21.82

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Exhibit 3b – Earnings for Pharmacy Technology Occupations in the South Central Coast Region

	Living Wage	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
	$17.58	$16.18	$17.39	$20.61	$24.55	$31.23

Source: Family Needs Calculator (Living wage is based on Single Adult households with no children); Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is looking for professionals in a given field, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to Pharmacy Technology the following standard occupational classifications were used:

29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians
31-9095	Pharmacy Aides

Top Occupations

In 2023, there were 810 employer postings for occupations related to Pharmacy Technology.

Exhibit 4 – Top Occupations by Job Postings

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	722
31-9095	Pharmacy Aides	88
	Total	**810**

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to Pharmacy Technology are listed in Exhibit 5. Pharmacy Technicians is mentioned as the job title in 507 job postings.

Exhibit 5 – Job Titles

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Pharmacy Technicians	507
Pharmacy Clerks	46
Pharmacy Technicians-in-Training	46
Certified Pharmacy Technicians	45
Outpatient Pharmacy Technicians	32
Pharmacy Assistants	15
Pharmacy Clerk Cashiers	8
Oncology Pharmacy Technicians	6

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Top Employers

Exhibit 6 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the Pharmacy Technology field. The top employer posting job ads was CVS Health. The top worksite cities for these occupations were Santa Barbara, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, San Luis Obispo, and Simi Valley.

Exhibit 6 – Top Employers

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
CVS Health	150
Walgreens Boots Alliance	85
Rite Aid	52
Kaiser Permanente	43
Albertsons	42
Walmart	29
Vons Co	19
CommonSpirit Health	14

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Skills

The tables in Exhibit 7 list employers' most commonly requested skills in job postings related to Pharmacy Technology. Medical Prescription is the most sought-after specialized skill for employers. Customer Service was the most requested baseline skill. Pyxis was the most requested software and programming skill.

Exhibit 7 – Specialized Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Medical Prescription	464
Pharmacist Assistance	193
Pharmaceuticals	180
Pharmacy Experience	163
Inventory Management	163
Medical Privacy	126
Regulatory Compliance	125
Medication Dispensation	118
Merchandising	115
Cash Register	114

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Exhibit 7b – Baseline Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Customer Service	321
Communication	205
Packaging And Labeling	142
Ethical Standards and Conduct	139
English Language	139
Compassion	127
Mathematics	120
Sales	108
Clerical Works	106
Detail Oriented	95

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Exhibit 7c – Software and Programming Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2023
Pyxis MedStation (Medication Dispensing Software)	15
Database Software	12
Workday (Software)	12
Microsoft Windows	11
Spreadsheets	10

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

Education and Training

Exhibit 8 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for occupations of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation.

Exhibit 8 – Education and Training Requirements

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term
31-9095	Pharmacy Aides	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

Regional Completions and Openings

Between 2019 and 2022, there were 5 awards conferred in the South Central Coast region aligned with programs related to the occupations in this report.

Exhibit 9 – Three-Year Average of Awards Conferred in the Region

TOP/CIP Code	Program	3-Year Average (2019-2022)
1221.00	Pharmacy Technology	0
51.0805	Pharmacy Technician/Assistant	5
	Average	**5**

Source: Datamart

Awards Conferred

Exhibit 10 shows the average number of awards granted by educational institutions within programs historically dedicated to training for the two occupations included in this report.

Exhibit 10 – Awards in the South Central Coast Region, 2019-2022 Average

Institutions	3-Year Average
San Joaquin Valley College-Santa Maria	3
Ventura Adult and Continuing Education	2

Source: IPEDS

Sources

O*Net Online, Lightcast™ Analyst 2023, MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Notes

Data included in this analysis represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to Pharmacy Technology. 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. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study and 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. 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.