



Pharmacy Technology

March 2018

Prepared by the Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation of 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 (CCC and non-CCC) that align with this occupation group.

Based on the data, the COE has found an unmet need for an additional pharmacy technology program in Los Angeles County. Reasons include:

- Although jobs related to pharmacy technology are predicted to experience a 10% increase through 2022, it is important to note most job openings are the result of replacement need
- It is important to note the entry-level hourly earnings for pharmacy technicians workers in Los Angeles County is \$11.65 per hour
- Over half of the workforce, 56%, has completed some community college education as their highest level of education, making this occupation relevant to community college students
- There are expected to be over 900 annual openings for pharmacy technicians

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

Currently, there is one occupation in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system related to the study of pharmacy technology. The occupation title and description, 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; Billing and Quality Technician; Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT); Compounding Technician; Lead Pharmacy Tech, Certified Pharmacy Technician (Lead Pharmacy Tech, CPhT); Lead Pharmacy Technician (Lead Pharmacy Tech); Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy Tech); Senior Pharmacy Technician; Technician; Technician, Inventory Specialist

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In Los Angeles County, the number of pharmacy technicians are expected to increase by 10% over the next five years. Over 900 job opportunities will be available annually for this occupation through 2022 due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g., retirements). Exhibit 2 contains detailed employment projections data for the occupation.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for pharmacy technicians

SOC	Occupation	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017 - 2022 Change	2017 - 2022 % Change	Annual Openings
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	9,222	10,140	918	10%	926

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Earnings

In Los Angeles County, the entry-level average wage for pharmacy technicians is \$11.65 per hour, which is below the MIT Living Wage¹ estimate of \$13.54 per hour for a single adult. The average annual earnings for this occupation in the region is \$39,033 per year, assuming full-time employment.

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for this occupation. Entry-level hourly earnings is represented by the 10th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings is represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings is represented by the 90th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

Exhibit 3 – Earnings for pharmacy technicians

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings	Average Annual Earnings
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	\$11.65	\$17.96	\$27.78	\$39,033

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

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 employing pharmacy technicians, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings the job titles certified pharmacy technician, senior pharmacy technician, lead pharmacy technician, pharmacy technician and accredited

¹ MIT Living Wage Calculator. <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>

pharmacy technician were used. In 2017, there were 1,376 employer postings for jobs related to pharmacy technicians. There were 1,595 job postings for the same occupation in 2016, and 1,441 job postings in 2015.

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for pharmacy technician positions are listed in Exhibit 4. Pharmacy technician is mentioned as the job title in 95% of all relevant job postings (1,303 out of 1,376 postings).

Exhibit 4 –Job titles (n=1,323)

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
Pharmacy Technician	1,303
Certified Pharmacy Technician	46
Pharmacy Technician End Intern	5
Pharmaceutical Representative	3
Pharmacy Technician- Weekend Intern	3
Medical Records Technician	2

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

Exhibit 5 lists the major employers hiring pharmacy technicians. Top employers posting job ads included CVS Caremark, Albertson’s and Safeway Incorporated. The top worksite cities in the region for these job postings were Los Angeles, Glendale and Torrance.

Exhibit 5 – Top employers (n=1,034)

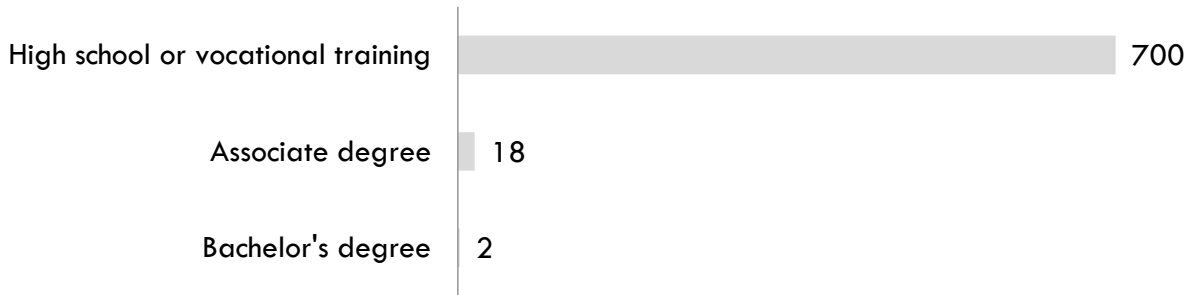
Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2017
CVS Caremark	347
Albertson’s	47
Safeway Incorporated	35
Kaiser Permanente	30
Providence Health & Services	26
Rx Relief	23
UnitedHealth Group	23
Walgreen Co.	23
Kroger Company	19
Cedars-Sinai	18

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Advertised Education Levels

Exhibit 6 displays the education level requested by employers in online job ads. The majority of employers were looking for a candidate with high school or vocational training. Approximately 48% of job postings did not specify a level of education.

Exhibit 6 – Online job ads with minimum advertised education requirements for pharmacy technicians (n=720)



Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Education and Training

Exhibit 7 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupation of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training, and percentage of workers in the field who hold a community college award or have completed some postsecondary courses. Over half of the workforce, 56%, has completed some community college education as their highest level of education.

Exhibit 7 – Education and training requirements

SOC	Description	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training	% of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training	56%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International, Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

Currently, two community colleges in Los Angeles County train students in pharmacy technology. Exhibit 8 displays the annual awards conferred for each of the colleges training in this field. It is important to note that an award is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening, since a student may earn more than one award (e.g. an associate degree and a certificate).

Between 2013 and 2016, the total annual average community college awards conferred was 36 across one program: Pharmacy Technology (1221.00).

Exhibit 8 – CCC Student Awards (by TOP and College)

TOP Code	Program	College	2013-2016 Annual Average			
			2013-14 Awards	2014-15 Awards	2015-2016 Awards	Total Average CC Awards
1221.00	Pharmacy Technology	Cerritos	29	22	32	28
		West LA	0	0	25	8
Total			29	22	57	36

Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office MIS Data Mart

Student Outcomes

The CTE LaunchBoard provides student outcome data on the effectiveness of CTE programs. The following student outcome information was collected from exiters of the Pharmacy Technology Taxonomy of Program (TOP) code (1221.00) in Los Angeles County for the 2015-16 academic year.

- 19% of students are earning a living wage
- 71% of students are employed within six months after completing a program

Source: CTE LaunchBoard

Sources

O*Net Online, Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass), Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), 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 represents the labor market demand for positions most closely related to pharmacy technology. Standard occupational classification (SOC) codes were chosen based on the national education level required for employment (associate degree and postsecondary certificate) as well as the proportion of current workers who hold a community college award or have had some community college training. This selection process narrows the labor market analysis to the most relevant employment opportunities for students with community college education and/or training.

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 should not be used to establish current job openings, because the numbers may include duplicate job postings or postings intended to gather a pool of applicants. Real-time labor market information 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.