



Healthcare Occupations Los Angeles and Orange Counties

The Bottom Line

The healthcare sector is expected to grow by 12% in Los Angeles and Orange Counties by 2018. Over 11,000 openings are projected within the eight occupations chosen for this study, and over 5,000 of the openings are expected to be for Medical Assistants. Fast growth is also forecasted for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (20% growth), Occupational Therapy Assistants (18%) and Physical Therapist Assistants (17%) by 2018. The majority of new hires will be in hospitals, including the highest percentage of Medical Transcriptionists, Respiratory Therapists, Radiologic Technologists and Diagnostic Medical Sonographers. Survey data collected from 855 employers forecasted hiring over 2,400 employees in the next two years, resulting in 21% growth.

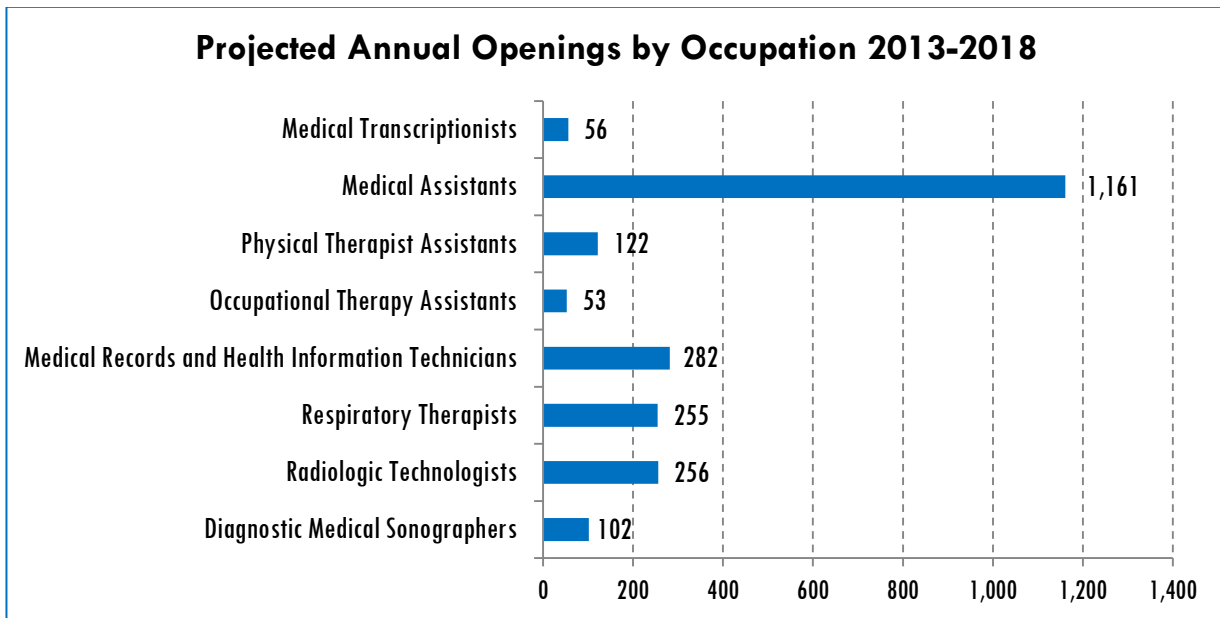
The median hourly earnings for these occupations are above average and five of the eight occupations earn over \$29 per hour.

Occupational Outlook

Occupation	2013 Jobs	2018 Jobs	Growth	% Growth	Median Hourly Earnings
Medical Transcriptionists	2,332	2,423	91	4%	\$20.38
Medical Assistants	31,201	34,354	3,153	10%	\$15.59
Physical Therapist Assistants	2,335	2,742	407	17%	\$29.99
Occupational Therapy Assistants	993	1,174	181	18%	\$33.23
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	7,005	7,672	667	10%	\$17.93
Respiratory Therapists	6,337	6,968	631	10%	\$33.66
Radiologic Technologists	5,954	6,727	773	13%	\$31.99
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	1,787	2,141	354	20%	\$36.71
Total	57,944	64,201	6,257	11%	

Source: EMSI, 2013.

The eight occupations selected for this report are expected to see an 11% job growth over the next five years. Three occupations forecast over 15% growth—Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, Occupational Therapy Assistants and Physical Therapist Assistants. The median hourly earnings for these occupations are above average, ranging from \$15.59 to \$36.71. Five of the eight occupations have median hourly earnings above \$29—Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (\$36.71), Respiratory Therapists (\$33.66), Occupational Therapy Assistants (\$33.23), Radiologic Technologists (\$31.99), and Physical Therapist Assistants (\$29.99).



Source: EMSI, 2013.

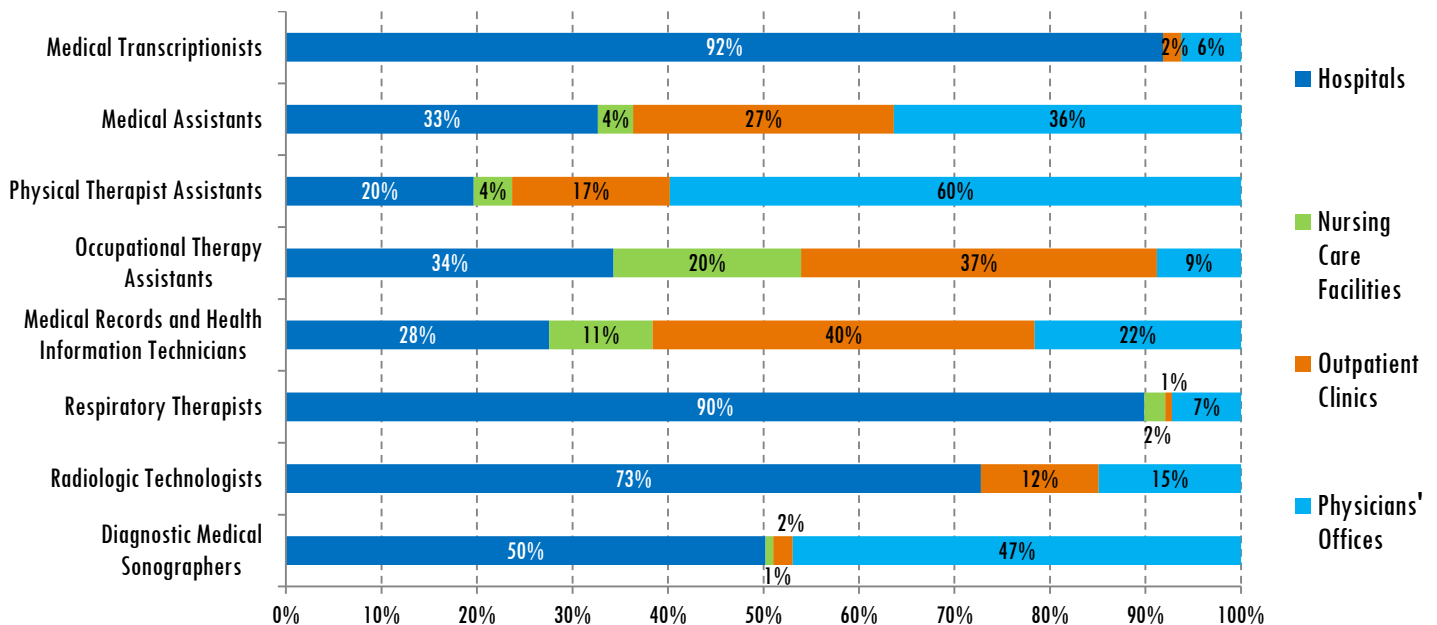
These eight occupations are expected to create 6,257 new jobs by 2018. Including openings due to turnover and retirement, a total of 11,440 job openings are forecasted in the next five years, which represents an average of 2,287 jobs per year in the Los Angeles/Orange County region. Medical Assistants lead the eight occupations with an average of 1,161 annual openings projected each year from 2013-2018.



Student Tips

- Half of the employers interviewed reported that they hire Medical Assistants directly after graduation without prior work experience. 45% stated the same about Medical Records and Health Information Technicians.
- Problem solving skills was reported as the skill most lacking among employers. Job applicants who can display problem solving skills are highly valuable to employers.
- Medical Assistant applicants tend to be less “job ready” and lack necessary skills, such as basic skills, problem solving skills, social skills, job specific skills, and professionalism. Applicants who possess these skills are more competitive on the job market.
- Employers reported the most need for community colleges to train Physical Therapist Assistants, Medical Assistants, and Occupational Therapy Assistants.

Distribution of Anticipated Future Jobs



Existing Community College Programs

In Los Angeles and Orange Counties, there are ten educational programs preparing students for the eight occupations studied at seventeen different campuses.

Occupation	Educational Program	Community College(s) Offering the Program	
Medical Transcriptionist	Medical Insurance Coding Specialist/Coder	Cypress College	East Los Angeles College
Medical Assistant	Medical Administrative/ Executive Assistant and Medical Secretary	Glendale Community College Los Angeles City College Mt. San Antonio College	Los Angeles Trade Technical College Los Angeles Harbor College
	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Cerritos College Glendale Community College Orange Coast College Saddleback College Santa Monica College	East Los Angeles College Long Beach City College Pasadena City College Santa Ana College
	Health/Medical Preparatory Programs, Other	El Camino Community College District Glendale Community College Santa Ana College	Fullerton College Los Angeles Mission College
Physical Therapist Assistant	Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant	Cerritos College	
Occupational Therapy Assistant	Occupational Therapist Assistant	Santa Ana College	
Medical Records and Health Information Technician	Health Information/ Medical Records Technology/Technician	Cypress College	East Los Angeles College
Respiratory Therapist	Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	East Los Angeles College Long Beach City College Mt. San Antonio College Pasadena City College	El Camino Community College District Los Angeles City College Orange Coast College
Radiologic Technologist	Radiologic Technology/Science - Radiographer	Cypress College Long Beach City College Orange Coast College	El Camino Community College District Mt. San Antonio College Pasadena City College
Diagnostic Medical Sonographer	Diagnostic Medical Sonography/Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	Cypress College	Orange Coast College

To view our full study of health occupations, visit www.coecc.net/health

