

Pharmacy Technicians

Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area)

Summary

- Pharmacy technician jobs are expected to increase by **14% between 2017 and 2022** in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. A total of **2,093 job openings, or 419 annual openings** will be available over the five-year timeframe.
- The entry-level wage for pharmacy technicians is **above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.30 per hour** for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert Region.
- **There appears to be a potential opportunity for program growth** based on the average annual number of program completers for the selected community college program (**42 community college credentials, 269 other educational institution credentials, 311 annual average total**), and the annual openings for pharmacy technicians in the region (**419 annual job openings**).

Introduction

The occupation detailed in this report is listed below along with its corresponding definition/description, sample job titles, education and training requirements, as well as the community college educational attainment of current workers within this occupation:

Pharmacy Technicians (29-2052)

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.

Sample job titles: *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*

Entry-Level Educational Requirement: *High school diploma or equivalent*

Training Requirement: *One to twelve months on-the-job training*

Percentage of incumbent workers with a Community College Credential or Some Postsecondary Coursework: *56%*

The pharmacy technology program (TOP 1221.00) prepares students for employment as pharmacy technicians. Completion of the program provides graduates with the principles and procedures used to assist in maintaining and dispensing pharmaceutical supplies and medications.¹ Job posting data specific to pharmacy technicians begins on page 3.

Job Opportunities

In 2017, there were 3,794 pharmacy technician jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Across the region, employment related to this occupation is expected to increase by 14% through 2022. Employers will need to hire 2,093 workers over the next five years to fill new jobs and to backfill jobs that workers are leaving – including retirements. Exhibit 1 displays the projected growth for pharmacy technicians in the region.

Exhibit 1: Five-year projections for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

2017 Jobs	5-Yr % Change (New Jobs)	5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	% of workers age 55+
3,794	14%	2,093	419	10%

Source: EMSI 2018.3

Earnings

The entry-level wage for pharmacy technicians is above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.30 per hour, or \$25,584 annually for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. The median wage is sufficient for two working adults and one child (\$14.50 per hour, per adult or \$30,160 annually for each adult). See Exhibit 2 for wage information for pharmacy technicians.

Exhibit 2: Earnings for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

Occupation	Entry to Experienced Hourly Earnings Range*	Median Wage*	Avg. Annual Earnings
Pharmacy Technicians	\$14.17 to \$22.29	\$17.62	\$38,300

Source: EMSI 2018.3

*Entry Hourly is 25th percentile wage, the median is 50th percentile wage, experienced is 75th percentile wage.

¹ The Taxonomy of Programs, 6th Edition, February 2004

Job Postings, Top Employers, Skills, and Education

On average, local employers fill online job posting for the pharmacy technicians within 41 days. When compared to the national average, it takes four days longer for local employers to find qualified candidates to fill open positions in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Exhibit 3 shows the number of job ads posted during the last 12 months for pharmacy technicians along with the regional and national average time to fill.

Exhibit 3: Employer job ads and time to fill for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region during the last 12 months, Nov 2017 - Oct 2018

Job Ads	Regional Average Time to Fill (Days)	National Average Time to Fill (Days)
734	41	37

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 4 displays the top employers posting job ads from the last 12 months for the Inland Empire/Desert Region.

Exhibit 4: The top employers posting job ads for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region during the last 12 months, Nov 2017 - Oct 2018 (n=609)

Occupation	Top Employers
Pharmacy Technicians (n=609)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVS Health • Loma Linda University Health/Hospital • Walgreens

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 5 lists the in-demand skills that employers are seeking when looking for workers to fill pharmacy technician positions. The skills reported in job postings may be utilized as a helpful guide for curriculum development. Specialized skills are occupation-specific skills employers are requesting for industry or job competency. Employability skills are foundational skills that transcend industries and occupations; this category is commonly referred to as “soft skills.”

Exhibit 5: In-demand skills from employer job ads for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, Nov 2017 - Oct 2018

Occupation	Specialized skills	Employability skills
Pharmacy Technicians (n=624)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service • Insurance Knowledge • Legal Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Skills • Teamwork/Collaboration • Problem Solving

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 6 displays the entry-level education typically required to enter this occupation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, educational attainment for incumbent workers with “some college, no degree” and an “associate degree” according to the U.S. Census, and the minimum advertised education requirement requested by employers in online job ads.

Exhibit 6: Educational attainment and online job ads with minimum advertised education requirements for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, Nov 2017 - Oct 2018

Occupation	Typical Entry-Level Education Requirement	Two –Year Postsecondary Level of Educational Attainment*	Minimum Advertised Education Requirement from Job Ads			
			Number of Job Postings (n=)	High school diploma or vocational training	Associate degree	Bachelor’s degree or higher
Pharmacy Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent	56%	482	99%	1%	-

Source: EMSI 2018.3, Current Population Survey, Burning Glass – Labor Insights

*Percentage of incumbent workers with a Community College Credential or Some Postsecondary Coursework

Exhibit 7 displays the top certifications required by employer job ads in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Most job ads request that applicants obtain certification through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB), although other certifying agencies exist such as the National Healthcareer Association (NHA). More information about California licensing requirements is available at the California State Board of Pharmacy: <https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/>.

Exhibit 7: Top certifications required by employers’ job ads in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, Nov 2017 - Oct 2018

Occupation	Certifications
Pharmacy Technicians (n=534)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) Certification Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Student Completions

Exhibit 8 shows the annual average regional community college credentials (associate degrees and certificates) conferred during the three academic years between 2014 and 2017, with the relevant TOP code as well as the program title used at each college, sourced from the Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI). Credentials granted from other educational institutions from 2013 to 2016 are displayed in Exhibit 9, along with the relevant CIP code. Please note, a credential is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening since a student may earn more than one credential, such as an associate degree in addition to a certificate. Community College student outcome information is from the CTE LaunchBoard based on the selected TOP code and region.

Exhibit 8: Annual average community college student completions for pharmacy technology programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

1221.00 – Pharmacy Technology	Annual Community College Headcount (2016-17)	Community College Annual Average Credentials (2014-17)
Chaffey – Pharmacy Technician	41	
Associate Degree		10
Certificate 30 to < 60 semester units		1
Certificate 18 to < 30 semester units		13
Moreno Valley	6	
San Bernardino – Pharmacy Technology	83	
Associate Degree		13
Certificate 18 to < 30 semester units		5
Total community college headcount (2016-17)	130	
Total annual average community college credentials (2014-17)		42

Source: LaunchBoard, IPEDS, COCI

1221.00 – Pharmacy Technology program Strong Workforce outcomes in the Inland Empire/Desert Region in the academic year 2015-16 [unless noted otherwise]:

- Number of course enrollments: 447 (California median: 184) [2016-17]
- Number of students who transferred to a 4-year institution: N/A (CA: 21)
- Employed in the second fiscal quarter after exit: 82% (CA: 75%)
- Median earnings in the second fiscal quarter after exit: \$5,166 (CA: \$7,006)
- Employed in the fourth fiscal quarter after exit: 76% (CA: 76%)
- Median annual earnings: \$19,461 (CA: \$26,536)
- The percentage in a job closely related to the field of study: 63% (CA: 100%) [2014-15]
- Median change in earnings: 179% (CA: 95%)
- The proportion of students who attained a living wage: 31% (55%)

Exhibit 9: Annual average other educational institutions student completions for pharmacy technician/assistant programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

51.0805 – Pharmacy Technician/Assistant (CIP)	Other Educational Institutions Annual Average Certificates or Other Credit Credentials (2013-16)
American Career College-Ontario	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	21
Award < 1 academic yr	90
American College of Healthcare	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	30
Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa Regional Occupational Program	
Award < 1 academic yr	27
North-West College-Riverside	
Award < 1 academic yr	18
Riverside County Office of Education-School of Career Education	
Award < 1 academic yr	27
UEI College-Riverside	
Award 1 < 2 academic yrs	55
Total annual average other credentials (2013-16)	269

Source: IPEDS

Sources

CTE LaunchBoard
 Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI, version 2.0)
 Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)
 The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
 Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
 MIT Living Wage Calculator
 O*Net Online
 Taxonomy of Programs, 6th Edition

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