



Sports Medicine (Athletic Training and Sports Medicine TOP: 1228.00)

October 2021

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

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast¹ Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation – Athletic Training and Sports Medicine. 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.

Key Findings

- In the South Central Coast region, **the number of jobs related to Sports Medicine are expected to increase** for Physical Therapist Assistants and Physical Therapist Aides.
- Physical Therapist Assistants and Physical Therapist Aides are anticipated to experience a **low risk of automation** in the coming years.
- In 2020 there were 197 regional completions in programs related to the occupations identified as aligned with Sports Medicine and 141 openings, indicating an **oversupply**.
- Typical entry-level education is an **Associate's degree** for Physical Therapist Assistants and a **High School Diploma or Equivalent** for Physical Therapist Aides.
- Completers of regional Sports Medicine programs from the 2017-2018 academic year had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$21,128**.
- 65% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 51% of students were **part time**, 31% **first-generation**, and 79% **economically disadvantaged**.
- +92% **change in earnings** for completers.

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 Sports Medicine 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
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with state laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training.	Certified Physical Therapist Assistant (CPTA), Home Care Physical Therapy Assistant, Home Health Physical Therapist Assistant, Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (LPTA), Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant, Outpatient Physical Therapist Assistant, Per Diem Physical Therapist Assistant (PER Diem PTA), Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), Physical Therapy Assistant
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	Under close supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant, perform only delegated, selected, or routine tasks in specific situations. These duties include preparing the patient and the treatment area.	Physical Therapist Aide (PTA), Physical Therapy Aide (PTA), Physical Therapy Attendant, Rehabilitation Aide, Rehabilitation Attendant, Restorative Aide (RA)

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to Sports Medicine are expected to increase.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for Sports Medicine in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	280	360	80	29%
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	601	671	70	12%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Earnings

In the South Central Coast region, the average wage for the listed occupations is \$24.96 per hour.

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for this occupation. 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 Sports Medicine in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$28.72	\$35.26	\$39.81
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	\$13.38	\$14.66	\$16.70

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 looking for physical therapy assistants and aides, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to Sports Medicine the following standard occupational classifications were used:

31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides

Top Occupations

In 2019, there were 200 employer postings for the occupations related to Sports Medicine.

Exhibit 4 – Top occupations in job postings and risk of automation tables

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	159
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	41

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

SOC Code	Occupation	Risk of Automation
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	Low
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	Low

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to Sports Medicine are listed in Exhibit 5. Physical Therapist Assistant is mentioned as the job title in 21% of all relevant job postings (57 postings).

Exhibit 5 –Job Titles

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
Physical Therapist Assistant	57
Physical Therapist Aide	24
Physical Therapist Assistant II	5
Spanish-Speaking Physical Therapist Assistant for Home Health	4
PT Assistant II	3

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

Exhibit 6 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the Sports Medicine field. The top employer posting job ads was Dignity Health. The top worksite cities in the region for these occupations were Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura.

Exhibit 6 – Top Employers (n=140)

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
Dignity Health	20
Affirma Rehabilitation	6
Bakersfield Memorial Hospital	6
Ensign Therapy	6
Kindred Healthcare Inc	6

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Skills

Physical Therapy is the most sought after skill for employers hiring for jobs related Sports Medicine.

Exhibit 7 –Job Skills (n=161)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
Physical Therapy	188
Therapy	62
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	58
Patient Care	53
Rehabilitation	43
Treatment Planning	30
Scheduling	28
Patient Treatment	28

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Industry Concentration

Exhibit 8 shows the industries with most Sports Medicine postings in the South Central Coast.

Exhibit 8 – Industries employing the most in the Sports Medicine field, 2019

Industry	Occupation Group Jobs in Industry	% of Occupation Group in Industry
Health Care and Social Assistance	189	96.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	3	1.5%
Educational Services	1	0.5%
Public Administration	1	0.5%

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Education and Training

Exhibit 9 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupations of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation.

Exhibit 9 – Education and Training Requirements

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	Associate's degree	None
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aide	High School Diploma or Equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training

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

Regional Completions and Openings

There were 197 regional completions (2020) and 141 regional openings (2020) in the South Central Coast region in programs related to the occupations identified as aligned with Sports Medicine.

Exhibit 10 – Completions and Openings

5 Regional Institutions had Related Programs (2020)	197 Regional Completions (2020)	141 Annual Openings (2020)
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Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Related Programs

CIP Code	Program	Completions (2020)
31.0501	Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical Education/Fitness, General	126
51.0899	Allied Health and Medical Assisting Services, Other	71

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Student Outcomes

The CTE LaunchBoard provides student outcome data on the effectiveness of CTE programs. The following student outcome information was collected from current students and exiters of regional Athletic Training and Sports Medicine programs (TOP: 1228.00) for the 2017-18 academic year.

- **Median annual wage** upon completion of \$21,128.
- 65% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program.
- 51% of students were **part time**, 31% **first-generation**, and 79% **economically disadvantaged**.
- +92% **change in earnings** for completers.

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 represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to Sports Medicine. 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.