

Program Endorsement Brief: 1208.00/Medical Assisting

Medical Coding Assistant

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, March 2020

Summary Analysis

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide Los Angeles/Orange County regional labor market supply and demand data related to two middle-skill occupations: medical assistants (31-9092) and medical secretaries (43-6013). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.¹ This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for medical assisting-related occupations in the region. However, typical entry-level hourly earnings fall below the regional living wage. **Therefore, the COE cautiously endorses this proposed program.** Reasons include:

Demand:

- Over the next five years, there are projected to be **8,471 jobs available annually** in the region due to new jobs, retirements, and workers leaving the field.
- The national-level educational attainment data indicates that between 47% and 66% of middle-skill workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.
- Entry-level wages for the two occupations of interest are below the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in Orange County (\$17.36). The entry-level wage for medical secretaries is above the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in Los Angeles County (\$15.04).
- Typical **experienced-level hourly wages** for the medical assisting occupations throughout the region are between \$20.37 and \$23.20, **which are higher than the California Family Needs Calculator** hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County and \$17.36 in Orange County).²

Supply:

- Currently, **14 community colleges and one adult education institution** in the region have programs that train for medical assisting-related occupations, conferring **642 awards annually** between 2016 and 2019.
- **Non-community college institutions** in the region providing medical assisting-related training conferred **4,039 awards annually between 2013 and 2016.**

¹ The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

² Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for two medical assisting-related occupations. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of medical assisting-related jobs is projected to increase by 9% through 2023. There will be nearly 8,500 job openings per year through 2023 due to new jobs, retirements, and workers leaving the field.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties³

Geography	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	2018-2023 Change	2018-2023 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	46,556	50,475	3,919	8%	6,129
Orange	16,778	18,735	1,957	12%	2,342
Total	63,334	69,210	5,876	9%	8,471

Wages — The typical entry-level hourly wages for medical assisting-related occupations in the region is between \$13.74 and \$15.72.⁴ Both entry-level wages are below the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in Orange County (\$17.36). The entry-level wage for medical secretaries is above the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in Los Angeles County (\$15.04). The experienced-level hourly wages are between \$20.37 and \$23.20, above the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in both counties. Wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Job Postings — There were 16,899 online job postings related to medical assistants and secretaries listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for medical assistant, medical receptionist, and office assistant. The top skills were: scheduling, administrative support, appointment setting, patient care, and electronic medical records. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: DaVita, Inc., Cedears-Sinai, and UCLA Health. Of the 16,899 online job postings, 49% list a minimum education requirement.

Educational Attainment — The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary certificate as the typical entry-level education for medical assistants; and a high school diploma or equivalent for medical secretaries. The national-level educational attainment data indicates that between 47% and 66% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 49% of job postings for medical assistant and secretaries listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 93% (7,644) requested a high school diploma, 3% (258) requested an associate degree, and 4% (336) requested a bachelor's degree.

³ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁴ Entry-level wage is defined as the twenty-fifth percentile hourly wage. Wages for experienced workers are defined as the seventy-fifth percentile hourly wage.

Supply

Community College Supply — Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Medical Office Technology (0514.20), Medical Assisting (1208.00), Clinical Medical Assisting (1208.10), and Administrative Medical Assisting (1208.20) programs. The college with the most completions in the region is Santa Ana. Over the past 12 months, there were no other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards, 2016-2019

TOP Code	Program	College	2016-2017 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0514.20	Medical Office Technology	East LA	1	-	-	0
		Glendale	9	10	11	10
		LA City	40	-	3	14
		LA Harbor	4	1	1	2
		LA Trade	11	16	1	9
		Santa Monica	8	14	14	12
		LA Subtotal	73	41	30	48
		Subtotal/Average	73	41	30	48
1208.00	Medical Assisting	Cerritos	40	42	39	40
		East LA	3	1	1	2
		Glendale	-	1	20	7
		Long Beach	48	39	51	46
		Pasadena	22	15	17	18
		West LA	23	30	15	23
		LA Subtotal	136	128	143	136
		North Orange Adult	112	131	148	130
		Orange Coast	33	31	25	30
		Saddleback	25	27	35	29
		Santa Ana	154	131	142	142
		OC Subtotal	324	320	350	331
Subtotal/Average	460	448	493	467		
1208.10	Clinical Medical Assisting	Long Beach	3	4	8	5
		West LA	4	5	12	7
		LA Subtotal	7	9	20	12
		Saddleback	26	24	22	24

		OC Subtotal	26	24	22	24
		Subtotal/Average	33	33	42	36
1208.20	Administrative Medical Assisting	East LA	3	-	-	1
		Glendale	16	16	19	17
		Long Beach	-	-	1	0
		Pasadena	1	-	-	0
		Santa Monica	6	6	5	6
		West LA	4	13	12	10
		LA Subtotal	30	35	37	34
		Saddleback	20	12	23	18
		Santiago Canyon	28	48	40	39
		OC Subtotal	48	60	63	57
		Subtotal/Average	78	95	100	91
	Total/Average	644	617	665	642	

Non-Community College Supply — It is important to consider the supply from non-community college institutions that may provide training for medical assisting-related occupations in the region. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2013 to 2016. **Between 2013 and 2016, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 4,039 awards annually in related training programs.** Brightwood College-North Hollywood closed in 2018 and therefore is no longer conferring awards related to medical assisting. For this reason, its contribution to the region's supply will not be considered in this analysis. Without Brightwood College's contribution to supply, regional non-community college institutions in the region conferred 3,690 awards annually.

Exhibit 3: Regional other postsecondary institution awards, 2013-2016

CIP Code	Program	College	2013-14 Awards	2014-15 Awards	2015-16 Awards	3-Year Award Average
51.0710	Medical Office Assistant/ Specialist	Allied American University	52	40	67	53
		American Career College-Anaheim	-	4	1	2
		American Career College-Long Beach	-	6	15	7
		American Career College-Los Angeles	-	4	3	2
		Coast Career Institute	8	8	-	5
		Eagle Rock College	25	14	15	18
		Galaxy Medical College	38	34		

		Glendale Career College	-	8	-	3
		High Desert Medical College	28	16	5	16
		Los Angeles ORT College-Van Nuys Campus	-	1	-	0
		Platt College-Los Angeles	48	45	59	51
		Pomona Unified School District Adult and Career Education	57	30	-	29
		Premiere Career College	6	4	1	4
		United Education Institute-Huntington Park Campus	-	-	3	1
		Virginia Sewing Machines and School Center	13	44	50	36
		Subtotal/Average	275	258	219	251
51.0711	Medical/Health Management and Clinical Assistant/Specialist	American College of Healthcare	25	51	43	40
		Angeles College	-	1	-	0
		PCI College	10	6	8	8
		Subtotal/Average	35	58	51	48
51.0716	Medical Administrative/Executive Assistant and Medical Secretary	Advanced College	-	1	-	0
		American College of Healthcare	-	2	1	1
		Galaxy Medical College	-	-	6	2
		ICDC College	268	273	-	180
		North-West College-Glendale	10	12	5	9
		North-West College-Long Beach	-	-	1	0
		North-West College-Pasadena	6	4	2	4
		North-West College-Pomona	5	4	3	4
		North-West College-West Covina	18	17	12	16
Subtotal/Average	307	313	30	217		
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Advanced College	4	-	-	1
		American Career College-Anaheim	202	181	197	193
		American Career College-Long Beach	107	192	131	143
		American Career College-Los Angeles	343	357	301	334

American Career College-Lynwood	-	24	85	36
Angeles College	9	11	15	12
Baldwin Park Adult & Community Education	36	44	54	45
Brightwood College-North Hollywood (Closed)	336	361	350	349
California Career Institute	14	8	3	8
California Healing Arts College	9	15	26	17
Capstone College	-	-	5	2
Career Care Institute	52	33	46	44
Career Networks Institute	11	21	40	24
Carrington College-Pomona	29	35	26	30
Casa Loma College-Van Nuys	18	22	-	13
CBD College	-	27	19	15
CES College	8	20	5	11
Charter College-Canyon Country	299	184	71	185
Concorde Career College-Garden Grove	122	127	126	125
Concorde Career College-North Hollywood	167	168	172	169
Downey Adult School	179	372	264	272
East San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Program	146	127	89	121
Glendale Career College	25	21	22	23
Hacienda La Puente Adult Education	24	23	23	23
High Desert Medical College	40	105	116	87
ICDC College	239	101	-	113
InfoTech Career College	32	37	43	37
InterCoast Colleges-Anaheim	4	1	16	7
InterCoast Colleges-Carson	14	15	23	17
InterCoast Colleges-West Covina	23	11	17	17
Los Angeles ORT College-Los Angeles Campus	17	11	1	10

Los Angeles ORT College- Van Nuys Campus	17	11	2	10
Medical Allied Career Center	-	2	-	1
Modern Technology School	4	6	10	7
National Career College	37	45	63	48
National Polytechnic College	12	15	23	17
North-West College- Glendale	28	55	29	37
North-West College-Long Beach	-	19	87	35
North-West College- Pasadena	34	49	46	43
North-West College- Pomona	29	45	44	39
North-West College-Santa Ana	-	14	40	18
North-West College-West Covina	85	80	98	88
Palladium Technical Academy	49	26	39	38
Platt College-Los Angeles	44	42	22	36
Premiere Career College	66	39	32	46
South Coast College	20	43	33	32
Trinity School of Health and Allied Sciences	16	4	3	8
UEI College-Gardena	301	155	154	203
United Education Institute- Anaheim	-	31	109	47
United Education Institute-El Monte	-	29	80	36
United Education Institute- Encino	-	-	116	39
United Education Institute- Huntington Park Campus	11	54	216	94
United Healthcare Careers College	-	-	56	19
University of Antelope Valley	99	93	55	82
Valley College of Medical Careers	8	18	30	19
Subtotal/Average	3,369	3,529	3,673	3,524
Total/Average	3,986	4,158	3,973	4,039

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 4. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Medical Assistants (31-9092)	25,080	27,116	2,036	8%	3,262	\$13.66	\$16.63	\$20.24
Medical Secretaries (43-6013)	21,475	23,359	1,884	9%	2,867	\$15.62	\$19.02	\$23.04
Total	46,556	50,475	3,919	8%	6,129			

Exhibit 5. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Medical Assistants (31-9092)	8,966	10,061	1,095	12%	1,256	\$13.98	\$17.02	\$20.72
Medical Secretaries (43-6013)	7,812	8,674	862	11%	1,086	\$16.02	\$19.50	\$23.62
Total	16,778	18,735	1,957	12%	2,342			

Exhibit 6. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Medical Assistants (31-9092)	34,046	37,177	3,131	9%	4,518	\$13.74	\$16.73	\$20.37
Medical Secretaries (43-6013)	29,288	32,033	2,745	9%	3,953	\$15.72	\$19.15	\$23.20
Total	63,334	69,210	5,876	9%	8,471			

Appendix B:

Sources

- ✓ O*NET Online
- ✓ Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- ✓ Economic Modeling Specialists, International (EMSI)
- ✓ Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- ✓ Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- ✓ Employment Development Department, Unemployment Insurance Dataset
- ✓ Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- ✓ California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- ✓ California Family Needs Calculator, Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- ✓ Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

For more information, please contact:

Juan Madrigal, Assistant Director
Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence
jmadrigal@mtsac.edu
March 2020

