



Occupational Therapy Assistant (Occupational Therapy Technology TOP: 1218.00)

September 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 – Occupational Therapy 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.

Key Findings

- In the South Central Coast region, **the number of jobs related to Occupational Therapy Technology are expected to remain steady** for Occupational Therapy Aides and **increase** for the other four related occupations.
- Occupational Therapy Technology is anticipated to experience a **low risk of automation** for all five related occupations.
- In 2020 there were 205 regional completions in programs related to the occupations identified as aligned with Occupational Therapy Technology and 169 openings, indicating an **oversupply**.
- Typical entry-level education is a **high school diploma or equivalent** for Physical Therapist Aides, Occupational Therapy Aides, and Occupational Health and Safety Technicians, and an **Associate's degree** for Physical Therapist Assistants and Occupational Therapy Assistants.
- Completers of statewide Occupational Therapy Technology programs from the 2017-2018 academic year had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$35,232**. (No Occupational Therapy Technology programs reported in the South Central Coast Region. As a result this report provides statewide data on completers).
- 74% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program. (Statewide)
- 53% of students **attained a living wage** within a year of completion. (Statewide)
- +31% **change in earnings** for completers. (Statewide)
- 81% of students were **part time**, 5% **skill builders**, 30% **first-generation**, and 87% **economically disadvantaged**. (Statewide)

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 five occupations in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that were identified as related to Occupational Therapy Technology 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
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	Collect data on work environments for analysis by occupational health and safety specialists. Implement and conduct evaluation of programs designed to limit chemical, physical, biological, and ergonomic risks to workers.	Advisory Industrial Hygienist, Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), Construction Safety Consultant, Health and Safety Technician, Industrial Hygiene Consultant, Industrial Hygiene Engineer, Industrial Hygienist, Safety Research Professional
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	Assist occupational therapists in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with state laws, assist in development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs, and document the progress of treatments. Generally requires formal training.	Acute Care Occupational Therapy Assistant, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA), Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA/L), Licensed Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant, Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA), School Based Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides	Under close supervision of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, perform only delegated, selected, or routine tasks in specific situations. These duties include preparing patient and treatment room.	Certified Occupational Rehabilitation Aide (CORA), Direct Service Professional (DSP), Direct Support Professional, Occupational Rehabilitation Aide, Occupational Therapist Aide (OT Aide), Occupational Therapy Aide, Rehabilitation Aide, Rehabilitation Services Aide, Restorative Aide
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, Physical Therapist Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
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, 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 Occupational Therapy Technology are expected to remain steady for Occupational Therapy Aides and increase for the other four related occupations.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for Occupational Therapy Technology in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	2019-2024 % Change
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	85	95	10	12%
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	164	190	26	16%
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides	42	41	-1	-2%
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	325	360	35	11%
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	623	675	52	8%

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Earnings

In the South Central Coast region, the average wage for the listed occupations is \$17.93 per hour.

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for these occupations. 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 Occupational Therapy Technology in the South Central Coast region

SOC	Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	\$20.77	\$28.60	\$36.46
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$35.82	\$39.99	\$50.95
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides	\$12.03	\$12.46	\$15.04
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	\$28.79	\$35.27	\$39.82
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	\$13.37	\$14.65	\$16.68

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 occupational therapists, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to Occupational Therapy Technology the following standard occupational classifications were used:

19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides

Top Occupations

In 2019, there were 352 employer postings for the occupations related to Occupational Therapy Technology.

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

SOC Code	Occupation	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	159
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	79
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	55
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	41
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides	18

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

SOC Code	Occupation	Risk of Automation
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	Low
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	Low
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	Low
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	Low
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides	Low

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to Occupational Therapy Technology are listed in Exhibit 5. Physical Therapist Assistant is mentioned as the job title in 12% of all relevant job postings (41 postings).

Exhibit 5 –Job Titles

Title	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
Physical Therapist Assistant	41
Physical Therapy Aide	24
Occupational Therapist Assistant	13
Safety Coordinator	12
Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant	11

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

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

Exhibit 6 – Top Employers (n=259)

Employer	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
Dignity Health	21
Kindred Healthcare Inc	12
Affirma Rehabilitation	10
Community Memorial Health System	9
Ensign Therapy	9

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Skills

Physical Therapy is the most sought after skill for employers hiring for jobs related to Occupational Therapy Technology.

Exhibit 7 –Job Skills (n=279)

Skills	Job Postings, Full Year 2019
Physical Therapy	203
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	81
Occupational Therapy	77
Therapy	73
Rehabilitation	71
Patient Care	63
Treatment Planning	55

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Industry Concentration

Exhibit 8 shows the industries with most Occupational Therapy Technology postings in the South Central Coast. Note: 10% of records have been excluded because they do not include an industry. As a result, the chart below may not be representative of the full sample.

Exhibit 8 – Industries employing the most in the Occupational Therapy Technology field, 2019

Industry	Occupation Group Jobs in Industry	% of Occupation Group in Industry
Health Care and Social Assistance	271	83.4%
Public Administration	15	4.6%
Construction	9	2.8%
Finance and Insurance	6	1.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	5	1.5%

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
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	Associate's degree	None
31-2012	Occupational Therapy Aides	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	Associate's degree	None
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides	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 205 regional completions (2020) and 169 regional openings (2020) in the South Central Coast region in programs related to the occupations identified as related to Occupational Therapy Technology.

Exhibit 10 – Completions and Openings

6 Regional Institutions had Related Programs (2020)	205 Regional Completions (2020)	169 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
51.3501	Massage Therapy/Therapeutic Massage	8
19.0702	Adult Development and Aging	0
51.1199	Health/Medical Preparatory Programs, Other	0

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 Occupational Therapy Technology programs (TOP: 1218.00) for the 2017-18 academic year. (No Occupational Therapy Technology programs reported in the South Central Coast Region. As a result this report provides statewide data on completers).

- Completers of statewide Occupational Therapy Technology programs from the 2017-2018 academic year had a **median annual wage upon completion of \$35,232**.
- 74% of students are **employed within a year** after completing a program. (Statewide)
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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 Occupational Therapy Technology. 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.