



# Labor Market Analysis for Program Recommendation Physical Therapy Aide Occupations Las Positas College

Prepared by Bay Regions Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

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## Recommendation

Based on all available data, there appears to be an “undersupply” of Physical Therapy Aide workers compared to the demand for this cluster of occupations in the Bay Region and in the East Bay sub-region (Alameda, Contra Costa counties). There is a projected annual gap of about 497 students in the Bay Region and 150 students in the East Bay Sub-Region.

## Introduction

This report provides student outcomes data on employment and earnings for TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant programs in the state and region. It is recommended that these data be reviewed to better understand how outcomes for students taking courses on this TOP code compare to potentially similar programs at colleges in the state and region, as well as to outcomes across all CTE programs at Las Positas College and in the region.

This report profiles Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in the 12 county Bay Region and in the East Bay sub-region for regional program recommendation at Las Positas College.

- **Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021):** 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.  
Entry-Level Educational Requirement: Associate’s degree  
Training Requirement: None  
Percentage of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 59%
- **Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022):** 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.  
Entry-Level Educational Requirement: High school diploma or equivalent  
Training Requirement: Short-term on-the-job training  
Percentage of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 59%

## Occupational Demand

**Table 1. Employment Outlook for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in Bay Region**

| Occupation                    | 2023 Jobs    | 2028 Jobs    | 5-yr Change | 5-yr % Change | 5-yr Total Openings | Annual Openings | 25% Hourly Earning | Median Hourly Wage |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 1,519        | 1,896        | 377         | 25%           | 1,526               | 305             | \$35               | \$44               |
| Physical Therapist Aides      | 1,365        | 1,447        | 82          | 6%            | 1,054               | 211             | \$17               | \$18               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>2,884</b> | <b>3,343</b> | <b>459</b>  | <b>16%</b>    | <b>2,580</b>        | <b>516</b>      | <b>\$26</b>        | <b>\$32</b>        |

Source: Lightcast 2024.3

Bay Region includes: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma Counties

**Table 2. Employment Outlook for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in East Bay Sub-Region**

| Occupation                    | 2023 Jobs  | 2028 Jobs    | 5-yr Change | 5-yr % Change | 5-yr Total Openings | Annual Openings | 25% Hourly Earning | Median Hourly Wage |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 481        | 618          | 137         | 28%           | 506                 | 101             | \$35               | \$44               |
| Physical Therapist Aides      | 423        | 463          | 39          | 9%            | 341                 | 68              | \$18               | \$18               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>904</b> | <b>1,081</b> | <b>177</b>  | <b>20%</b>    | <b>847</b>          | <b>169</b>      | <b>\$27</b>        | <b>\$32</b>        |

Source: Lightcast 2024.3

East Bay Sub-Region includes: Alameda, Contra Costa Counties

**Job Postings in Bay Region and East Bay Sub-Region**

**Table 3. Number of Job Postings by Occupation for latest 12 months (Sep. 2023 - Aug. 2024)**

| Occupation                    | Bay Region | East Bay |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants | 1,617      | 651      |
| Physical Therapist Aides      | 359        | 132      |

Source: Lightcast

**Table 4a. Top Job Titles for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations for latest 12 months (Sep. 2023 - Aug. 2024) Bay Region**

| Title                                                | Bay | Title                                      | Bay |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Physical Therapist Assistants                        | 648 | Therapy Aides                              | 29  |
| Physical Therapy Assistants                          | 500 | Outpatient Travel Physical Therapists      | 27  |
| Physical Therapy Aides                               | 262 | Home Health Physical Therapists            | 23  |
| Skilled Nursing Facility Physical Therapy Assistants | 74  | Travel Physical Therapist Assistants       | 16  |
| Home Health Physical Therapy Assistants              | 68  | Licensed Physical Therapy Assistants       | 13  |
| Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants               | 44  | Rehabilitation Physical Therapy Assistants | 11  |
| Physical Therapy Technicians                         | 40  | Outpatient Registered Nurses               | 9   |
| Travel Physical Therapists                           | 40  | Rehabilitation Therapy Aides               | 8   |
| Outpatient Physical Therapists                       | 32  | Resident Aides                             | 8   |

Source: Lightcast

**Table 4b. Top Job Titles for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations for latest 12 months (Sep. 2023 - Aug. 2024) East Bay Sub-Region**

| Title                                                | East Bay | Title                                | East Bay |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Physical Therapist Assistants                        | 282      | Travel Physical Therapist Assistants | 12       |
| Physical Therapy Assistants                          | 178      | Therapy Aides                        | 10       |
| Physical Therapy Aides                               | 98       | Licensed Physical Therapy Assistants | 8        |
| Home Health Physical Therapy Assistants              | 26       | Home Health Physical Therapists      | 6        |
| Skilled Nursing Facility Physical Therapy Assistants | 25       | Outpatient Registered Nurses         | 6        |
| Outpatient Travel Physical Therapists                | 21       | Physical Therapy Managers            | 6        |
| Outpatient Physical Therapists                       | 20       | Physical Therapy Technicians         | 6        |
| Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants               | 18       | Resident Aides                       | 5        |
| Travel Physical Therapists                           | 16       | Center Therapy Directors             | 3        |

Source: Lightcast

## Industry Concentration

**Table 5. Industries hiring Physical Therapy Aide Workers in Bay Region**

| Industry - 6 Digit NAICS (No. American Industry Classification) Codes     | Jobs in Industry (2023) | Jobs in Industry (2028) | % Change (2023-28) | % Occupation Group in Industry (2023) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Offices of Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapists, and Audiologists | 1,447                   | 1,740                   | 20%                | 50%                                   |
| General Medical and Surgical Hospitals                                    | 348                     | 347                     | -1%                | 12%                                   |
| Hospitals (Local Government)                                              | 197                     | 236                     | 19%                | 7%                                    |
| Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)                  | 168                     | 167                     | -1%                | 6%                                    |
| Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)                      | 165                     | 188                     | 14%                | 6%                                    |
| Home Health Care Services                                                 | 117                     | 168                     | 43%                | 4%                                    |
| HMO Medical Centers                                                       | 82                      | 96                      | 17%                | 3%                                    |
| Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals              | 80                      | 97                      | 22%                | 3%                                    |
| Hospitals (State Government)                                              | 34                      | 38                      | 14%                | 1%                                    |
| All Other Outpatient Care Centers                                         | 25                      | 31                      | 23%                | 1%                                    |

Source: Lightcast 2024.3

**Table 6. Top Employers Posting Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in Bay Region and East Bay Sub-Region (Sep. 2023 - Aug. 2024)**

| Employer                     | Bay | Employer                     | East Bay |
|------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|----------|
| Consonus Healthcare Services | 72  | ProMedica                    | 39       |
| Jackson Therapy Partners     | 65  | Jackson Therapy Partners     | 37       |
| ProMedica                    | 52  | Vibrantcare Rehabilitation   | 35       |
| Vibrantcare Rehabilitation   | 47  | Consonus Healthcare Services | 24       |
| Sutter Health                | 42  | Empowerme Wellness           | 24       |
| DRG Home Therapies           | 41  | AccentCare                   | 17       |

Source: Lightcast

### Educational Supply

There is one community college in the Bay Region issuing 19 awards on average annually (last 3 years ending 2021-23) on TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant. In the East Bay Sub-Region, there is one community college that issued 19 awards on average annually (last 3 years) on this TOP code.

**Table 7. Community College Awards on TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant in Bay Region**

| College      | Subregion | Associate Degree | Total     |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Ohlone       | East Bay  | 19               | 19        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>19</b>        | <b>19</b> |

Source: Data Mart

Note: The annual average for awards is 2020-21 to 2022-23.

### Gap Analysis

Based on the data included in this report, there is a labor market gap in the Bay region with 516 annual openings for the Physical Therapy Aide occupational cluster and 19 annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 497 students. In the East Bay Sub-Region, there is also a gap with 169 annual openings and 19 annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 150 students.

### Student Outcomes

**Table 8. Four Employment Outcomes Metrics for Students Who Took Courses on TOP 1222.00 - Physical Therapist Assistant**

| Metric Outcomes                                             | Bay All CTE Program | Las Positas College All CTE Program | State 1222.00 | Bay 1222.00 | East Bay 1222.00 | Las Positas College 1222.00 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study | 74%                 | 69%                                 | 90%           | 100%        | 100%             | NA                          |
| Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students             | \$53,090            | \$49,986                            | \$39,405      | \$48,707    | \$48,707         | NA                          |
| Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students          | 24%                 | 27%                                 | 52%           | 39%         | 39%              | NA                          |

| Metric Outcomes                               | Bay All CTE Program | Las Positas College All CTE Program | State 1222.00 | Bay 1222.00 | East Bay 1222.00 | Las Positas College 1222.00 |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage | 54%                 | 56%                                 | 58%           | 53%         | 53%              | NA                          |

Source: Launchboard Strong Workforce Program Median of 2018 to 2021.

## Skills, Certifications and Education

**Table 9. Job Postings Top Skills for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in Bay Region (Sep. 2023 - Aug. 2024)**

| Skill                            | Posting | Skill                               | Posting |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Physical Therapy                 | 1,518   | Nursing                             | 130     |
| Rehabilitation                   | 539     | Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) | 120     |
| Treatment Planning               | 330     | Medical Records                     | 120     |
| Patient Treatment                | 326     | Caregiving                          | 118     |
| Patient Assistance               | 270     | Kinesiology                         | 114     |
| Home Health Care                 | 193     | Program Development                 | 113     |
| Exercise Therapy                 | 175     | Medical Terminology                 | 104     |
| Patient Education And Counseling | 159     | Linens                              | 98      |
| Orthopedics                      | 138     | Direct Patient Care                 | 95      |
| Anatomy                          | 136     | Patient Preparation                 | 94      |

Source: Lightcast

**Table 10. Job Postings Certifications for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in Bay Region (Sep. 2023 - Aug. 2024)**

| Certification                                     | Posting | Certification                                                     | Posting |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification | 276     | Personal Trainer Certification                                    | 12      |
| Physical Therapy Assistant License                | 230     | Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Certification         | 8       |
| Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification            | 213     | Athletics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA) Certification | 3       |

Source: Lightcast

**Table 11. Education Requirements for Physical Therapy Aide Occupations in Bay Region**

| Education Level            | Job Postings | % of Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| High school or GED         | 179          | 23%        |
| other                      | 354          | 46%        |
| Bachelor's degree & higher | 239          | 31%        |

Source: Lightcast

Note: 65% of records have been excluded because they do not include a degree level. As a result, the chart above may not be representative of the full sample.

## Methodology

Occupations for this report were identified by use of job descriptions and skills listed in O\*Net. Labor demand data is sourced from Lightcast occupation and job postings data. Educational supply and student outcomes data is retrieved from multiple sources, including CCCC Data Mart and CTE Launchboard.

## Sources

O\*Net Online

Lightcast

CTE LaunchBoard [www.calpassplus.org](http://www.calpassplus.org)

Launchboard

Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey

Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development

Chancellor's Office MIS system

## Contacts

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