

Psychiatric Technicians

Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside and San Bernardino counties combined)

Summary

- Employment for psychiatric technicians is expected to **decrease by 3% between 2018 and 2023** in the Inland Empire/Desert region. A total of **508 job openings, or 102 annual job openings** will be available over the five-year timeframe.
- The **entry-level wage** for psychiatric technicians is **above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.39 per hour** for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert region.
- **There appears to be an opportunity for program growth** based on the annual average number of program credentials issued for the selected community college program in the region (**53 annual average community college credentials**), and the annual openings for psychiatric technicians across the region (**102 average annual openings**).

Introduction

The California Community College psychiatric technician (TOP 1239.00) program prepares students for employment as psychiatric technicians by providing instruction in the principles and techniques used in the care of mentally disordered, developmentally disabled and emotionally disturbed patients, in a variety of health care settings specific to the licensure examination (Taxonomy of Programs, 2012). The occupational description for psychiatric technicians is listed below:

Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)

Care for individuals with mental or emotional conditions or disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners. Monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being and report to medical staff. May participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral or injectable medications.

Sample job titles: Behavioral Health Technician, Health Care Technician, Licensed Psychiatric Technician (LPT), Mental Health Assistant (MHA), Mental Health Associate, Mental Health Specialist, Mental Health Technician (MHT), Mental Health Worker, Psychiatric Technician (PT), Residential Aide (RA)

Entry-Level Educational Requirement: Postsecondary nondegree award

Training Requirement: Less than one month of on-the-job training

Work Experience Required: Less than five years

Incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 56%

Job Opportunities

In 2018, there were 1,318 psychiatric technician jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert region. This occupation is projected to decrease employment by 3% by 2023. Despite this decrease, employers in the region will still need to hire 508 workers over the next five years to backfill jobs that workers are permanently vacating (includes occupational transfers and retirements). Exhibit 1 displays five-year projections for psychiatric technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert region.

Exhibit 1: Five-year projections for psychiatric technicians

2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr % Change (New Jobs)	5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	% of workers age 55+
1,318	1,283	(3%)	508	102	13%

Source: EMSI 2018.4

Earnings

The entry-level wage for psychiatric technicians is above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.39 per hour for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert region (Glasmeier, 2019). This wage is also sufficient for two working adults and one child (\$14.75 per hour, per adult, or \$30,680 annually for each adult). Exhibit 2 displays wage information for psychiatric technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert region.

Exhibit 2: Earnings for psychiatric technicians

Entry to Experienced Hourly Wage Range*	Median Wage*	Average Annual Earnings
\$25.67 to \$32.33	\$28.90	\$59,000

Source: EMSI 2018.4

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

Job Postings, Employers, Skills, Education, and Certifications

Exhibit 3 displays the number of job ads posted during the last 12 months along with the regional and statewide average time to fill for psychiatric technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert region. On average, local employers fill online job postings for psychiatric technicians within 40 days. This regional average is the same as the statewide average, indicating that it is neither relatively easy nor difficult for local employers to find qualified candidates.

Exhibit 3: Job ads and time to fill for psychiatric technicians, Apr 2018 – Mar 2019

Job Ads	Regional Average Time to Fill (Days)	California Average Time to Fill (Days)
116	40	40

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 4 displays the employers posting the most job ads for psychiatric technicians during the last 12 months in the Inland Empire/Desert region.

Exhibit 4: Employers posting the most job ads, Apr 2018 – Mar 2019

Occupation	Employers
Psychiatric Technicians (n=89)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of California <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patton State Hospital ○ Canyon Springs Community Facility • Dignity Health • Universal Health Services, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canyon Ridge Hospital

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 5 displays a sample of specialized and employability skills that employers are seeking when looking for workers to fill psychiatric technician positions. Specialized skills are occupation-specific skills that 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.” The skills requested in job postings may be utilized as a helpful guide for curriculum development.

Exhibit 5: Sample of in-demand skills from employer job ads, Apr 2018 – Mar 2019

Occupation	Specialized Skills	Employability Skills
Psychiatric Technicians (n=93)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Rehabilitation • Behavioral Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish • Teamwork/Collaboration • Communication Skills

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 6 displays the work experience and entry-level education typically required to enter this occupation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), educational attainment for incumbent workers with “some college, no degree” and an “associate degree” according to the U.S. Census (2016-17), and the minimum advertised education requirement from employer job ads.

Exhibit 6: Work experience, typical entry-level education, educational attainment, and minimum advertised education requirements for psychiatric technicians, Apr 2018 – Mar 2019

Occupation	Typical Entry-Level Education Requirement	Educational Attainment*	Minimum Advertised Education Requirement from Job Ads			
			Number of Job Ads (n=)	High school diploma or vocational training	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
Psychiatric Technicians	Postsecondary nondegree award	56%	37	70%	8%	22%

Source: EMSI 2018.4, Burning Glass – Labor Insights

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

The statewide licensing agency for psychiatric technicians is the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT). There is also a national licensing option available through the American Association of Psychiatric Technicians (2017). The psychiatric technician license requires completion of an approved program, professional experience, and culminates with passing a written examination. These requirements can be reviewed online (State of California, 2016). Exhibit 7 displays the certifications required by employers posting job ads for the psychiatric technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert region.

Exhibit 7: Top certifications required by employer job ads in the Inland Empire/Desert region, Apr 2018 – Mar 2019

Occupation	Certifications
Psychiatric Technicians (<i>n</i> =46)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatric Technician License • Basic Life Support (BLS) • Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Student Completions and Program Outcomes

Exhibit 8 displays the average annual regional California Community College (CCC) credentials conferred during the three academic years between 2014 and 2017, from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, along with the headcount from the most recent year available on LaunchBoard. Credentials are the combined total of associate degrees and certificates issued during the timeframe, divided by three in order to calculate an annual average. This is done to minimize the effect of atypical variation that might be present in a single year. Headcount is the unduplicated number of students who enrolled in one or more courses in the program. The relevant TOP code is from the Taxonomy of Programs manual, and the corresponding program titles used at each college (in *italics*) are sourced from the Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI). Please note, a credential is not always equal 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.

Exhibit 8: Annual average community college credentials and headcount for the psychiatric technician program in the Inland Empire/Desert region

1239.00 – Psychiatric Technician	CCC Headcount, Academic Year 2016-17	CCC Annual Average Credentials, Academic Years 2014-17
San Bernardino – Psychiatric Technology	75	
Associate Degree		21
Certificate 30 to < 60 semester units		33
Total CCC Headcount, Academic Year 2016-17	75	
Total Annual Average CCC Credentials, Academic Years 2014-17		53

Source: LaunchBoard, MIS Data Mart, COCI

Community college student outcome information is from LaunchBoard and based on the selected TOP code and region. These metrics are based on records submitted to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Management Information Systems (MIS) by community colleges, which comes from self-reported student information from CCC Apply and the National Student Clearinghouse. Employment and earnings metrics are sourced from records provided by California’s Employment Development Department’s Unemployment Insurance database. When available, outcomes for completers are reported in order to demonstrate the impact that earning a degree or certificate can have on employment and earnings. For more information on the types of students included for each metric, please see the web link for LaunchBoard’s Strong Workforce Program Metrics Data Element Dictionary in the References section (LaunchBoard, 2019a). Finally, employment in a job closely related to the field of study comes from self-reported student responses on the CTE Employment Outcomes Survey (CTEOS), administered by Santa Rosa Junior College (LaunchBoard, 2017). Data from the latest academic year for each metric is provided in Exhibit 9.

Exhibit 9: Psychiatric technician strong workforce program outcomes

Strong Workforce Program Metrics: 1239.00 – Psychiatric Technician Academic Year 2015-16, unless noted otherwise	Inland Empire/Desert Region	California Median
Course enrollments (2016-17)	122	296
Completed 12+ units in one year (2016-17)	74	78
Economically disadvantaged students* (2016-17)	92%	86%
Transferred to a four-year institution	N/A	0
Employed in the fourth fiscal quarter after exit (all exiters)	100%	92%
Median annual earnings* (all exiters)	\$68,523	\$52,704
Job closely related to the field of study (2014-15)	N/A	100%
Median change in earnings (all exiters)	551%	246%
Attained a living wage (completers and skills-builders)	96%	86%

Source: LaunchBoard

*Data for these metrics is available in Community College Pipeline. All others are available in Strong Program Workforce Metrics.

References

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