



Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians

in San Gabriel Valley and San Bernardino County

Introduction

An increase in the region's aging population (among other factors) is expected to lead to a greater need for the diagnosis of medical conditions through laboratory procedures. Medical and clinical laboratory technologists will be in demand to use and maintain the equipment needed for this diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

This research brief focuses on the labor market demand for medical and clinical technologists in the San Gabriel Valley¹ and San Bernardino County.

Occupation and job titles

Standard occupational title and code: Medical and Clinical Technologists (29-2011) – perform complex medical laboratory tests for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. May train or supervise staff.

Sample of reported job titles:

- Clinical Laboratory Scientist
- Clinical Laboratory Technologist
- Histologist Technologist
- Medical Laboratory Technologist
- Medical Technologist
- Clinical Laboratory Scientist

Current and Future Employment and Earnings

Employment of medical and clinical laboratory technologists in the San Gabriel Valley and San Bernardino County is projected to grow 11% from 2017 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations in the region. As shown in the table below, employment in San Bernardino County will grow much faster than the regional average, and twice as much as the expected growth in San Gabriel Valley. Nearly 100 job opportunities will be available each year for the next five years due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g., retirements). The entry-level wage for technologists in both regions is above the MIT Living Wage² estimate for a single adult; \$13.54 in San Gabriel Valley and \$12.30 in San Bernardino County.

Region	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings
San Gabriel Valley	814	875	61	7%	64	\$19.16	\$39.70
San Bernardino County	345	406	61	18%	35	\$20.55	\$38.77
Total/Average	1,159	1,281	122	11%	99	\$19.54	\$39.37

Source: EMSI, 2018

¹ San Gabriel Valley cities include: Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, City of Industry, Claremont, Covina, Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Hacienda Heights, La Canada Flintridge, La Puente, La Verne, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rowland Heights, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South El Monte, South Pasadena, and Whittier

² MIT Living Wage: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/states/06/locations>

Educational Requirements

Medical and clinical laboratory technologists usually require a bachelor's degree in medical technology or life sciences. Given the nature of the work, local regional labor demand, and employment qualifications, technologists can begin their career pathway at a community college training to be a medical and clinical laboratory technician. This technician occupation usually requires an associate degree or a postsecondary certificate for employment. Employment of medical and clinical laboratory technicians in the region is also projected to grow 11% from 2017 to 2022 – nearly 170 job openings will be available annually.

In addition to a bachelor's degree, California and about a dozen other states require technologists to be licensed. To become licensed in California, a technologist must complete a minimum of 60 semester units from an accredited college or university. California specifically requires 36 units of physical and biological science, six units of biology, and six units of chemistry.

California also requires a national certification. Certifications are typically available through an industry organization or association, such as the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).³

Employer Job Advertisements

In the last 12 months, there have been nearly 105 job postings for medical and clinical laboratory technologists in the region. Employers who posted the most job advertisements for these positions include American Red Cross, Glendora Community Hospital, Prime Healthcare Services, and San Dimas Community Hospital.

According to these online job postings, employers seek candidates who have the following certifications, or are certified as:

- Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS)
- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)
- Certified medical laboratory technician
- Clinical laboratory technologist
- Medical laboratory technologist

Regional Training

Mt. San Antonio is the only community college in the region that has conferred awards in programs that have historically trained for **technician** positions – jobs that precede technologist jobs. Between 2014 and 2017, an average of about 21 associate degrees (no certificates) were conferred in laboratory science technology and medical laboratory technology.

On the other hand, East LA is the only community college in the region that has conferred awards in electron microscopy – a program that has historically trained for **technologist** positions. Between 2014 and 2017, an average of five (5) associate degrees and certificates were conferred.

Loma Linda University offers a clinical laboratory science/medical technology/technologist program that conferred 18 bachelor's degrees in 2016.

By comparing the annual job openings in the region to the community college and 4-yr completions, there appears to be a supply gap that could be addressed by providing additional programs and/or increased student completions.

³ <https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification>