



California Community Colleges

DATA QUALITY INSTITUTE

Assessing Workforce Need
2026 Perkins V

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Fall 2025 CCCAOE Conference
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Today's Conversation

Who we are: COE mission, scope, and audiences served

The labor market data most useful for community college planning

Q&A





Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE)

The COE provide quality labor market data and information to help colleges with:



Assessing labor
market needs



Investing in new career
education programs



Reviewing career
education programs



Grant program planning and
investment

**We aspire to be the leading source of workforce
information and insight for California's community
colleges.**

The COE Network



Host Institutions:

- Shasta College
- Los Rios District
- Cabrillo College
- State Center District
- College of the Canyons
- Riverside District
- Mt. San Antonio College
- Rancho Santiago District
- MiraCosta College



California
Community
Colleges

What We Deliver

- Labor Market Assessments (LMAs) for Program Recommendation **(1,000)**
- Sector profiles, regional/district overviews, and workforce studies **(140)**
- Data tools and dashboards **(36)**
- Presentations and data workshops **(250)**
- Customized support requests

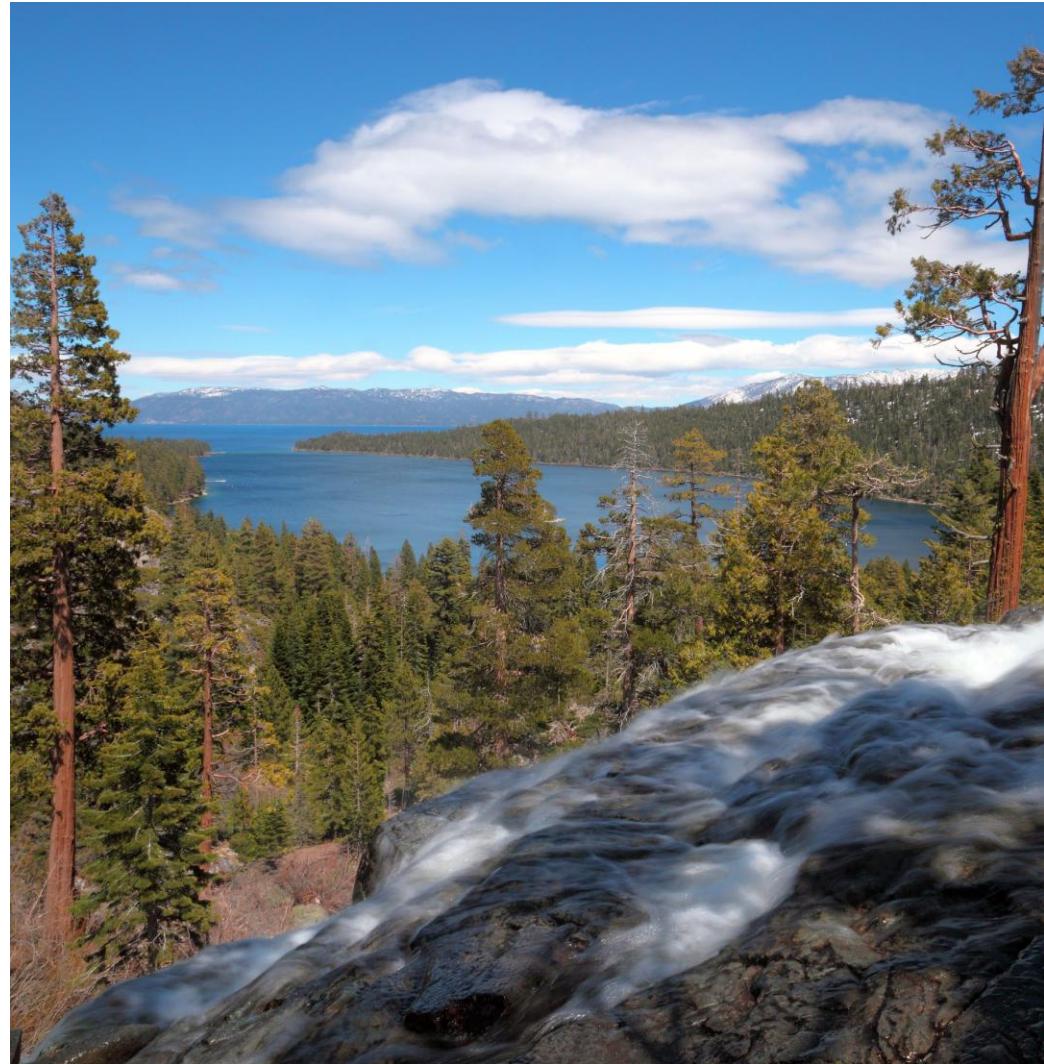


Today's Conversation

Who we are: COE mission, scope, and audiences served

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Key Labor Market Conversations for assessing local and regional workforce needs



Understanding Today's Workforce

Metrics

- Labor force statistics
- Past and current employment and unemployment
- Characteristics of the incumbent workforce

How It Informs Decisions

- Sets context for available labor supply
- Provides insight about slack in the labor force, part-time vs. full-time and more
- Expands understanding of workers currently in an occupation



***Civilian Labor Force**
(19,857,900)



Total Civilian Employment
(18,763,300)



Unemployment
(1,094,700)

California Unemployment Rate



California's Labor Force

August's Labor Force Characteristics

- By age group, the unemployment rate was highest for Californians aged 16-19 years at 21.3%.
 - Rates for the six age groups between 20-65+ years ranged from 3.5% to 9.9%.
- By race and ethnicity, the August unemployment rate for blacks was 8.5%, Hispanics was 6.1%, and whites was 5.4%.
- The majority (81.4%) of all employed Californians usually work full time. There were 737,100 persons who worked part time involuntarily.
 - Involuntarily is also referred to as "part time for economic reasons," which includes full time workers reporting "slack work" (insufficient demand for the employer's business to support more work hours) and part time workers reporting "inability to find full time work." They comprised 4.0 percent of all persons at work.
- August 2025 Preliminary figures, www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov



Understand Today's Workforce

COE Lookup: Occupational Characteristics - Breaks down occupations by

- Gender & race/ethnicity
- Education attainment levels
- Veteran status, age, self-employment

Lookup: Occupational Characteristics in California

2022 American Community Survey



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Use this dashboard to view data on occupational characteristics within California's workforce. Scroll down to see tables.

Occupation Group

Table A: % of Occupation by Sex and % of Occupation by Race/Ethnicity

Occupation

Table B: % of Occupation Self-Employed and % of Occupation by Educational Attainment

Table C: % of Occupation by Veteran Status and % of Occupation by Age

<https://coeccc.net/collection/lookup-resource-center/>

Understand Today's Workforce

COE Lookup: Occupational Characteristics

- Example: In California, what does the Medical Assistants workforce look like?

Female	Male	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White
90.0%	10.0%	0.4%	6.6%	0.7%	63.7%	19.4%
High School or Below	Some College, No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Above Bachelor's Degree		
24.7%	49.1%	14.3%	10.6%	1.3%		
< 25 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years	35 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 to 64 years	65+ years
17.3%	23.3%	17.1%	10.6%	16.9%	12.8%	1.9%

Assess Regional Opportunities

Metrics

- Past, current, and future employment levels
- Wages earned (entry, median, and experienced) vs. living wage
- Staffing patterns
- Location quotient

How It Informs Decisions

- Validates need for new or expanded programs
- Prioritizes occupations for investment
- Sets expectations for program scale and student placement
- Reveals geographic nuances in demand

California's Labor Market

Industry Employment (“the job market”)

- In California, there were 18,011,200 jobs in nonfarm industries in August, up 3,800 jobs from July.
 - Annually agricultural or “farm” employment accounts for an additional 400,000 jobs. This is separately counted and represents primarily contract or seasonal jobs.
- Regions posting gains in nonfarm jobs last month: Inland Empire, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Orange County.
- August 2025 Preliminary figures,
www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov



Assess Regional Opportunities

COE Lookup: Occupational Demand

- Find career paths relevant to region and educational goal.

Lookup: Occupational Demand

Projections of Employment, 2023-2028

This dashboard displays the projected employment demand in California by region. Narrow the data displayed by making selections to the filters.

Region: California (CA) (1) ▾

Perkins Career Cluster ▾

Occupation ▾

CCCCO Sector ▾

Skill Level ▾

Reset Filters

For occupational characteristics within California's workforce, including age, educational attainment, gender, race/ethnicity, self-employment, and veteran status, view the [Occupational Characteristics Dashboard](#).

Table totals displayed below. Totals reflect filter selections.

# Occupations of Displayed	797	2023 Jobs Total	20,471,390
Average 2023-28 % Change	5.4%	Total Annual Job Openings	2,655,510
Median Hourly Earnings	\$36.87	Median Annual Earnings	\$76,699

Sort, Export, or Reset Table

Verify with Perkins Requirements

COE Lookups: Perkins Qualifying Occupations

To qualify for Perkins, occupations must meet a minimum of two of three criteria: high-wage, in-demand, and high-skill.

- High-wage = An occupation with a median wage at or above the regional median wage across all occupations.
- In-demand = An occupation projected to add new jobs over a 5-yr period and average annual job openings at or above the regional median.
- High-skill = An occupation trained for by an existing CCCCO-approved career education program.

<https://coeccc.net/collection/perkins-qualifying-occupations-data-tools/>

Verify with Perkins Requirements

- Look up occupations to see if they meet either the high-wage or in-demand requirement in your region.

Perkins Qualifying Occupations

South Central Coast Region, 2025-26

Please log in to your
Google Account to
use this Dashboard



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Use this dashboard to view Perkins Qualifying Occupations in the South Central Coast region. To qualify for Perkins, occupations must meet a minimum of two of three criteria: high-wage, in-demand, and high-skill. Use the filters and search boxes below to identify high-wage and/or in-demand occupations.*

Career Cluster

Skill-Level

Occupation Title

Occupations Displayed **796**

High-Wage
An occupation with a median wage at or above the regional median wage across all occupations.

In-Demand
An occupation projected to add new jobs over a 5-yr period and average annual job openings at or above the regional median.

***High-Skill**
An occupation trained for by an existing CCCCO-approved career education program. Applicants may select any of the approved programs offered at their college.

<https://coeccc.net/collection/perkins-qualifying-occupations-data-tools/>



California
Community
Colleges

Map the Training Landscape

Metrics

- Community college (TOP) and other postsecondary awards (CIP)
- Program capacity and pipeline trends
- Supply–demand gap analysis (openings vs. awards)
- Related and feeder programs (crosswalks)

How It Informs Decisions

- Right-sizes program portfolios to meet regional need
- Minimizes duplication vs. unmet demand
- Supports program revision or creation
- Aligns TOP/CIP to SOC codes employers need

Crosswalk to Programs

COE Lookup: Code Crosswalk

- Links program codes (TOP/CIP) to occupations (SOC).
- Helps ensure program design aligns with real job targets.

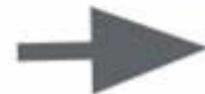
Lookup: Code Crosswalk



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The Code crosswalk was created to help identify occupational targets of California Community College career technical education programs.

**Occupation
(SOC)**



**Taxonomy of
Program (TOP)**

&

**Classification of
Instructional Program (CIP)**

<https://coeccc.net/collection/lookup-resource-center/>

Crosswalk to Programs

► Example: Medical Assistants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupation Code and Title (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COE Skill Level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Typical Entry-Level Education
<input type="text"/> Type to search <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="text"/> medical X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 31-9092 - Medical Assistants <input type="checkbox"/> 29-2036 - Medical Dosimetrists <input type="checkbox"/> 31-9094 - Medical Transcriptionists <input type="checkbox"/> 29-2072 - Medical Records Specialists <input type="checkbox"/> 31-9093 - Medical Equipment Preparers <input type="checkbox"/> 49-9062 - Medical Equipment Repairers	<input type="text"/> Type to search <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Middle-Skill	<input type="text"/> Type to search <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Postsecondary nondegree award

Reset Filters

Crosswalked TOP Matches

TOP Code and Title ▾

1208.00 - Medical Assisting

1208.10 - Clinical Medical Assisting

1208.30 - Health Facility Unit Coordinator

Crosswalked CIP Matches

CIP Code and Title ▾

51.0711 - Medical/Health Management and Clinical Assistant/Specialist

51.0801 - Medical/Clinical Assistant

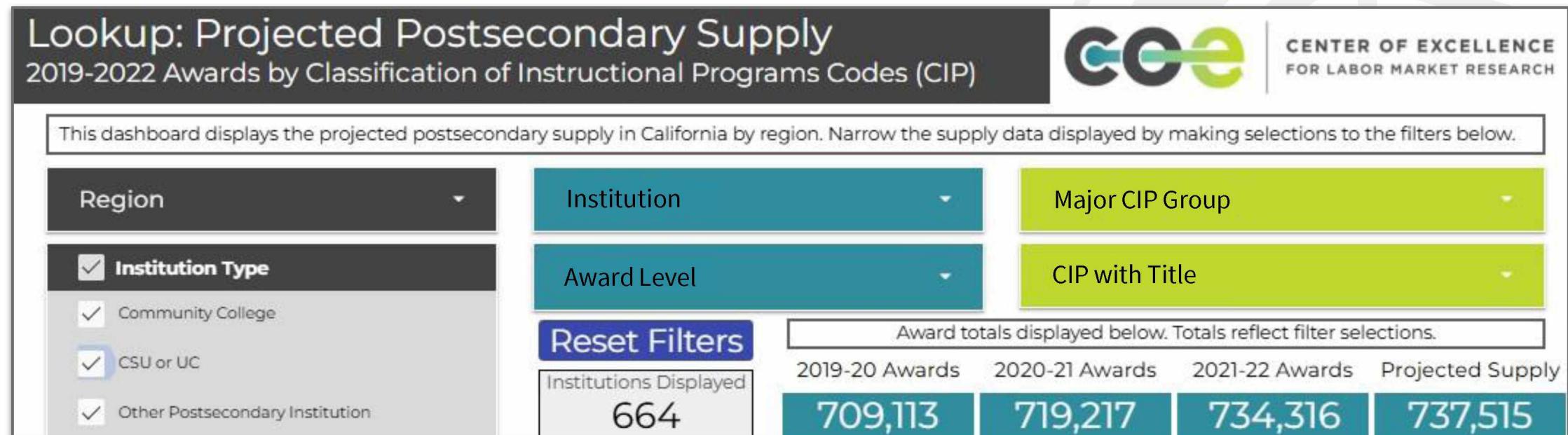


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Assess Existing Programs

COE Lookup: Projected Postsecondary Supply

- Learn what programs are in your region. Assess how many students are completing and entering the workforce.



Getting Started

- Visit COE website for reports, tools, and training opportunities (www.coeccc.net)
- Contact your Regional COE for custom requests and presentations
- Set up a MyCOE account and sign up for newsletters to stay informed
- Integrate LMI into program review, grant development, and equity planning

