

Medical Assistants (SOC 31-9092)

Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA

Perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing, and coding information for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician.

Sample of reported job titles: Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), Chiropractor Assistant, Clinical Assistant, Doctor's Assistant, Medical Assistant (MA), Medical Office Assistant, Ophthalmic Technician, Optometric Assistant, Optometric Technician, Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)

Job Opportunities

Job opportunities for medical assistants are projected to increase 16 percent from 2015 to 2020 in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA, outpacing job growth across California (14 percent growth). During the five-year time frame, this region is expecting a total of 2,345 job openings (469 annual job openings) in this occupation due to growth and replacement need (e.g. retirements). According to Burning Glass, an online job posting research tool, there were 701 online job postings medical assistants in 2015, 468 in 2014, and 355 in 2013 in the local region. Year-to-date, there have been 782 online job postings for this occupation in 2016. In 2015, the cities with the most job postings were Riverside (103 job postings), Loma Linda (69), and San Bernardino (59). Victorville (10 job postings), Apple Valley (9), and Barstow (9) combined had 28 job postings for this occupation in 2015. Note: one job posting is not equal to one job opening (e.g. an employer may create one post job for multiple job openings).

Exhibit 1. Five-year Occupation Projections for Medical Assistants

Region	2015 Jobs	2020 Jobs	Five-year Change	Five-year % Change	Annual Openings (New Jobs + Replacement Need)
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA	8,320	9,686	1,366	16%	469

Source: EMSI

Earnings

The median level wage for medical assistants is \$13.67 per hour, above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$11.75 per hour for a single adult living in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA. The annual median wage for this occupation is \$30,514 per year, assuming full-time employment. Burning Glass online job posting data revealed a mean advertised salary of \$35,450 per year. Only 28 percent of job posting records revealed an advertised salary.

Exhibit 2. Earnings for Medical Assistants in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA

Occupation	Entry Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings	Median Annual Salary
Medical Assistants	\$10.20	\$13.67	\$19.11	\$28,434

Source: EMSI

Education and Training

The typical entry level of education required for medical assistants is a postsecondary certificate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 65 percent of worker currently working in this occupation have some college course work or an award that can be earned at a California Community College; an Associate's degree or some college. There is no typical on-the-job training or work experience required for this occupation.

Exhibit 3. Annual Earnings, Typical Education, and Training

Occupation	Typical Entry Level Education	% of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework	Typical On-The-Job Training
Medical Assistants	Postsecondary certificate	65%	None

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Current Population Survey

Skills

Top skills for medical assistants according to online job posting data include: patient care, scheduling, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), patient preparation, appointment setting, and injections.

Certifications

The top certifications that employers mentioned in online job postings were First AID CPR AED, Certified Medical Assistant, Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Clinical Medical Assistant, and E.K.G. Certification.

Student Completions

Exhibit 4 shows the projected annual job openings for the occupation cluster in Table 1 with the associated TOP6 programs. Table 6 also shows the annual average regional community college awards. Please note, an award is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening since students may earn more than one award, such as a degree in addition to a certificate. Exhibit 5 displays a training gap of 427 jobs for the medical assistant occupation in the two-county region. Please note that other education facilities outside the community college system reported 2,027 annual average awards during the 2012-2015 time frame.

Exhibit 4: Student Completions and Annual Openings in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA

TOP06	TOP06 Title	Total Annual Openings (from Exhibit 1)	Annual Avg Associate Degrees (2012-15)	Annual Avg Certificates or Other Credit Awards (2012-15)	Total Other Ed. Annual Avg Awards (2012-15)
120800	Medical Assisting	469	18	24	2,027
Total		469	42		

Source: MIS Datamart

Exhibit 5: Training Gap in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA



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