



Institutional Effectiveness, Research & Planning

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR A PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Spring 2017

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Introduction

Interest from faculty in the Career and Human Development Division expressed interest in developing a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at Crafton Hills College (CHC). This report provides the workforce and curricular needs assessment for a PTA Program at CHC.

Methodology

Data compiled in this report covers San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Data were drawn from external sources, including the Employment Development Department's California Labor Market Information and the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), as well as Crafton Hills College's Ellucian enterprise resource database.

The *Taxonomy of Programs* (TOP) is a standardized system used in California Community Colleges to classify programs and courses that are intended to achieve the same outcome. The PTA Program at CHC would be classified under the **Physical Therapist Assistant** TOP code.

Table 1. TOP Code for Proposed PTA Program.

TOP Code	Program of Study
I222.00	Physical Therapist Assistant: Principles and procedures used to assist a physical therapist in implementing a prescribed plan of therapy for a patient, including patient instruction and administration of treatments.

The *Classification of Instructional Programs* (CIP) is a standardized coding system used at the federal level to facilitate accurate tracking, assessment, and reporting of fields of study and program completion at educational institutions throughout the country. This report draws on the **Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant** CIP code, which maps to the **Physical Therapist Assistant** TOP code, to compare Crafton Hills College to other institutions and examine employment trends.

Table 2. CIP Code for Proposed PTA Program.

CIP Code	Program of Study
51.0806	Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant: A program that prepares individuals, under the supervision of a physical therapist, to implement physical therapy treatment care plans, train patients, conduct treatment interventions, use equipment, and observe and record patient progress. Includes instruction in applied anatomy and physiology, applied kinesiology, principles and procedures of physical therapy, basic neurology and orthopedics, physical therapy modalities, documentation skills, psychosocial aspects of health care, wound and injury care, electrotherapy, working with orthotics and prostheses, and personal and professional ethics.

The *Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)* system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories. The CIP-SOC Crosswalk (National Crosswalk Service Center, 2011) was used in this report to map TOP codes to CIP and SOC codes. This crosswalk allows the user to estimate labor market demand for program completers using SOC-based projections from the California Labor Market Information Division. **Physical Therapy Technician/Assistant** CIP code was mapped to three SOC codes: **Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary**; **Physical Therapist Aides**; and **Physical Therapist Assistants**.

Table 3. SOC Code for Proposed PTA Program.

SOC Code	Program of Study
25-1071	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants
31-2022	Physical Therapist Aides

The *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)* is used by federal statistical agencies to classify business establishments for the purpose of conducting and reporting research on the U.S. business economy. The SOC codes are mapped to industry data by the California Labor Market Information Division. Industry information and is used to geographically map the business locations of potential employers as well as to observe trends across the industries that employ graduates of the proposed program.

Occupational Information¹

Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary, teach courses in health specialties, in fields such as dentistry, laboratory technology, medicine, pharmacy, public health, therapy, and veterinary medicine.

This occupation typically requires a graduate-level degree. Core tasks include:

- Evaluate and grade students' class work, assignments, and papers.
- Prepare course materials, such as syllabi, homework assignments, and handouts.
- Maintain student attendance records, grades, and other required records.
- Keep abreast of developments in the field by reading current literature, talking with colleagues, and participating in professional conferences.
- Supervise undergraduate or graduate teaching, internship, and research work.
- Supervise laboratory sessions.
- Plan, evaluate, and revise curricula, course content, course materials, and methods of instruction.
- Compile, administer, and grade examinations, or assign this work to others.
- Maintain regularly scheduled office hours to advise and assist students.
- Prepare and deliver lectures to undergraduate or graduate students on topics such as public health, stress management, and work site health promotion.
- Initiate, facilitate, and moderate classroom discussions.
- Select and obtain materials and supplies, such as textbooks and laboratory equipment.
- Collaborate with colleagues to address teaching and research issues.
- Advise students on academic and vocational curricula and on career issues.
- Participate in student recruitment, registration, and placement activities.
- Serve on academic or administrative committees that deal with institutional policies, departmental matters, and academic issues.

¹ O*Net OnLine: <https://www.onetonline.org/>

- Conduct research in a particular field of knowledge and publish findings in professional journals, books, or electronic media.
- Act as advisers to student organizations.

Physical Therapist Assistants 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, licensure, and/or an associate's degree. Core tasks include:

- Instruct, motivate, safeguard, and assist patients as they practice exercises or functional activities.
- Observe patients during treatments to compile and evaluate data on their responses and progress and provide results to physical therapist in person or through progress notes.
- Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, or coordinating treatment.
- Administer active or passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, aquatic physical therapy, or heat, light, sound, or electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.
- Measure patients' range-of-joint motion, body parts, or vital signs to determine effects of treatments or for patient evaluations.
- Communicate with or instruct caregivers or family members on patient therapeutic activities or treatment plans.
- Transport patients to and from treatment areas, lifting and transferring them according to positioning requirements.
- Secure patients into or onto therapy equipment.
- Train patients in the use of orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices.
- Assist patients to dress, undress, or put on and remove supportive devices, such as braces, splints, or slings.
- Clean work area and check and store equipment after treatment.
- Fit patients for orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices, such as crutches.
- Monitor operation of equipment and record use of equipment and administration of treatment.
- Attend or conduct continuing education courses, seminars, or in-service activities.
- Perform clerical duties, such as taking inventory, ordering supplies, answering telephone, taking messages, or filling out forms.

Physical Therapist Aides, 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. This occupation typically requires only a high school education, an associate's degree, or some college. Core tasks include:

- Clean and organize work area and disinfect equipment after treatment.
- Instruct, motivate, safeguard, or assist patients practicing exercises or functional activities, under direction of medical staff.
- Record treatment given and equipment used.
- Administer active or passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, or heat, light, sound, water, or electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.
- Transport patients to and from treatment areas, using wheelchairs or providing standing support.
- Change linens, such as bed sheets and pillow cases.
- Secure patients into or onto therapy equipment.
- Schedule patient appointments with physical therapists and coordinate therapists' schedules.

- Observe patients during treatment to compile and evaluate data on patients' responses and progress and report to physical therapist.
- Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, or coordinating treatment.
- Arrange treatment supplies to keep them in order.
- Perform clerical duties, such as taking inventory, ordering supplies, answering telephone, taking messages, or filling out forms.
- Maintain equipment or furniture to keep it in good working condition, including performing the assembly or disassembly of equipment or accessories.
- Assist patients to dress, undress, or put on and remove supportive devices, such as braces, splints, or slings.

Regional Job Outlook²

Tables 4a through 4c displays 2014 employment estimates and 2024 projections for the applicable occupations. Job openings are plentiful across all regions of interest and there is marked growth in the number of jobs within the decade.

Table 4a. Job Openings for Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary by region.

Region	Estimated 2014 Jobs	Annual Job Openings	Projected 2024 Jobs	Projected Growth
California	14,800	680	19,000	28.4%
Inland Empire	2,670	109	3,280	22.8%

Note: Inland Empire is defined as the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 4b. Job Openings for Physical Therapist Assistants by region.

Region	Estimated 2014 Jobs	Annual Job Openings	Projected 2024 Jobs	Projected Growth
California	4,800	290	6,300	31.2%
Inland Empire	410	26	550	34.1%

Note: Inland Empire is defined as the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 4c. Job Openings for Physical Therapist Aides by region.

Region	Estimated 2014 Jobs	Annual Job Openings	Projected 2024 Jobs	Projected Growth
California	6,200	380	8,200	32.3%
Inland Empire	410	31	600	46.3%

Note: Inland Empire is defined as the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area.

² California Employment Development Department: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>

Tables 5a through 5c displays the first quarter 2016 hourly wage statistics for the applicable occupations. The median wage statewide is slightly higher than for the Inland Empire for all three occupations. Hourly wages are slightly skewed lower in the Inland Empire for Physical Therapy Assistants, because the mean average hourly rate is lower (\$30.12) than the median (\$31.25). A Physical Therapy Assistant can expect to earn anywhere from \$26/hr to \$36/hr, depending on the specific job and the employee's level of experience. Conversely, hourly wages are slightly skewed higher in the Inland Empire for Physical Therapy Aides, because the mean average hourly rate is higher (\$14.08) than the median (\$13.36).

Table 5a. Annual Wages for Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary by region.

Region	25 th Percentile	Median (50 th)	75 th Percentile
California	\$61,793	\$100,749	\$134,552
Inland Empire	Not available	\$99,167	Not available

Note: Inland Empire is defined as the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 5b. Annual Wages for Physical Therapist Assistants by region.

Region	Mean	25 th Percentile	Median (50 th)	75 th Percentile
California	\$30.70	\$25.82	\$32.39	\$36.63
Inland Empire	\$30.12	\$26.32	\$31.25	\$35.86

Note: Inland Empire is defined as the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 5c. Hourly Wages for Physical Therapist Aides by region.

Region	Mean	25 th Percentile	Median (50 th)	75 th Percentile
California	\$14.51	\$11.47	\$13.48	\$16.00
Inland Empire	\$14.08	\$11.50	\$13.36	\$15.17

Note: Inland Empire is defined as the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Figure I displays the 2014 staffing patterns of the largest industries employing Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides across the state of California. While growth in employment of Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary is expected, their employment projections are excluded from the analysis due to the need for graduate-level education. The largest employers of Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides are Offices of Other Health Practitioners.

Figure I. 2014 Employment of Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides by industry.

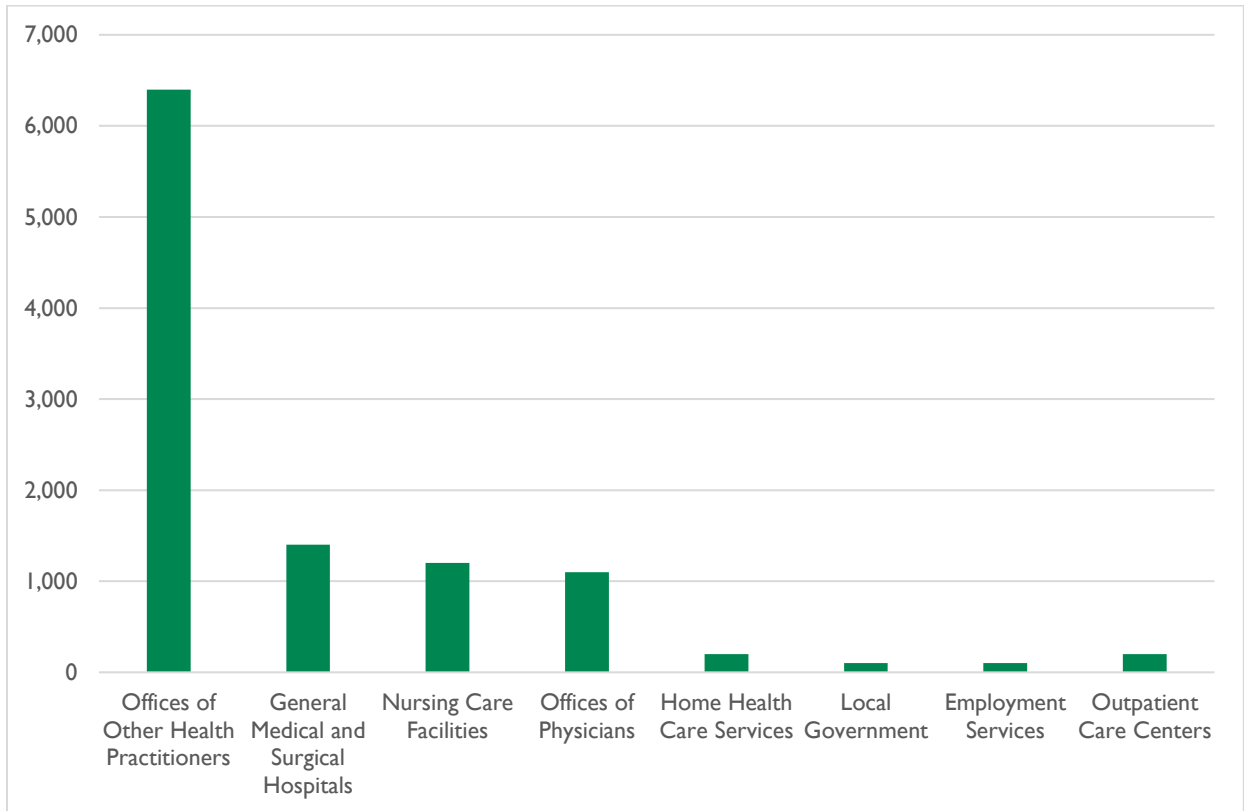
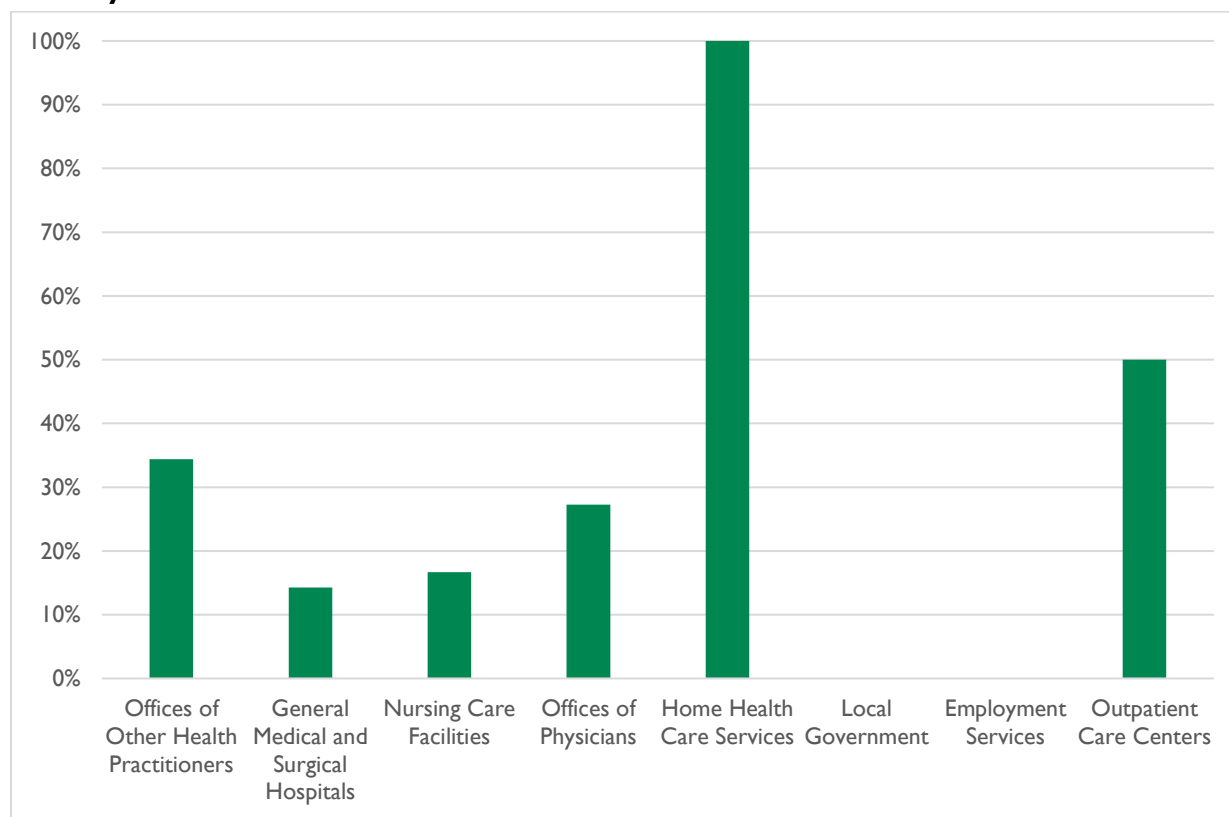


Figure 2 displays the projected percent changes in employment of medical and health services managers between 2014 and 2024 in the largest industries employing medical and health services managers in the state of California. There is 100% growth in Home Health Care Services, and 34% growth in Offices of Other Health Practitioners, which is the largest employer of Physical Therapy Assistants and Aides in California.

Figure 2. Percentage change in employment of Physical Therapy Assistants and Aides by industry.



Educational Programs³

Table 6 displays Health Service Administration program completers for the other institutions who currently offer degrees at or below the associate level within 50 miles of CHC. Currently, only one institution offers an associate's degree. Current program completions in the Inland Empire (44) are exceeding the need for total new job openings (26); however, there is only one program within 50 miles, which is a greater radius than the Inland Empire region. Additionally, the only program located at Loma Linda University costs \$27,858 in tuition, fees, and books for a 15-month associate's program.⁴

Table 6. PTA Program awards in 2015-2016 at California Institutions.

Institution Name	Undergraduate Certificate	Associates
Loma Linda University	-	44

³ National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System*: <http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

⁴ Loma Linda University Program Exploration Tool: www.llu.edu/explore/step1.html