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Industry Snapshots

Medical Imaging Careers

Tools for the Program Developer

This data was prepared for California Community Colleges and those professionals that design college-level coursework and programs.



Industry Background

Careers and jobs in healthcare continue to grow, and are somewhat recession-proof. In California, there are over one million jobs in healthcare; the industry is booming because California will add about 12 million people in the next 20 years. Our population is also aging, so there are more health service workers retiring and older people who need health care, creating more jobs and job openings. There is an especially high demand for workers who are members of diverse populations and/or can speak languages other than English.

Industry Trends

Los Angeles & Orange Counties
2007 - 2012



Description	2007 Jobs	2012 Jobs	New & Replacement Jobs	% Change in New & Replacement jobs	2007 Average Hourly Earnings	Licenses Certification Required
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	5936	6603	1069	18%	\$26.85	ARRT Certification
Radiation Therapists	436	503	100	23%	\$40.63	Dept of Health Certification
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians	1238	1436	282	23%	\$26.80	One Year of Training Required – No License
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	1636	1843	318	19%	\$30.15	Unregulated RDMS Certification Preferred by Employers
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	679	751	118	17%	\$34.83	State Certification

Description & Reference Information

Background and reference information about Medical Imaging Careers are noted below.

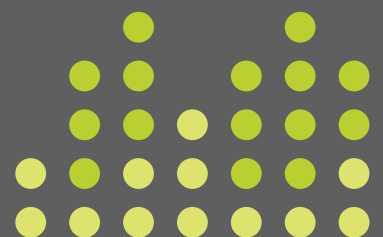
These careers can be entered via community college certificate and/or degree programs

- **Radiologic Technologists** – take x-rays and do more advanced imaging like MRIs, CT scans, and mammograms. See ONET <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-2034.02> and <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-2034.01>
- **Cardiovascular Technologists** - perform tests of the heart and may work in catheterization labs. See ONET <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-2031.00>
- **Diagnostic Medical Sonographers** – operate ultrasound equipment that creates images of internal organs using sound waves. See ONET <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-2032.00>

These careers require an extra year beyond the Associate's Degree and/or a B.A. Degree

- **Nuclear Medicine Technologists** – create images of internal organs using specialized camera equipment AND radioactive injections into the body. See ONET <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-2033.00>
- **Radiation Therapists** – use x-ray and other radiation equipment to target and destroy cancer cells in the body. See ONET <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-1124.00>

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Educational Track

Here is a listing of community colleges in Los Angeles and Orange Counties offering Medical Imaging Programs. The numbers of 2007 program completers are shown in red.

College	Degree Programs	Certificate Programs
El Camino College/Compton College Center	AS Degree – Radiologic Technology (20)	Certificate of Accomplishment Radiology Technology (12)
Cypress College	AS- Diagnostic Medical Sonography AS- Radiologic Technology (28)	Diagnostic Medical Sonography Certificate (9) Radiologic Technologist (30) One year Certificate in Radiology Assistant/ Darkroom Technician (1)
Long Beach City College	AS Degree – Diagnostic Medical Imaging Sciences (Radiologic Technology) (30)	Certificate of Achievement (32)
Los Angeles City College	AS Degree – Radiologic Technology (19)	
Mt. San Antonio College	AS Degree – Radiologic Technology (28)	
Orange Coast College	AS Degree – Radiologic Technology (20) AS Degree – Diagnostic Medical Sonography (16) AS Degree – Cardiovascular Technology (11)	Certificates of Achievement – Cardiovascular Technology/Technician (10) Diagnostic Medical Sonographer Certificate (19) Electrocardiography Technician (18) Radiologic Technology (22) MRI Certification (9)
Pasadena City College	AS Degree – Radiologic Technology (0)	Certificate of Achievement – Radiologic Technology (26)

Radiation Therapist and Nuclear Medicine Technologists in this region are trained at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and L.A. Harbor UCLA Medical Center in Torrance. There are also additional graduates in other imaging occupations from those two schools and from California State Universities at Long Beach and Northridge.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Download the full report entitled *Medical Imaging in Los Angeles and Orange Counties* at www.coecc.net

■ Employer Partners

Kaiser employs 1,300 medical imaging employees in southern California. They prefer to hire at the entry level (Radiologic Technicians), and have made some large training investments in-house (like CT scanning, MRI, and Mammography). Smaller employers want to hire experienced candidates and/or those who are already certified in multiple specialties.

■ Existing versus New Programs

The barriers to starting new programs in medical imaging include 1) expensive equipment which must be replaced regularly; 2) difficulty recruiting qualified instructors; and 3) finding enough clinical sites for students.

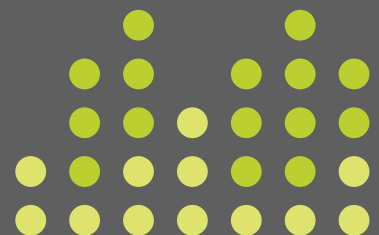
■ Radiologic Technology

Employment projections and employer interviews do not support the need for additional or expanded programs at this time in Los Angeles or Orange counties. All programs should incorporate opportunities for students to be certified in specialties like CT and MRI.

■ Diagnostic Medical Sonography

As an unlicensed medical imaging occupation, there are program completers from unaccredited programs in the job market. With two community college programs in Orange County, there is a need for one more regional program in Los Angeles County. These community college programs include clinical experience, which is a reason that graduates are hired.

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■ **Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians**

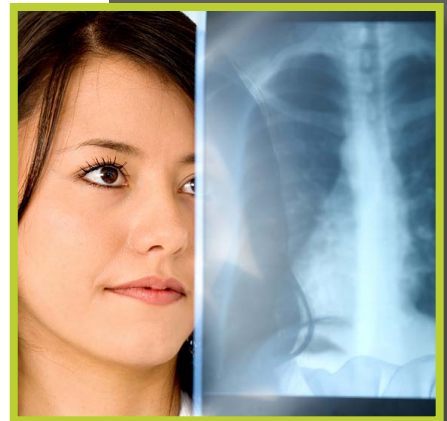
The number of graduates versus the projected demand for all types of Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians shows the biggest potential of all of the imaging technology occupations for unmet demand in the coming decade. Employers report problems finding Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians to staff their Catheterization Labs, a specialty requiring a certification to practice invasive cardiovascular technology. Orange Coast College currently has the only accredited program in the two counties. It would be beneficial for one of the Los Angeles County colleges that already has a Radiologic Technology program to add a program in Cardiovascular Technology.

■ **Radiation Therapy and Nuclear Medicine Technology**

Although there are examples of community colleges that offer programs in these two specialties, the local programs in this region are primarily BA or BS-degree programs. The supply of graduates in this region appears to be sufficient to meet the current and future demand, so there does not seem to be a need for future program development.

■ **Diversity in the Field**

In the past two decades, numerous reports have documented the need for more diversity among the healthcare workforce, including medical imaging technologies. Community colleges can bring a diverse student population to these occupations.



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