Medical Transcription

April 2009 Needs Assessment
Scope

Data compiled in this report covers San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties. Data were drawn from both 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), and Chaffey College’s Colleague Administrative database.

Data Sources and Calculations

Educational Program Data

The Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) is a standardized system used at the state level to classify programs and courses that are intended to achieve the same outcome at different colleges throughout the state. Medical Transcription is one of three specializations under the Medical Office Technology TOP code, 0514.20.

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. The CIP code for Medical Transcription is 51.0708.

All educational program data in this report are based on these codes.

Occupational Data

The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories. The SOC code for Medical Transcriptionists is 31.9094. All occupational data in this report are based on this code.

Educational Program to Occupation Crosswalk

The TOP-CIP-SOC Crosswalk (Employment Development Department, 2007) was used to map California Community College-specific Taxonomy of Program (TOP) codes to federal Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) and Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) codes. This crosswalk allows the user to estimate labor market demand for California Community College program completers using SOC-based projections from the Labor Market Information Division.

Industry Data

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. Using the Standard Occupational Classification code for Medical Transcriptionists, associated NAICS industries were identified.

Completions Data

Degree and certificate data regarding students at Chaffey College were collected from the Colleague Administrative database. Degree and certificate data for all comparison schools were collected from the U.S. Department of Education’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
Introduction and Contents

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### Purpose and Goals

Chaffey College currently offers a Certificate in Medical Transcription. The 2008-2009 College Catalog program description reads as follows:

“The Transcriptionist Certificate provides computer competencies, language skills, interpersonal skills and knowledge to obtain positions using word processing systems, equipment, and current business software programs. Emphasizes developing workplace competencies in transcribing in medical offices.”

The purpose of this report is to integrate and analyze data from multiple sources to determine labor market needs for the Medical Transcription program at Chaffey College. The report describes the regional job outlook and compares it to the number of recent graduates at Chaffey and other regional institutions.

### Comparison Institutions

All comparison institutions included in this report are postsecondary and have provided data to the U.S. Department of Education’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). IPEDS defines postsecondary education as a formal program designed primarily for students beyond high school age. These include academic, vocational, and continuing professional education, and exclude avocational and adult basic education programs.

### Regional Definitions

- **Inland Empire** includes the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
- **Los Angeles County** includes the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metro Division
- **Orange County** includes the Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine Metro Division

### Key Terms and Concepts

- **Replacement Jobs**: Replacement jobs refer to the number of job openings due to workers leaving an occupation.
- **Annual Openings**: Annual openings are calculated by adding the number of new jobs to the number of replacement jobs, divided by the number of years in the projection period.
- **Projections**: Projections of employment are calculated by the Employment Development Department and are based on a mathematical formula that includes historical employment and economic indicators along with national, state, and local trends.
- **Occupation**: Jobs are grouped into occupations using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.
- **Industry**: Occupations are grouped into industries using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
- **Wages**: Hourly wages are reported in percentiles and averages. The 25th percentile is a useful proxy of entry-level wages and the 75th percentile of experienced-level wages.
Regional Job Outlook

Projected Job Outlook by Region

The table below displays 2006 employment estimates and 2016 projections for Medical Transcriptionists. The data show that Los Angeles County is expected to supply the greatest total number of jobs and annual job openings, followed by the Inland Empire and Orange County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State of California</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>8,300</td>
<td>800 (10.7%)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>90 (13.2%)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles CO</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>230 (11.1%)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange CO</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>80 (14.8%)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department, Occupation Profile, Medical Transcriptionists, on the Internet at: http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov (visited April 05, 2009).

Projected Job Growth by Region

The graph below displays the projected growth of Medical Transcription occupations from 2006 to 2016. As indicated, growth is expected to be largest in Orange County, followed by the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County.

Source: Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department, Occupation Profile, Medical Transcriptionists, on the Internet at: http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov (visited April 05, 2009).
Hourly Wages by Region

This table displays the 2009 hourly wage statistics of Medical Transcriptionists. Hourly wages are lowest in the Inland Empire. An employee in the occupation can expect to earn between $16 and $25/hr, depending on experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Mean Hourly Rate</th>
<th>25th Percentile</th>
<th>Median Hourly Rate</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State of California</td>
<td>$20.25</td>
<td>$17.18</td>
<td>$20.15</td>
<td>$23.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>$18.45</td>
<td>$15.91</td>
<td>$18.35</td>
<td>$20.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles CO</td>
<td>$20.53</td>
<td>$17.52</td>
<td>$21.11</td>
<td>$24.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange CO</td>
<td>$21.59</td>
<td>$18.51</td>
<td>$22.04</td>
<td>$24.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Largest and Fastest Growing Industry Employers

Largest Industry Employers of Medical Transcriptionists

The graph below displays the 2006 staffing patterns of the ten largest industries employing Medical Transcriptionists across the state of California. As indicated, General Medical and Surgical Hospitals employed the most individuals in this occupation, followed by Offices of Physicians and Business Support Services.

Change Over Time of the Largest Industry Employers of Medical Transcriptionists

The graph below displays the change patterns from 2006-2016 of the ten largest industries employing Medical Transcriptionists in the state of California. Business Support Services are expected to show the most growth, followed by Offices of Physicians and General Medical and Surgical Hospitals. The growth rates of the remaining seven industries are expected to remain stagnant.

Regional Graduation Summary

Education and Training

Medical Transcriptionists must have a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, however, employers prefer to hire individuals who have completed postsecondary training offered by a vocational school, community college, or distance-learning program. Training options include the following: postsecondary Medical Transcriptionist training program, one-year certificate program, or two-year associate degree program. In California, 58.9% of working Medical Transcriptionists between the ages of 25 and 44 years have attended some college, 30.6% have a high school degree or less, and 10.4% possess a bachelor’s degree or higher.¹ “Courses should include advanced English, grammar and punctuation, anatomy, physiology, disease processes, pharmacology, laboratory medicine, beginning and advanced medical language, health care records, medical legal issues, and computer software technology.”²

General duties of a Medical Transcriptionist include interpreting and transcribing recorded dictation by physicians and other health care professionals. Transcriptionists key text into a personal computer or word processor about patient assessment, therapeutic procedures, diagnosis, prognosis, and other medical processes. A successful Medical Transcriptionist will possess skills in active listening, reading comprehension, time management, writing, active learning, learning strategies, critical thinking, and monitoring.²

Regional Completers in Medical Transcription Programs

The table below displays the number of program completers in the 2007-08 school year at regional institutions offering a degree or certificate in Medical Transcription. Out of seven schools, Chaffey College and South Coast College are the only institutions with completers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>&lt; 1 year Certificate</th>
<th>1 to &lt; 2 year Certificate</th>
<th>Associate’s Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chaffey College</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale Community College</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladera Career Paths Training Centers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach City College</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Coast College</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside City College</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast College</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “--” indicates that this type of degree is not offered. “0” indicates that this degree is offered but no degrees or certificates were granted.


¹ U.S. Department of Labor – Occupational Information Network (O*NET)
² California Labor Market Information – Occupational Guides
Chaffey College’s Performance on Core Indicators

The Perkins IV Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 mandates that all state and local postsecondary institutions provide data on six core performance indicators for their career and technical education programs. These indicators are: 1) Technical Skill Attainment; 2) Completions; 3) Persistence and Transfer; 4) Employment; 5) Nontraditional Participation; and 6) Nontraditional Completion. Performance goals are set at the state and local levels and progress is monitored based on a comparison between the actual percentage of students who master each performance area and the negotiated levels of performance.

2007-2008 Chaffey College Performance on Core Indicators

The table below displays 2007-08 negotiated and actual core performance indicator levels for all Chaffey College students classified under the Medical Office Technology TOP code. As can be seen, Chaffey students achieved below district and state negotiated levels in all core areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Negotiated Level</th>
<th>Chaffey College Performance</th>
<th>Percent Above or Below District Negotiated Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 1 – Technical Skill Attainment</td>
<td>92.46%</td>
<td>92.46%</td>
<td>90.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 2 – Completions- Credential, Certificate, Degree, or Transfer Ready</td>
<td>66.13%</td>
<td>66.13%</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 3 – Persistence and Transfer</td>
<td>82.18%</td>
<td>82.18%</td>
<td>65.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 4 – Employment</td>
<td>79.86%</td>
<td>79.86%</td>
<td>64.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 5a – Non-traditional Participation</td>
<td>21.47%</td>
<td>17.76%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 5b – Non-traditional Completions</td>
<td>23.28%</td>
<td>17.72%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CA Community Colleges Reporting Services, Medical Office Technology, College Core Indicator Information by 6-Digit TOP (2009-2010).
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals employ the most Medical Transcriptionists in the state of California. Across all four counties of interest, there are 572 industry employers listed by the California Labor Market (340 in Los Angeles County, 126 in Orange County, 44 in Riverside County, and 62 in San Bernardino County). This map illustrates the location of each of these industries. Also included are the locations of Chaffey College and other competitor schools offering degrees or certificates in Medical Transcription.