

Labor Market Analysis: 0836.10/Recreation Assistant
Recreation and Leisure Studies - Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree
Recreations Specialist - Certificate requiring 6 to <18 semester units
 Los Angeles Center of Excellence, September 2023

Summary

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/>
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

The Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to three middle-skill occupations:

- **Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (33-9092)** Monitor recreational areas, such as pools, beaches, or ski slopes, to provide assistance and protection to participants.¹
- **Amusement and Recreation Attendants (39-3091)** Perform a variety of attending duties at amusement or recreation facility. May schedule use of recreation facilities, maintain and provide equipment to participants of sporting events or recreational pursuits, or operate amusement concessions and rides.²
- **Recreation Workers (39-9032)** Conduct recreation activities with groups in public, private, or volunteer agencies or recreation facilities. Organize and promote activities, such as arts and crafts, sports, games, music, dramatics, social recreation, camping, and hobbies, taking into account the needs and interests of individual members.³

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.⁴ Some of the occupations in this report require no formal educational credential; however, data on these occupations is included since more than one-third of current

¹ [Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers \(bls.gov\)](#)

² [Amusement and Recreation Attendants \(bls.gov\)](#)

³ [Recreation Workers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for these recreation occupations in the region. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, **12,104 jobs are projected to be available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the three-year average of 90 awards conferred** by educational institutions in the region.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – Within Los Angeles County, all three **recreation occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard hourly wage** (\$18.10/hour).⁵
- **Educational Criteria** – Within the greater LA/OC region, **68% of the annual job openings** for occupations related to recreation **typically require no formal educational credential**.
 - However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **between 35% and 36% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**

Supply:

- There are **2 community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region that issue awards related to recreation, conferring an average of **5 awards annually** between 2019 and 2022.
- Between 2019 and 2021, there was an average of **85 awards conferred annually** in related training programs by non-community college institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these recreation occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 14% through 2026. There will be more than 12,100 job openings per year through 2027 due to job growth and replacements.

⁵ Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties⁶

Geography	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	24,349	26,939	2,590	11%	6,469
Orange	18,372	21,640	3,268	18%	5,634
Total	42,720	48,579	5,859	14%	12,104

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these recreation occupations in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county’s self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the greater LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Los Angeles County

All three occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$15.31 and \$16.46. Experienced *amusement and recreation attendants* and *recreation workers* can expect to earn between \$17.95 and \$18.02, which is lower than the self-sufficiency standard. However, experienced *lifeguards, ski patrol, and other recreational protective service workers* can expect to earn \$19.49, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 2: Earnings for Occupations in LA County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (33-9092)	\$15.31	\$17.98	\$19.49	\$37,400
Amusement and Recreation Attendants (39-3091)	\$16.46	\$17.64	\$18.02	\$36,700
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	\$15.68	\$16.56	\$17.95	\$34,400

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

All three occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$14.06 and \$14.82. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$16.99 and \$17.42, which are lower than the self-sufficiency standard.

⁶ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

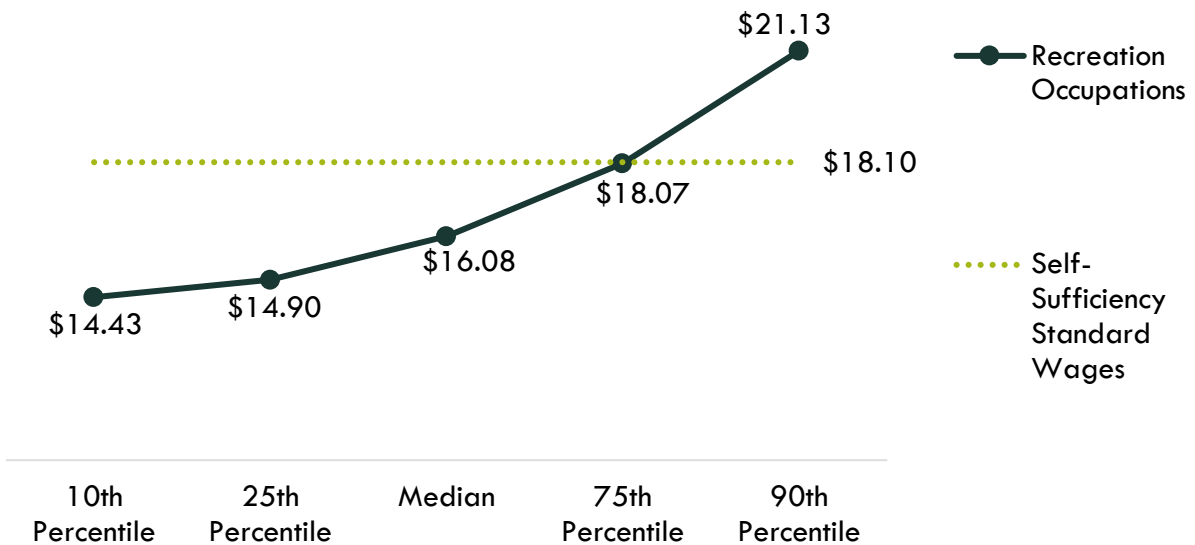
Exhibit 3: Earnings for Occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (33-9092)	\$14.46	\$16.07	\$17.42	\$33,400
Amusement and Recreation Attendants (39-3091)	\$14.06	\$14.30	\$14.60	\$29,800
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	\$14.82	\$15.65	\$16.99	\$32,600

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

On average, the entry-level earnings for the occupations in this report are \$14.90; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 4 shows the average wage for the occupations in this report, from entry-level to experienced workers.

Exhibit 4: Average Hourly Earnings for Recreation Occupations in LA/OC



Job Postings

There were 5,316 online job postings related to these recreation occupations listed in the past 12 months. Exhibit 5 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (54%) were for *recreation workers*, followed by *amusement and recreation attendants* (31%) and *lifeguards, ski patrol, and other recreational protective service workers* (15%). The highest number of job postings were for activities assistants, lifeguards, recreation leaders, activities directors, and summer camp counselors. The top skills were lifeguarding, swimming pool maintenance, working with children, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and safety standards. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were American Golf Corporation, YMCA, and Great Wolf Resorts.

Exhibit 5: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months)



Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

- **High school diploma or equivalent:** *Lifeguards, ski patrol, and other recreational protective service workers*
- **No formal educational credential:** *Amusement and recreation attendants; recreation workers*

In the greater LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (68%) typically require no formal educational credential. However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates between 35% and 36% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 47% of recreation job postings listing a minimum education requirement in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 79% (1,979) requested high school or vocational training, 5% (119) requested an associate degree, and 16% (407) requested a bachelor's degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply

Exhibit 6 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Parks and Outdoor Recreation (0115.10) and Recreation Assistant (0836.10). The only colleges with completions in the region are Mt. San Antonio and Cypress.

Exhibit 6: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2019-2022

TOP	Program	College	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average
0115.10	Parks and Outdoor Recreation	Mt San Antonio	3	5	6	5
		LA Subtotal	3	5	6	5
		Supply Subtotal/Average	3	5	6	5
0836.10	Recreation Assistant	Cypress	-	1	-	0
		OC Subtotal	-	1	-	0
		Supply Subtotal/Average	-	1	-	0
Supply Total/Average			3	6	6	5

Non-Community College Supply

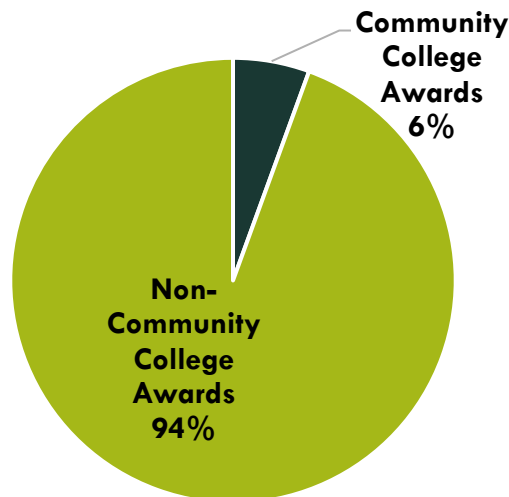
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for recreation occupations. Exhibit 7 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2019 to 2021. Between 2019 and 2021, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 85 bachelor’s degrees. While bachelor’s degrees are typically not required for the recreation occupations in this report, these programs are included in the supply data since they also train students for recreation occupations.

Exhibit 7: Regional non-community college awards, 2019-2021

CIP	Program	Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2-Year Average
31.0101	Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Studies	CSU-Dominguez Hills	-	-	-
		CSU-Long Beach	87	81	84
		CSU-Northridge	-	1	1
Supply Total/Average			87	82	85

Exhibit 8 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in LA/OC compared to the number of non-community college awards for the programs in this report. Nearly all awards conferred in these programs are awarded by non-community colleges in the LA/OC region.

Exhibit 8: Community College Awards Compared to Non-Community College Awards in LA/OC Region, 3-Year Average



Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 9. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (33-9092)	2,934	3,330	397	14%	895	\$15.31	\$17.98	\$19.49
Amusement and Recreation Attendants (39-3091)	9,100	10,186	1,086	12%	2,768	\$16.46	\$17.64	\$18.02
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	12,315	13,423	1,107	9%	2,806	\$15.68	\$16.56	\$17.95
Total	24,349	26,939	2,590	11%	6,469	-	-	-

Exhibit 10. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (33-9092)	1,644	2,018	375	23%	552	\$14.46	\$16.07	\$17.42
Amusement and Recreation Attendants (39-3091)	12,209	14,492	2,282	19%	3,991	\$14.06	\$14.30	\$14.60
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	4,519	5,130	611	14%	1,091	\$14.82	\$15.65	\$16.99
Total	18,372	21,640	3,268	18%	5,634	-	-	-

Exhibit 11. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Age 55 and older*	Typical Entry-Level Education
Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers (33-9092)	4,578	5,349	771	17%	1,447	11%	No formal ed. credential
Amusement and Recreation Attendants (39-3091)	21,309	24,678	3,369	16%	6,760	27%	No formal ed. credential
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	16,834	18,553	1,719	10%	3,898	22%	HS diploma or equivalent
Total	42,720	48,579	5,859	14%	12,104	-	-

*The average percentage of workers age 55 and older across all occupations in the greater LA/OC region is 27%. Lifeguards, skill patrol, and other recreational protective service workers have a smaller share of older workers, which typically indicates fewer replacements needs to offset the amount of impending retirements.

Appendix B: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Lightcast (formerly Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women’s Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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