

Labor Market Analysis: 1005.00/Commercial Music

Commercial Music Performance

(Associate of Science (A.S.) degree; Certificate requiring 30 to <60 semester units)

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, February 2023

Summary

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input 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, 25th)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input 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 two middle-skill occupations:

- **Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)** Set up, maintain, and dismantle audio and video equipment, such as microphones, sound speakers, connecting wires and cables, sound and mixing boards, video cameras, video monitors and servers, and related electronic equipment for live or recorded events, such as concerts, meetings, conventions, presentations, podcasts, news conferences, and sporting events.¹
- **Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)** Assemble and operate equipment to record, synchronize, mix, edit, or reproduce sound, including music, voices, or sound effects, for theater, video, film, television, podcasts, sporting events, and other productions.²

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.³ 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 middle-skill commercial music occupations in the region. Furthermore, entry-level wages exceed the self-sufficiency

¹ [Audio and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

² [Sound Engineering Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

³ 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.

standard wage in Los Angeles County, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary non-degree award as the typical entry-level education. **Therefore, due to all the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, **1,688 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 887 awards conferred** by educational institutions in the region.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – Within Los Angeles County, both occupations have **entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard hourly wage** (\$18.10/hour).⁴
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a **postsecondary non-degree award** as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report.
 - Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **38% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**

Supply:

- There are **16 community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region that issue awards related to commercial music, conferring an average of **281 awards annually** between 2018 and 2021.
- Between 2017 and 2020, there was an average of **606 sub-baccalaureate 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 middle-skill commercial music occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 20% through 2026. There will be nearly 1,700 job openings per year through 2026 due to job growth and replacements.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties⁵

Geography	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	2021-2026 Change	2021-2026 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	10,786	12,894	2,107	20%	1,568
Orange	827	993	166	20%	120
Total	11,614	13,887	2,273	20%	1,688

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these middle-skill commercial music occupations in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county’s self-

⁴ Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

⁵ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the greater LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Los Angeles County—Both occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$21.31 and \$26.86, while experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$40.93 and \$45.27.

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in LA County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	\$21.31	\$28.48	\$40.93
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	\$26.86	\$30.85	\$45.27

Orange County—The majority (77%) of annual openings for these middle-skill commercial music occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). *Sound engineering technicians* (\$25.92) have entry-level hourly wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage, while *audio and video technicians* (\$20.47) have entry-level wages barely below the county’s self-sufficiency standard. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$35.76 and \$37.13, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	\$20.47	\$26.79	\$37.13
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	\$25.92	\$27.65	\$35.76

On average, the entry-level earnings for the occupations in this report are \$23.95; this is above 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 Middle-Skill Commercial Music Occupations in LA/OC



Job Postings

There were 1,787 online job postings related to commercial music listed in the past 12 months. Exhibit 5 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (66%) were for *audio and video technicians*, followed by *sound engineering technicians* (34%). The highest number of job postings were for audiovisual technicians, audio engineers, audio video managers, theater technicians, and broadcast technicians. The top skills were audiovisual equipment, operations management, electronic components, workflow management, and Creston (A/V system). The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were Encore Global, Best Buy, and Disney.

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



Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary non-degree award as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report. Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates 38% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 45% of middle-skill commercial music job postings listing a minimum education requirement in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 61% (495) requested high school or vocational training, 12% (94) requested an associate degree, and 27% (221) 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 code: Commercial Music (1005.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are LA City, Citrus, and Saddleback.

Exhibit 6: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2018-2021

TOP	Program	College	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	3-Year Average		
1005.00	Commercial Music	Cerritos	3	5	8	5		
		Citrus	58	51	51	53		
		Compton	-	-	1	0		
		East LA	-	-	2	1		
		Glendale	-	-	2	1		
		LA City	313	129	12	151		
		LA Harbor	6	4	-	3		
		LA Valley	7	10	6	8		
		Long Beach	-	-	1	0		
		Pasadena	-	-	2	1		
		LA Subtotal	387	199	85	224		
		Cypress	9	17	10	12		
		Fullerton	5	10	8	8		
		Irvine	1	1	-	1		
		Orange Coast	7	8	1	5		
		Saddleback	7	9	61	26		
		Santa Ana	7	4	7	6		
		OC Subtotal	36	49	87	57		
		Supply Total/Average			423	248	172	281

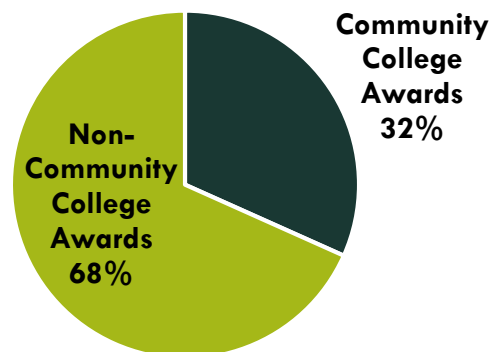
Non-Community College Supply—For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for middle-skill commercial music occupations. Exhibit 7 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2017 to 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 606 sub-baccalaureate awards.⁶

Exhibit 7: Regional non-community college awards, 2017-2020

CIP	Program	Institution	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
10.0203	Recording Arts Technology/ Technician	Los Angeles Film School	139	54	-	64
		Musicians Institute	113	115	73	100
50.0913	Music Technology	Los Angeles College of Music	10	3	8	7
		Los Angeles Film School	329	416	474	406
50.1003	Music Management	Los Angeles College of Music	-	2	5	2
		Musicians Institute	25	30	21	25
Supply Total/Average			616	620	581	606

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. Two thirds of 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



⁶ Sub-baccalaureate awards are comparable to community college awards and include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and awards <1 academic year.

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 9. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 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)
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	6,279	7,684	1,406	22%	961	\$21.31	\$28.48	\$40.93
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	4,507	5,209	702	16%	607	\$26.86	\$30.85	\$45.27
Total	10,786	12,894	2,107	20%	1,568	-	-	-

Exhibit 10. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 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)
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	607	745	138	23%	92	\$20.47	\$26.79	\$37.13
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	220	248	28	13%	28	\$25.92	\$27.65	\$35.76
Total	827	993	166	20%	120	-	-	-

Exhibit 11. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	6,886	8,430	1,544	22%	1,053	Postsecondary non-degree award
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	4,728	5,457	729	15%	635	Postsecondary non-degree award
Total	11,614	13,887	2,273	20%	1,688	-

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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