

Program Endorsement Brief: 1302.00/Interior Design and Merchandising

Interior Design Digital Production

Orange County Center of Excellence, January 2021

Summary Analysis

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, 25th)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Education:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

The Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide Los Angeles/Orange County regional labor market supply and demand data related to one above middle-skill occupation: *interior designers* (27-1025). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree.¹ Although this occupation is considered above middle-skill because it typically requires a bachelor’s degree and less than one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education, it is included because there are pathways to that occupation for students who obtain a degree or certificate from a community college. 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 *interior designers* in the region. Furthermore, entry-level wages exceed the living wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties. However, this occupation typically requires a bachelor’s degree and less than one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **616 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 323 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.

¹ 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.

- **Living Wage Criteria** – Within Orange County, **typical entry-level hourly wages** for interior designers are **\$22.29, which is higher than the** living wage for one adult in the region (\$20.63 in Orange County).²
- **Educational Criteria** –The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists **bachelor’s degree as the typical entry-level education** for interior designers.
 - Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **26.6% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree** as their highest level of education.
 - Additionally, of the 56% of interior designer job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, **73.9% (470) requested a bachelor’s degree and 9% (57) requested an associate degree, and 15.3% (97) requested high school or vocational training.**

Supply:

- There are **six community colleges** in the LA/OC region that issue awards related to interior designers, conferring an average of **178 awards annually** between 2017 and 2020.
- Between 2016 and 2019, there was an average of **145 awards conferred annually** in related training programs by non-community college institutions, all of which were generated by **3 individual non-community college institutions throughout** the region.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for interior designers. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 2% through 2025. There will be more than 600 job openings per year through 2025 due to job growth and replacements.

This report includes employment projection data by Emsi which uses EDD information. Emsi’s projections are modeled on recorded (historical) employment figures and incorporate several underlying assumptions, including the assumption that the economy, during the projection period, will be at approximately full employment. To the extent that a recession or labor shock, such as the economic effects of COVID-19, can cause long-term structural change, it may impact the projections. At this time, it is not possible to quantify the impact of COVID-19 on projections of industry and occupational employment. Therefore, the projections included in this report do not take the impacts of COVID-19 into account.

² Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 9/20/2021. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties³

Geography	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change	Annual Openings
Orange	1,781	1,899	118	7%	165
Los Angeles	4,653	4,655	2	0%	427
Total	6,434	6,554	120	2%	616

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *interior designers* in Orange County as they relate to the county’s living wage. Los Angeles County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Orange County: The typical entry-level hourly wages for *interior designers* are \$22.29, which is above the living wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$39.77, which is higher than the living wage estimate. Orange County’s average wages are below the average statewide wage of \$35.16 for this occupation.

Los Angeles County: The typical entry-level hourly wages for *interior designers* are \$21.46, which is above the living wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$40.00, which is higher than the living wage estimate. Los Angeles County’s average wages are below the average statewide wage of \$35.16 for this occupation.

Job Postings

There were 1,134 online job postings related to *interior designers* listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for interior designers, designers- kitchen/bath, design consultants, interior design consultants, and junior interior designers. The top skills were: interior design, AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp, and customer service. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: The Home Depot Incorporated, Restoration Hardware, and Floor and Decor.

In order to better understand the opportunities available for students who have completed an associate degree or certificate at a community college, an online job posting analysis was performed for *interior designer* job postings where the minimum required education was less than a bachelor’s degree. There were 154 of these online job postings listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for interior design assistants, design consultants, interior designers, and kitchen designers. The top skills were: interior design, sales, customer service, retail industry knowledge, and Adobe Photoshop. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: The Home Depot, Dunn Edwards, and Polaris Home Design.

It is important to note that the job postings data included in this section reflects online job postings listed in the past 12 months and does not yet demonstrate the impact of COVID-19. While employers

³ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

have generally posted fewer online job postings since the beginning of the pandemic, the long-term effects are currently unknown.

Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor’s degree as the typical entry-level education for *interior designers*. Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates 26.6% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Of the 56% of *interior designer* job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 73.9% (470) requested a bachelor’s degree and 9% (57) requested an associate degree, and 15.3% (97) requested high school or vocational training.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply—Exhibit 2 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Interior Design and Merchandising (1302.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are: Saddleback and Orange Coast. Over the past 12 months, there was one other related program recommendation request from regional community colleges.

Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2017-2020

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	2019-2020 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising	Fullerton	34	12	23	23
		Orange Coast	34	43	46	41
		Saddleback	32	58	59	50
		OC Subtotal	100	113	128	114
		LA Mission	7	5	16	9
		Mt San Antonio	19	36	32	29
		Santa Monica	30	15	32	26
		LA Subtotal	56	56	80	64
Supply Subtotal/Average			156	169	208	178
Supply Total/Average			156	169	208	178

Non-Community College Supply—For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is also important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for *interior designers*. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: Interior Design (50.0408). Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2016 to 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 145 awards annually in related training programs.

Exhibit 3: Regional non-community college awards, 2016-2019

CIP Code	Program	College	2016-2017 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	3-Year Award Average
50.0408	Interior Design	California State University-Long Beach	33	32	32	32
		FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	53	51	46	50
		Interior Designers Institute	55	56	77	63
Supply Total/Average			141	139	155	145

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 4. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 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)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	1,781	1,899	118	7%	165	\$22.29	\$29.57	\$39.77

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 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)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	4,653	4,655	2	0%	427	\$21.46	\$29.22	\$40.00

Exhibit 6. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings
Interior Designers (27-1025)	6,434	6,554	120	2%	616

Appendix B: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- California Family Needs Calculator, Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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