

**Program Endorsement Brief: 2140.00/Legal and Community Interpretation
Spanish/English Interpretation and Translation – AA
Spanish/English Interpretation and Translation – Certificate of Achievement
Vietnamese/English Interpretation and Translation – Certificate of Achievement
Vietnamese/English Interpretation and Translation – AA**
Orange County Center of Excellence, September 2020

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"/>		
Meets Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Educational Attainment:	HS Diploma or Less	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some College/ Cert./AA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor's Degree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					Graduate Degree	<input 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 middle-skill occupation: Interpreters and Translators (27-3091). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.¹ 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 occupation.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for interpreters and translators in the region. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education for this occupation. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Reasons include:

Demand:

- Over the next five years, there is projected to be **557 jobs available annually** in the LA/OC region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 2 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a ***bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education*** interpreters and translators.

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.

- However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **32.6% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**
- In Orange County, **typical entry-level hourly wages** for interpreters and translators are \$18.53, which **are higher than the California Family Needs Calculator** hourly wage (living wage) for one adult (\$17.36).²

Supply:

- **One community college** in the region issues awards related to legal and community interpretation, conferring an average of **1 award annually** between 2016 and 2019.
- Between 2014 and 2017, there was an average of **1 award conferred annually** in a related training program by **1 non-community college institution** in the region.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for interpreters and translators. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 5% through 2024. There will be more than 550 job openings per year through 2024 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.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties³

Geography	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	2019-2024 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	3,785	4,004	219	6%	433
Orange	1,136	1,181	45	4%	125
Total	4,920	5,185	265	5%	557

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for interpreters and translators 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.

² Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 9/14/20. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

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.

Orange County—All of the annual openings for interpreters and translators have entry-level wages above the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage (living wage) for one adult (\$17.36 in Orange County).⁴ Typical entry-level hourly wages are \$18.53. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages \$34.66, which is higher than the living wage estimate. Orange County’s average wages are similar to the average statewide wage of \$32.58 for this occupation.

Los Angeles County—All of the annual openings for interpreters and translators have entry-level wages above the living wage for one adult (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are \$19.22. Experienced workers can expect to earn \$35.54, which is higher than the living wage estimate. Los Angeles County’s average wages are slightly higher than the average statewide wage of \$32.58 for this occupation.

Job Postings

There were 1,124 online job postings related to interpreters and translators listed in the past 12 months. The job titles with the most postings were sign language interpreters, interpreters, Spanish interpreters, translator/interpreters, and translators. The top skills were: teaching, customer contact, language assessment, manual dexterity, and scheduling. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: Language Line, ATA Translation Agency, and Mission Essential. The top five languages mentioned in job postings were: American Sign Language (281 job postings), Spanish (197), Chinese (102), Korean (50), and Japanese (44). Vietnamese was mentioned in 22 job postings.

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 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 interpreters and translators. However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates 32.6% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 36% of interpreter and/or translator job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 93.5% (375) requested a high school diploma and 6.5% (26) requested an associate degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply—Exhibit 2 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Legal and Community Interpretation (2140.00)). The only college in the region with a completion in the last three years was Santa Ana. Over the past 12 months, there were no other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

⁴ Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 9/14/2020. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2016-2019

TOP Code	Program	College	2016-2017 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	3-Year Award Average
2140.00	Legal and Community Interpretation	Santa Ana	-	1	1	1
		OC Subtotal	-	1	1	1
Supply Total/Average			-	1	1	1

Non-Community College Supply—Since this occupation typically requires a bachelor’s degree, it is important to consider the supply from four-year institutions in the region that provide training programs for interpretation and translation occupations. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by one institution in the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: Language Interpretation and Translation (16.0103). Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2014 to 2017. Between 2014 and 2017, other educational institutions in the region conferred an average of one award annually in a related training program.

Exhibit 3: Regional non-community college awards, 2014-2017

CIP Code	Program	College	2014-2015 Awards	2015-2016 Awards	2016-2017 Awards	3-Year Award Average
16.0103	Language Interpretation and Translation	Biola University	-	1	1	1
Supply Total/Average			-	1	1	1

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 5. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)
Interpreters and Translators (27-3091)	1,136	1,181	45	4%	125	\$18.53	\$26.02	\$34.66

Exhibit 6. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 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)
Interpreters and Translators (27-3091)	3,785	4,004	219	6%	433	\$19.22	\$27.03	\$35.54

Exhibit 7. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings
Interpreters and Translators (27-3091)	4,920	5,185	265	5%	557

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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