

Program Endorsement Brief: 1201.00 Health Occupations, General Senior Exercise Leader, Land and Aquatics Programming

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, November 2018

Summary:

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to senior exercise leaders. 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 relevant occupations.

The following summarizes key findings from this data brief:

- The number of jobs for recreation workers is projected to increase by 9% over the next five years. More than 3,600 job openings will be available annually due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g. retirements). **NOTE: Exhibit 1 contains the demand for recreation workers across ALL industries.**
- Over the past 12 months, there were 46 online job postings for exercise leaders at senior facilities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.
- Fifteen colleges in the region have fitness programs. Between 2014 and 2017, community colleges in the region conferred an average of 326 awards (associate degrees and certificates).

Occupational Demand—In Los Angeles/Orange County the number of jobs for recreation workers is projected to increase by 9%. There will be more than 3,600 job openings per year through 2022 (Exhibit 1).

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties¹

Geography	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017-2022 Change	2017-2022 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	15,803	17,100	1,297	8%	2,968
Orange	3,520	3,887	367	10%	683
Total	19,323	20,987	1,664	9%	3,651

¹ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Wages—Entry-level and median hourly wages for recreation workers in the region are \$10.50 and \$13.16, respectively. Entry-level wages are lower than the MIT Living hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$13.54 in Los Angeles County, \$15.31 in Orange County). Experienced workers earn \$19.23, which is higher than the living wage.

Job Postings—There were 46 online job postings for exercise leaders at senior facilities listed in the past 12 months. The job postings listed include activities assistant, activity leader, and activities coordinator. Top specialized skills are: assisted living, cognitive disabilities, and cognitive impairment. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region are: Belmont Village Senior Living, Oakmont Senior Living, and Kisco Senior Living.

NOTE: Assisted living facilities often hire trainers or fitness instructors who act as independent contractors to teach weekly classes.

Educational Attainment—The BLS lists high school or vocational training as the typical entry-level education for this recreation workers. The national-level educational attainment data indicates 34% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. In Los Angeles/Orange County, 49% of job postings that specified an education level requested a minimum education level of an associate degree.

Community College Supply—Appendix A shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Fitness Trainer (0835.20), Health Occupations, General (1201.00), and Gerontology (1309.00). Saddleback has the most completions in the region. Between January and September 2018, there were no other community college requests for data related to a similar program.

Appendix A: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2014-2017

TOP Code	Program	College	2014-15 Awards	2015-16 Awards	2016-2017 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0835.20	Fitness Trainer	Cerritos	4	3	1	3
		Fullerton	2	8	2	4
		Irvine	5	7	3	5
		Orange Coast	13	7	8	9
		Rio Hondo	8	5	9	7
		Saddleback	2	N/A	N/A	2
		Santa Ana	2	2	4	3
Subtotal/Average			36	32	27	32
1201.00	Health Occupations, General	East LA	N/A	74	189	132
		LA Mission	N/A	N/A	59	59
		LA Trade	N/A	N/A	8	8
		Orange Coast	18	16	8	14
		Pasadena	18	19	24	20
		Saddleback	87	90	126	101
		West LA	8	9	27	15

		Subtotal/Average	131	208	441	260
1309.00	Gerontology	Coastline	15	12	13	13
		Cypress	3	2	7	4
		East LA	1	1	24	9
		Saddleback	13	8	4	8
		Subtotal/Average	32	23	48	34
		Total/Average	199	263	516	326

Appendix B: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 3. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	15,803	17,100	1,297	8%	2,968	\$10.50	\$13.36	\$19.13

Exhibit 4. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	3,520	3,887	367	10%	683	\$10.50	\$12.37	\$19.58

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Recreation Workers (39-9032)	19,323	20,987	1,664	9%	3,651	\$10.50	\$13.16	\$19.23

Appendix C: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (EMSI)
- Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- Employment Development Department, Unemployment Insurance Dataset
- Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- MIT Living Wage

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