

Labor Market Analysis: 1302.00 – Interior Design and Merchandising
Interior Design (Associate Degree and Certificate)
Los Angeles Center of Excellence, October 2022

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:

- **Interior Designers (27-1025):** Plan, design, and furnish the internal space of rooms or buildings. Design interior environments or create physical layouts that are practical, aesthetic, and conducive to the intended purposes. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design.¹
- **Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027):** Design special exhibits and sets for film, video, television, and theater productions. May study scripts, confer with directors, and conduct research to determine appropriate architectural styles.²

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.³ Although the occupations in this report typically require a bachelor's degree, they are considered middle-skill because at least one-third of workers in the field have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less. 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.

¹ [Interior Designers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/interior-designers)

² [Set and Exhibit Designers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/set-and-exhibit-designers)

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.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap in the region for the two occupations of interest. In addition to the majority of annual openings having entry-level wages that exceed 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, no degree/associate degree or less. **Therefore, due to all of the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, **922 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 330 awards conferred** by educational institutions in the region.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – In Los Angeles County, the majority (70%) of annual job openings for the two occupations of interest have entry-level wages **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage (\$18.10/hour).⁴
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor’s degree as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report.
 - National-level educational attainment data indicates that **between 34% and 39% of workers in the field have completed some college, no degree/ associate degree or less.**

Supply:

- Between 2018 and 2021, **six (6) community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region issued awards in interior design and merchandising, conferring an average of **186 awards.**
- Between 2017 and 2020, non-community college institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region conferred an average of **144 awards in relevant programs.**

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

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the two occupations of interest. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 7% through 2026. There will be more than 900 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	6,458	6,787	329	5%	665
Orange	2,120	2,383	263	12%	257
Total	8,578	9,170	592	7%	922

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for the two occupations of interest in Los Angeles County, as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange 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.

Los Angeles County – The majority (70%) of annual openings for the occupations of interest 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 \$14.88 and \$20.10. One occupation has entry-level wages above the county's self-sufficiency standard wage: *interior designers* (\$20.10). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$36.99 and \$42.44, which are above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	\$20.10	\$29.21	\$42.44
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	\$14.88	\$25.01	\$36.99

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.

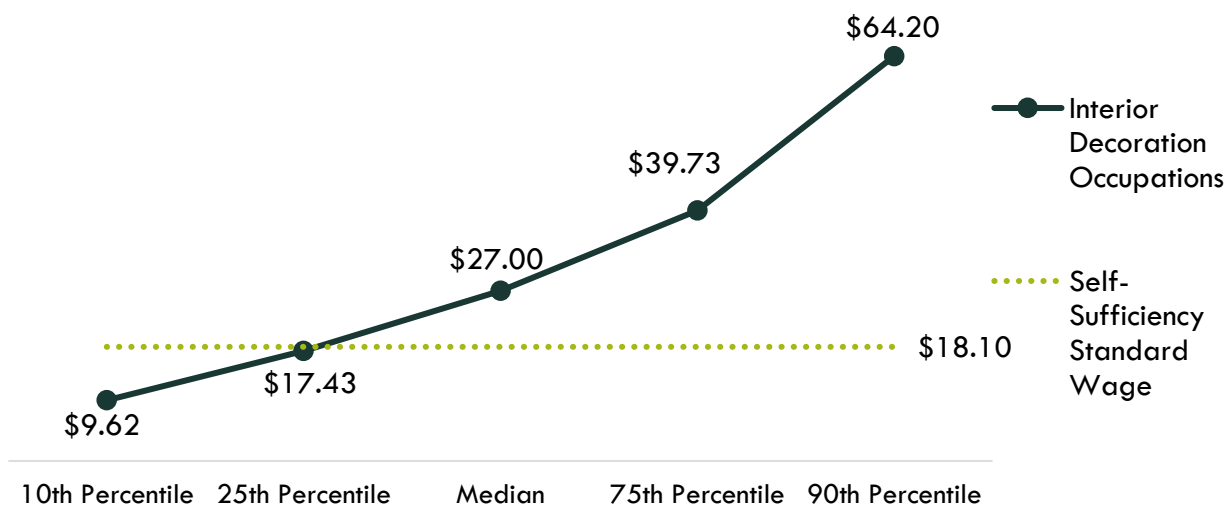
Orange County – The majority (87%) of annual openings for the occupations of interest have entry-level wages **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$11.64 and \$21.18. One occupation has entry-level wages above the county’s self-sufficiency standard wage: *interior designers* (\$21.18). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$40.87 and \$41.03, which are above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

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)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	\$21.18	\$29.41	\$41.03
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	\$11.64	\$22.17	\$40.87

On average, the entry-level earnings for the occupations in this report are \$17.43; this is below the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 4 shows the average wages for the occupations in this report, from entry-level to experienced workers.

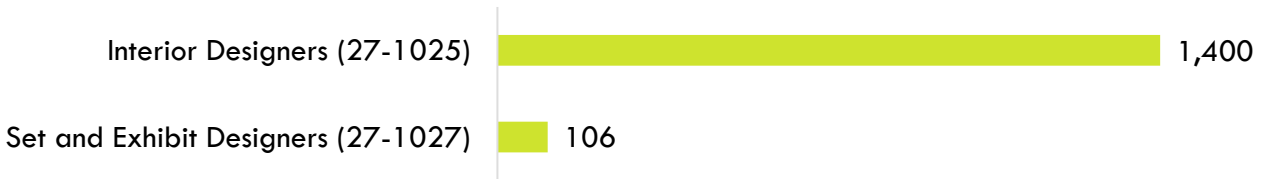
Exhibit 4: Average Hourly Earnings for Occupations in LA/OC



Job Postings

Over the past 12 months, there have been 1,506 online job postings in the LA/OC region for the two occupations of interest. Exhibit 5 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (93%) were for *interior designers*. The highest number of job postings were for interior designers, kitchen/bath designers, interior design assistants, design consultants, and junior interior designers. The top skills were interior design, AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp, and Adobe InDesign. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were The Home Depot, Gensler, and Floor and Décor.

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



Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report. However, national-level educational attainment data indicates that between 34% and 39% of workers in the field have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply – Exhibit 6 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Interior Design and Merchandising (TOP 1302.00). The community colleges with the most completions in the region are Saddleback, Orange Coast, and Mt. San Antonio.

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
1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising	LA Mission	5	16	9	10
		Mt. San Antonio	36	32	36	35
		Santa Monica	15	32	31	26
		LA Subtotal	56	80	76	71
		Fullerton	12	23	16	17
		Orange Coast	43	46	41	43
		Saddleback	58	59	47	55
		OC Subtotal	113	128	104	115
Supply Total/Average			169	208	180	186

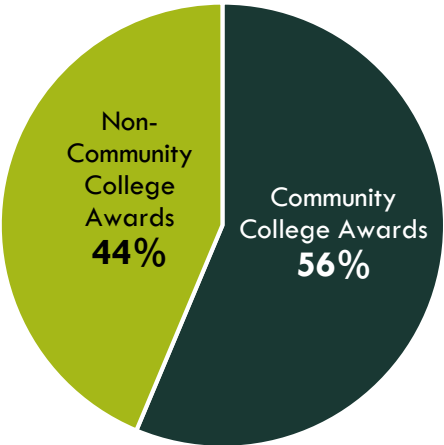
Non-Community College Supply – For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that may provide training programs for interior design. Exhibit 7 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions 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 144 awards.

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

CIP	Program	Institution	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
50.0408	Interior Design	CSU-Long Beach	32	32	30	31
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-LA	51	46	44	47
		Interior Designers Institute	56	77	64	66
Supply Total/Average			139	155	138	144

Exhibit 8 shows the relationship between the proportion of community college awards conferred in LA/OC versus the number of non-community college awards for the programs in this report. More than half of the awards conferred in the region were awarded by community colleges.

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)	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)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	4,481	4,729	248	6%	464	\$20.10	\$29.21	\$42.44
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	1,977	2,058	81	4%	201	\$14.88	\$25.01	\$36.99
Total	6,458	6,787	329	5%	665	-	-	-

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)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	1,747	2,021	274	16%	224	\$21.18	\$29.41	\$41.03
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	373	362	(11)	(3%)	33	\$11.64	\$22.17	\$40.87
Total	2,120	2,383	263	12%	257	-	-	-

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
Interior Designers (27-1025)	6,228	6,750	522	8%	687	Bachelor's degree
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	2,350	2,420	70	3%	235	Bachelor's degree
Total	8,578	9,170	592	7%	922	-

Appendix B: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)
- 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)

For more information, please contact:

Luke Meyer, Director
Los Angeles Center of Excellence
Lmeyer7@mtsac.edu

