

**Program Endorsement Brief: 1302.00/Interior Design and Merchandising**  
**Sustainable Interior Design**  
**Digital Interior Design**

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, October 2020

---

**Summary Analysis**

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program Endorsement Criteria						
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Education:</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Emerging Occupation(s)						
Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	

The Los Angeles/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 two above middle-skill occupations: *Interior Designers* (27-1025) and *Set and Exhibit Designers* (27-1027). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree.<sup>1</sup> Although these occupations typically require a bachelor’s degree, they were included in this report because approximately one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. 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 design occupations in the LA/OC region. **Due to some criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

**Demand:**

- **Supply Gap Criteria** - Over the next five years, there are projected to be **1,188 jobs available annually** in the LA/OC region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 277 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 Los Angeles County, **all of the annual job openings** for these interior design occupations have **entry-level wages above the county’s living wage** (\$15.04/hour).<sup>2</sup>
- **Education Criteria** - Within the LA/OC region, **all of the annual job openings** for occupations related to interior design **typically require a bachelor’s degree**.
  - However, national-level educational attainment data indicates **that 28.3% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree**.

**Supply:**

- There are **6 community colleges** in the LA/OC region that have conferred awards related to interior design – an average of **137 awards annually** between 2016 and 2019.
- Between 2014 and 2017, there was an average of **140 awards conferred annually** in related training programs by non-community college institutions throughout the LA/OC region.

**Occupational Demand**

Exhibit 1 displays the five-year occupational demand projections for interior design occupations. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 4% through 2024. There will be nearly 1,200 job openings per year through 2024 due to job growth and replacements in the LA/OC region.

*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 Counties<sup>3</sup>**

Geography	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	2019-2024 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	8,506	8,824	318	4%	940
Orange	2,271	2,357	86	4%	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,777</b>	<b>11,180</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1,188</b>

<sup>2</sup> Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 9/28/2020. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

<sup>3</sup> 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**—The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these interior design occupations in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county’s living 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**—All of the annual openings for these occupations have entry-level wages above the living wage for one adult (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County).<sup>4</sup> Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$16.54 and \$20.95. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$39.82 and \$42.32, which are higher than the living wage estimate.

**Orange County**— The majority, 71%, of annual openings for these occupations have entry-level wages above the living wage for one adult (\$17.36 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$13.67 and \$22.02. Experienced workers can expect to earn hourly wages between \$37.73 and \$42.80, which are higher than the living wage in Orange County.

**Job Postings**—This job posting search aims to determine the regional demand for interior designers with sustainability knowledge and skills. This job posting search includes the emerging occupation, Sustainability Specialist (13-1199.05), in addition to the other interior design occupations found in this report. Over the last twelve months, there were 950 total job advertisements for these three interior design occupations. Of these 950 advertisements, 20% (190 job ads) mentioned a desire for interior designers with sustainability-related skills. The following job posting information reflects sustainability-specific interior design job postings. The job titles with the most postings were design consultant, interior designer, kitchen designer, interior design assistant, and sustainability analyst. The top skills were: interior design, Adobe Photoshop, sales management, Revit, and budgeting. The top employers, by the number of job postings, in the region were: 3 Day Blinds, RH Interior Design, AECOM, LPA Design Studios, HGA Architects and Engineers.

*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 interior design occupations. The national-level educational attainment data indicates that 28.3% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 56% of interior design job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 9% (10) requested a high school diploma, 8% (8) requested an associate degree, and 83% (88) requested a bachelor’s degree.

---

<sup>4</sup> Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 9/28/2020. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply**—Exhibit 2 displays the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by LA/OC regional community colleges in the related TOP code: Interior Design and Merchandising (1302.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are: Orange Coast, Saddleback, and Mt. San Antonio. Over the past 12 months, there were no other related program recommendation requests from LA/OC regional community colleges.

**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
1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising	LA Mission	3	7	5	5
		Mt. San Antonio	16	19	36	24
		Santa Monica	15	30	15	20
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>
		Fullerton	15	34	12	20
		Orange Coast	32	34	43	36
		Saddleback	6	32	58	32
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>87</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>137</b>

Exhibit 3 displays strong workforce program outcome metrics for the interior design and merchandising programs in the LA/OC region and California.

**Exhibit 3: Strong workforce program metrics for interior design and merchandising programs**

Strong Workforce Program Metrics (2017-18, unless noted otherwise)	Los Angeles/Orange County	California
Unduplicated count of enrolled students (2018-19)	111	4,064
Median annual earnings	\$28,328	\$30,000
Median change in earnings	5%	34%
Students who attained the living wage	55%	43%
Job closely related to field of study (2016-17)	-	665

**Non-Community College Supply**—Since these occupations typically require a bachelor’s degree, it is important to consider the supply from non-community college institutions in the region that provide training programs related to interior design. Exhibit 4 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in the related Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code: Interior Design (50.0408). Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2014 to 2017. Between 2014 and 2017, non-community colleges in the region conferred an average of 140 awards annually in related training programs.

**Exhibit 4: Regional non-community college awards, 2014-2017**

CIP Code	Program	College	2014-2015 Awards	2015-2016 Awards	2016-2017 Awards	3-Year Award Average
50.0408	Interior Design	California State University-Long Beach	23	36	33	31
		FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	51	50	53	51
		Interior Designers Institute	59	60	55	58
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>133</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>140</b>

**Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county**

**Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County**

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	4,549	4,784	235	5%	513	\$20.95	\$29.06	\$42.32
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	3,957	4,040	83	2%	426	\$16.54	\$24.70	\$39.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>8,824</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>940</b>			

**Exhibit 6. Orange County**

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	1,609	1,662	53	3%	174	\$22.02	\$29.74	\$42.80
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	662	695	33	5%	74	\$13.67	\$21.76	\$37.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>249</b>			

**Exhibit 7. Los Angeles and Orange counties**

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2019 Jobs</b>	<b>2024 Jobs</b>	<b>5-Yr Change</b>	<b>5-Yr % Change</b>	<b>Annual Openings</b>	<b>Typical Entry-Level Education</b>	<b>On-The-Job Training &amp; Work Experience</b>
Interior Designers (27-1025)	6,158	6,446	288	5%	688	Bachelor's degree	None & None
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	4,619	4,735	116	3%	501	Bachelor's degree	None & None
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,777</b>	<b>11,180</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1,188</b>		

**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)

For more information, please contact:

Luke Meyer, Director  
 Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence  
[lmeyer7@mtsac.edu](mailto:lmeyer7@mtsac.edu)

October 2020

