

## Program Endorsement Brief: 1210.00 – Respiratory Care/Therapy

### Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, October 2021

#### Summary Analysis

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Emerging Occupation(s)</b>			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" 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 one middle-skill occupation: *respiratory therapists* (29-1126). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.<sup>1</sup> 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 *respiratory therapists* in the region. In addition to entry-level wages exceeding the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education. **Therefore, due to all 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 **400 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 314 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** – In Los Angeles County, the **typical entry-level hourly wage** for *respiratory therapists* is **\$34.41, which is above the self-sufficiency standard hourly wage** (living wage) for one adult in the region (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County).<sup>2</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an **associate degree** as the **typical entry-level education for respiratory therapists**.
  - National-level educational attainment data indicates **65% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree**.

**Supply:**

- Between 2017 and 2020, **seven community colleges** in the LA/OC region issued awards in respiratory care/therapy, conferring an average of **163 awards**.
- Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of **151 awards in respiratory care therapy/therapist programs**.

**Occupational Demand**

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *respiratory therapists*. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for *respiratory therapists* is projected to increase by 10% through 2025. There will be 400 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 full impact of COVID-19 on projections of industry and occupational employment. Therefore, the projections included in this report do not take the full impacts of COVID-19 into account.*

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>3</sup>**

<b>Geography</b>	<b>2020 Jobs</b>	<b>2025 Jobs</b>	<b>2020-2025 Change</b>	<b>2020-2025 % Change</b>	<b>Annual Openings</b>
Los Angeles	4,727	5,225	498	11%	317
Orange	1,282	1,400	118	9%	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>400</b>

<sup>2</sup> Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California on 10/13/2021. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

<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 hourly wages for *respiratory therapists* 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 typical entry-level hourly wage for *respiratory therapists* is \$34.41, which is **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn approximately \$47.56, which is also above the self-sufficiency standard wage.

**Orange County** — The typical entry-level hourly wage for *respiratory therapists* is \$32.31, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn approximately \$44.66, which is also above the self-sufficiency standard wage.

## **Job Postings**

Over the past 12 months, there have been 1,918 online job postings related to *respiratory therapists*. The highest number of job postings were for *respiratory care practitioners, respiratory therapists, registered respiratory therapists (RRT), and travel respiratory therapists*. The top skills were respiratory therapy, patient care, advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), treatment planning, and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were HealthCare Traveler, Kindred Healthcare Incorporated, and MemorialCare Health System.

*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 full 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 an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *respiratory therapists*. National-level educational attainment data indicates 65% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 16% of job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 5% (14) requested a high school or vocational training, 56% (171) requested an associate degree, and 40% (122) requested a bachelor's degree.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply** — Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Respiratory Care/Therapy (TOP 1210.00). The community college with the most completions in the region is LA Valley. Over the past 12 months, there was one other related program recommendation request from a regional community college.

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

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Yr Average
1210.00	Respiratory Care/Therapy	Compton	-	2	-	1
		East LA	38	45	25	36
		El Camino	32	30	33	32
		LA Valley	48	50	54	51
		Mt San Antonio	24	19	13	19
		Santa Monica	3	15	14	11
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>148</b>
		Orange Coast	16	12	17	15
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>161</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>163</b>

**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 *respiratory therapists*. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist programs (CIP 51.0908). 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 LA/OC region conferred an average of 151 awards.

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

CIP Code	Program	Institution	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	3-Year Average
51.0908	Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	American Career College-Anaheim	47	37	35	40
		Concorde Career College-Garden Grove	32	51	39	41
		Concorde Career College-North Hollywood	36	42	47	42
		Platt College-LA	34	34	18	29
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>149</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>151</b>

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

**Exhibit 4. Los Angeles County**

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2020 Jobs</b>	<b>2025 Jobs</b>	<b>5-Yr Change</b>	<b>5-Yr % Change</b>	<b>Annual Openings</b>	<b>Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b>	<b>Median Hourly Earnings</b>	<b>Experienced Hourly Earnings (75<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b>
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	4,727	5,225	498	11%	317	\$34.41	\$39.98	\$47.56

**Exhibit 5. Orange County**

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2020 Jobs</b>	<b>2025 Jobs</b>	<b>5-Yr Change</b>	<b>5-Yr % Change</b>	<b>Annual Openings</b>	<b>Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b>	<b>Median Hourly Earnings</b>	<b>Experienced Hourly Earnings (75<sup>th</sup> Percentile)</b>
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	1,282	1,400	118	9%	82	\$32.31	\$37.54	\$44.66

**Exhibit 6. Los Angeles and Orange Counties**

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2020 Jobs</b>	<b>2025 Jobs</b>	<b>5-Yr Change</b>	<b>5-Yr % Change</b>	<b>Annual Openings</b>	<b>Typical Entry-Level Education</b>
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	6,008	6,625	617	10%	400	Associate degree

## 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)



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