

## **Program Endorsement Brief: 1240.30/Dental Laboratory Technician *Fixed Prosthodontics and Removable Prosthodontics***

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, November 2019

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### **Summary Analysis**

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 the middle-skill occupation: dental laboratory technicians (51-9081). 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 this occupation in the region. **Therefore, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Reasons include:

#### **Demand:**

- Over the next five years, there are projected to be **359 jobs available annually** in the region due to new jobs, retirements, and workers leaving the field, which is more than the **52 awards** conferred from regional training programs.
- Over the past 12 months, there were 312 online job postings related to dental laboratory technicians.
- Although the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for dental laboratory technicians, 52% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.

#### **Supply:**

- **Two community colleges** in the region have dental laboratory technician programs, conferring an average of **31 awards** between 2015 and 2018.
- There is one non-community college in the region that is currently providing dental laboratory technician training, National Career College, conferring an average of **16 awards** between 2013 and 2016.
- Over the past 12 months, there were no other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

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<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.

## Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for dental laboratory technicians. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of dental laboratory technician jobs is projected to increase by 8% through 2023. There will be more than 350 job openings per year through 2023 due to new jobs, retirements, and workers leaving the field.

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>2</sup>**

Geography	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	2018-2023 Change	2018-2023 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	1,021	1,025	4	0%	121
Orange	1,656	1,874	218	13%	238
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>2,898</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>359</b>

**Wages** — The typical entry-level hourly wage for dental laboratory technicians in the region is \$15.69.<sup>3</sup> This wage is above the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in Los Angeles County (\$15.04) but below the estimate for one adult in Orange County (\$17.36). The median wage, \$20.56, is above California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for one adult in both counties. Wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

**Job Postings** — There were 312 online job postings related to dental laboratory technicians listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for dental laboratory technician, dental technician – waxer, computer-aided drafting/design (CAD) dental technician, and dental ceramist/technician. The top skills were: dentures, dentistry, anatomy, repair, and prosthesis. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: Opus One Laboratories, IDOC Dental Lab, and Hiceram Dental Laboratories. Of the 312 online job postings, 14% list a minimum education requirement.

**Educational Attainment** — The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for dental laboratory technicians. The national-level educational attainment data indicates 52% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 14% of job postings for dental laboratory technicians listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 96% (42) requested a high school diploma and 4% (2) requested an associate degree.

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<sup>2</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.

<sup>3</sup> Entry-level wage is defined as the twenty-fifth percentile hourly wage. Wages for experienced workers are defined as the seventy-fifth percentile hourly wage.

## Supply

**Community College Supply** — Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Dental Laboratory Technician (1240.30) programs. The college with the most completions in the region is Pasadena. Over the past 12 months, there were no other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

**Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2015-2018**

TOP Code	Program	College	2015-16 Awards	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1240.30	Dental Laboratory Technician	LA City	10	14	11	12
		Pasadena	17	24	18	20
		<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>

**Non-Community College Supply** — Exhibit 3 displays the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by non-community colleges in dental laboratory technology/technician programs. While historically ICDC College has contributed to the supply of dental laboratory technicians in the region, the college closed in 2016.

**Exhibit 3: Regional other postsecondary institution awards, 2013-2016**

CIP Code	Program	College	2013-14 Awards	2014-15 Awards	2015-16 Awards	3-Year Award Average
51.0603	Dental Laboratory Technology/Technician	ICDC College	11	4	-	5
		National Career College	16	19	12	16
		<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>

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

**Exhibit 4. Los Angeles County**

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2018 Jobs</b>	<b>2023 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>
Dental Laboratory Technicians (51-9081)	1,021	1,025	4	0%	121	\$15.11	\$20.05	\$24.02

**Exhibit 5. Orange County**

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2018 Jobs</b>	<b>2023 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>
Dental Laboratory Technicians (51-9081)	1,656	1,874	218	13%	238	\$16.04	\$20.89	\$24.72

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

<b>Occupation (SOC)</b>	<b>2018 Jobs</b>	<b>2023 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>
Dental Laboratory Technicians (51-9081)	2,678	2,898	220	8%	359	\$15.69	\$20.56	\$24.48

## 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
- Employment Development Department, Unemployment Insurance Dataset
- Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- 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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