

## **Program Endorsement Brief: 0934.80/Laser and Optical Technology Laser Technology**

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, October 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 photonics workers that do not require more than a community college training. 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.

Based on the available data, it appears that there is a supply gap for photonics workers in the region. However, **the COE recommends further research on potential employers and viable pathways.**

#### **Demand:**

- Photonics technicians and photonics engineers are emerging occupations embedded within broader occupations (engineering technicians, except drafters, all other; and engineers, all other). Since traditional labor market information is not available for emerging occupations, real-time labor market information was used to try to assess demand for photonics workers. Over the last twelve months, there were **52 jobs postings** in the region for photonics workers, which is more than the **13 awards conferred annually** from regional training programs.

#### **Supply:**

- Currently, **one community college** in the region has a program under laser and optical technology, conferring an average of **13 awards annually between 2015 and 2018.**

**Job Postings** — There were 52 online job postings for photonics technicians listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for laser technician, fiber optics design technician, fiber optic assembler, and optic technician. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: Scoop Technologies, Healing Choices, Aerospace Corporation, AMTEC, and Blue Sky Management. Of the 52 online job postings, half list a minimum education requirement.

**Educational Attainment** — Of the job postings related to photonics technicians that listed a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 65% (17) requested a high school diploma and 35% (9) requested an associate degree.

**Wages** — As an emerging occupation, traditional wage information is not available for photonics technicians. Real-time labor market information, sourced from employer job ads, provides an estimate of what wages a student can earn upon completion of a laser and optical technology program. Of the 52 online job postings for photonics technicians, 65% of postings included salary information. The average real-time salary for this occupation in the region is \$44,000. The regional average salary for this occupation is below the statewide average advertised salary of \$45,000. Please note that salary figures are prorated to reflect full-time, annual wage status.

**Supply**

**Community College Supply** — Exhibit 1 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Laser and Optical Technology (0934.80). The only college in the region with completions is Irvine Valley College. Over the past 12 months, there was one other related program recommendation request from regional community colleges.

**Exhibit 1: 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
0934.80	Laser and Optical Technology	Irvine Valley	12	9	18	13

**Sources**

- O\*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Management Information Systems (MIS)

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