



Labor Market Analysis: 0612.20 – Film Production

Production Design – Certificate requiring 30 to fewer than 60 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, July 2025

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met	☐	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met	☒	Not Endorsed	☐
Program Endorsement Criteria						
Supply Gap:	Yes	☒	No	☐		
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	Yes	☐	No	☒		
Education:	Yes	☒	No	☐		
Emerging Occupation(s)						
Yes			☐	No		
				☒		

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupations¹ or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the five identified middle-skill occupations in the region. While the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the majority of annual openings for the occupations in this report typically require a postsecondary non-degree award.

Recommendation: Due to two of three program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 1,900 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2028. This number is greater than the three-year average of 1,344 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. 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

- 60% of annual job openings for these middle-skill production design occupations have entry-level wages **below** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 60% of the annual job openings typically require a postsecondary non-degree award for these middle-skill occupations related to production design in the LA/OC region.
- 38%-88% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less educational attainment, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 19 community colleges issued awards related to production design in the greater LA/OC region.
- 389 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- 16 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to production design over the past three years.
- 955 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2021 and 2023.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to five middle-skill occupations. Although *set and exhibit designers* typically require a bachelor's degree, they are considered middle-skill because approximately one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- **Set and Exhibit Design (27-1027)**³
- **Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)**⁴
- **Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)**⁵
- **Lighting Technician (27-4015)**⁶
- **Riggers (49-9096)**⁷

² Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). *The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024*. <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California>.

³ [Set and Exhibit Designers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Broadcast, Sound, and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁵ [Ibid.](#)

⁶ [Ibid.](#)

⁷ [Riggers \(bls.gov\)](#)

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these middle-skill production design occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to decrease by 1% through 2028. However, there will 1,900 job openings per year through 2028 due to retirements and workers leaving the field. The majority of jobs in 2023 for these middle-skill production design occupations (87%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁸

Geography	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	2023-2028 Change	2023-2028 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	16,286	16,214	(72)	(0%)	1,657
Orange	2,394	2,306	(88)	(4%)	243
Total	18,681	18,520	(161)	(1%)	1,900

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for each of the target occupations in Los Angeles County. Positive scores for automation resilience⁹ reflect a lower-than-average threat of the occupation(s) being replaced by automation, while negative scores reflect a greater-than-average risk of automation. The average percentage of workers aged 55+ across all occupations in the Los Angeles/Orange County region is 26%; occupations with a larger share of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements.

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County¹⁰

Occupation	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Automation Resilience	% Aged 55 and older
Set and Exhibit Designers	2,650	2,749	4%	253	11.0	32%
Audio and Video Technicians	5,520	5,966	8%	617	2.2	24%
Sound Engineering Technicians	4,476	3,741	(16%)	388	(1.4)	26%
Lighting Technicians	2,280	2,264	(1%)	219	3.9	26%
Riggers	1,360	1,493	10%	181	(20.6)	28%

⁸ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁹ Automation risk is calculated based on the percentage of time spent on high-risk compared to low-risk work, the number of high-risk jobs in compatible occupations, and the overall industry automation risk.

¹⁰ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Occupation	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Automation Resilience	% Aged 55 and older
Total	16,286	16,214	(0%)	1,657	-	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these middle-skill production design occupations 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 greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Los Angeles County

The majority, 61%, of annual openings for these middle-skill production design occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$21.76 and \$39.74. (Exhibit 3).

Three occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Riggers*, \$39.74
- *Set and exhibit designers*, \$28.21
- *Lighting technicians*, \$25.09

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$48.66 and \$60.31, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupations in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Set and Exhibit Designers	\$28.21	\$44.17	\$60.31	\$91,900
Audio and Video Technicians	\$21.76	\$29.90	\$48.66	\$62,200
Sound Engineering Technicians	\$22.74	\$36.19	\$57.50	\$75,300
Lighting Technicians	\$25.09	\$40.10	\$50.98	\$83,400
Riggers	\$39.74	\$45.66	\$49.93	\$95,000

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The majority, 84%, of annual openings for middle-skill production design occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$19.80 and \$38.74 (Exhibit 4).

One occupation has entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Riggers*, \$38.74

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$44.26 and \$53.22, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

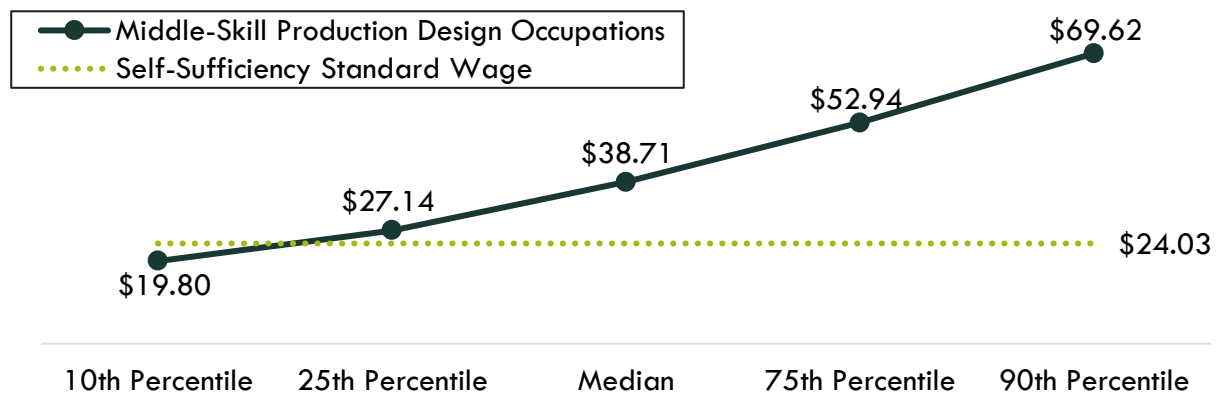
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Set and Exhibit Designers	\$21.05	\$36.64	\$53.22	\$76,200
Audio and Video Technicians	\$19.80	\$27.38	\$44.26	\$57,000
Sound Engineering Technicians	\$20.53	\$33.43	\$51.99	\$69,500
Lighting Technicians	\$22.32	\$35.56	\$45.21	\$74,000
Riggers	\$38.74	\$44.51	\$48.68	\$92,600

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupations in this report are \$27.14; this is above the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

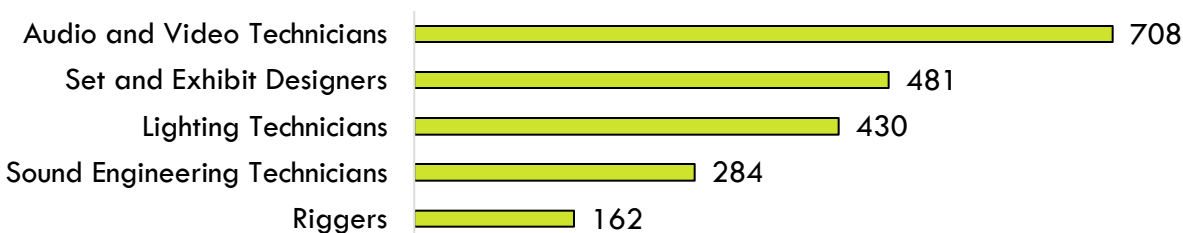
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 2,065 online middle-skill job postings related to production design listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Exhibit 6 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (34%) were for *audio and video technicians*, followed by *set and exhibit designers* (23%) and *lighting technicians* (21%).

Exhibit 6: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months), Los Angeles and Orange counties



Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupations in this report (Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 7: Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
• Audiovisual technicians • Lighting technicians • Home theater specialists • Audio visual managers • Riggers • Audio/visual technicians • Wire harness assemblers • Audio visual specialists	• Project management • Technical issues • Electrical wiring • Crestron (A/V systems) • Rigging • Stage lighting • Low voltage • Workflow management	• Disney • Best Buy • Encore • Aerotek* • Five Star Audio Visual • Live Nation • NBC • Eidim Group

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 36% of the middle-skill production design job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 8 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

Exhibit 8: Education levels requested in job postings for occupations related to production design, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	301	40%
Associate degree	76	10%
High school diploma or vocational training	372	50%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (60%) typically require a postsecondary non-degree award (Exhibit 9). Furthermore, the national-level

data indicates between 38% and 88% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

Exhibit 9: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Set and Exhibit Designers	Bachelor's degree
Audio and Video Technicians	Postsecondary non-degree award
Sound Engineering Technicians	Postsecondary non-degree award
Lighting Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent
Riggers	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 10 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Film Production (0612.20) and Technical Theater (1006.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are LA City, Santa Monica, and LA Valley.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2022-2024

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
0612.20	Film Production	Cerritos	22	16	5	14
		LA City	116	107	99	107
		LA Valley	54	44	74	57
		Long Beach	-	3	3	2
		Santa Monica	45	55	120	73
		West LA	10	36	32	26
		LA Subtotal	247	261	333	280
		Orange Coast	32	29	41	34
		Saddleback	-	1	-	0
		OC Subtotal	32	30	41	34
Supply Subtotal/Average			279	291	374	315
1006.00	Technical Theater	Citrus	5	2	2	3
		East LA	32	13	38	28
		Glendale	2	-	1	1
		LA City	4	7	7	6

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
		LA Pierce	3	-	4	2
		LA Valley	1	2	-	1
		Mt San Antonio	-	2	1	1
		Pasadena	1	-	-	0
		Santa Monica	16	8	11	12
		LA Subtotal	64	34	64	54
		Cypress	6	2	6	5
		Fullerton	-	4	26	10
		Golden West	-	-	1	0
		Irvine	3	1	4	3
		Saddleback	3	2	1	2
		Santa Ana	2	-	-	1
		OC Subtotal	14	9	38	20
Supply Subtotal/Average			78	43	102	74
Supply Total/Average			357	334	476	389

Exhibit 11 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (59%).

Exhibit 11: Community college awards by award type, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	139	36%
Certificates	229	59%
Noncredit awards	20	5%
Total	389	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for production design. Exhibit 12 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2021 to 2023. Between 2021 and 2023, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 955 bachelor's and sub-baccalaureate awards. Sub-baccalaureate awards include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and other academic awards that typically take fewer than four years to complete.

Exhibit 12: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2021-2023

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
50.0502	Technical Theatre/ Theatre Design and Technology	CA Institute of the Arts	17	15	13	15
		Chapman Univ.	1	-	-	0
		Pepperdine Univ.	3	1	3	2
		USC	10	8	9	9
		Vanguard Univ. of Southern CA	1	1	1	1
50.0507	Directing and Theatrical Production	Pepperdine Univ.	1	-	2	1
		Vanguard Univ. of Southern CA	4	2	-	2
50.0602	Cinematography and Film/Video Production	Art Center College of Design	24	28	19	24
		Azusa Pacific Univ.	-	4	10	5
		Biola University	54	75	88	72
		CA College of ASU	105	89	-	65
		CA Institute of the Arts	11	8	14	11
		CSU-Dominguez Hills	-	12	14	9
		Chapman University	100	201	159	153
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merch.	10	13	3	9
		LA Film School	255	177	157	196
		Loyola Marymount University	64	56	88	69
		Mount Saint Mary's University	14	13	4	10
		NY Film Academy	181	179	208	189
		USC	93	95	93	94
		Woodbury University	17	25	14	19
Supply Total/Average			965	1,002	899	955

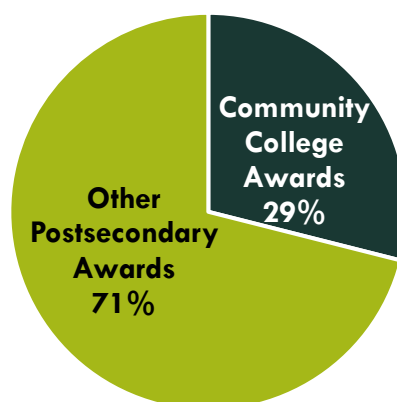
Exhibit 13 shows the breakdown of other postsecondary awards by award type. The majority of awards issued by other postsecondary schools are bachelor's degrees (82%).

Exhibit 13: Other postsecondary awards by award type, 2021-2023

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
Bachelor's degrees	785	82%
Sub-baccalaureate awards	170	18%
Total	955	100%

Exhibit 14 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region compared to the number of other postsecondary awards for the programs in this report. The majority of awards conferred in these programs are awarded by other institutions in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 14: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



APPENDIX: OCCUPATION DESCRIPTIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to these target occupations:

- **Set and Exhibit Design (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.¹¹
- **Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)** Set up, maintain, and dismantle audio and video equipment, such as microphones, sound speakers, connecting wires and cables, sound and mixing boards, video cameras, video monitors and servers, and related electronic equipment for live or recorded events, such as concerts, meetings, conventions, presentations, podcasts, news conferences, and sporting events.¹²
- **Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)** Assemble and operate equipment to record, synchronize, mix, edit, or reproduce sound, including music, voices, or sound effects, for theater, video, film, television, podcasts, sporting events, and other productions.¹³
- **Lighting Technician (27-4015)** Set up, maintain, and dismantle light fixtures, lighting control devices, and the associated lighting electrical and rigging equipment used for photography, television, film, video, and live productions. May focus or operate light fixtures, or attach color filters or other lighting accessories.¹⁴

¹¹ [Set and Exhibit Designers \(bls.gov\)](#)

¹² [Broadcast, Sound, and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

¹³ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁴ [Ibid.](#)

- **Riggers (49-9096)** Set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards, or for the entertainment industry.¹⁵

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DATA SOURCES



POWERED BY



- O*NET Online
- 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)

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¹⁵ [Riggers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)