

Labor Market Analysis: 1099.00 – Other Fine and Applied Arts

Acting for Stage and Screen – Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, March 2024

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

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 one identified middle-skill occupation in the region. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists some college, but no degree as the typical entry-level education level for this occupation.

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

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 1,969 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2027. This is greater than the three-year average of 1,319 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

- \$15.89 is the typical entry-level hourly wages for actors, which is **below** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$18.10/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- Some college, but no degree is the typical entry-level education for actors according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 38% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree/some college or less education, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 23 community colleges issued awards related to acting in the greater LA/OC region.
- 273 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2019 and 2022.

Other postsecondary supply

- 26 educational institutions in the LA/OC region offer programs related to acting.
- 1,046 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to one middle-skill occupation.

- **Actors (27-2011)** Play parts in stage, television, radio, video, or film productions, or other settings for entertainment, information, or instruction. Interpret serious or comic role by speech, gesture, and body movement to entertain or inform audience. May dance and sing.³

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for actors. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 1% through 2027. There will be nearly 2,000 job openings per year through 2027 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2022 for actors (88%) were located in Los Angeles County.

According to a December 2022 analysis conducted by California's Employment Development Department Labor Market Information Division (EDD LMID), only 55% of actors in California are employed on a full-time basis, which was defined as 35 hours or more per week. Applying that ratio to the 15,525 acting jobs across the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, approximately 8,539 jobs are likely to be employed full-time, leaving 6,986 part-time jobs.

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

³ [Actors \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁴

Geography	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	13,730	13,549	(181)	(1%)	1,683
Orange	1,796	2,118	322	18%	286
Total	15,525	15,667	141	1%	1,969

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation in Los Angeles County. The percentage of workers aged 55+ is included in order to visualize upcoming replacement demand for this occupation.

Exhibit 2: Current employment, projected occupational demand, percentage of workers aged 55+, Los Angeles County⁵

Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older*
Actors (27-2011)	13,730	13,549	(181)	(1%)	1,683	37%

*The average percentage of workers aged 55 and older across all occupations in the greater LA/OC region is 27%. This occupation has a larger share of older workers, which typically indicates greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements.

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for actors 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 typical entry-level hourly wages for actors are \$15.89, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$23.79, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Actors (27-2011)	\$15.89	\$16.02	\$23.79	\$33,300

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

⁴ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁵ Ibid.

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for actors are \$14.05, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$20.01, which is lower than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

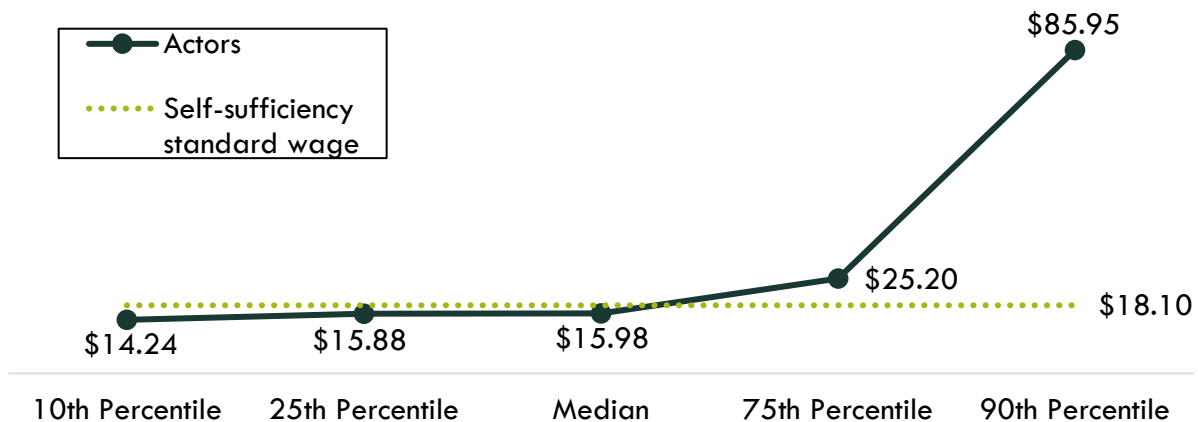
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Actors (27-2011)	\$14.05	\$14.14	\$20.01	\$29,400

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$15.88; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). 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 actors, Los Angeles and Orange counties



To better understand wages for actors, Exhibit 6 shows the current wages for SAG-AFTRA performers⁶. It is important to note that these wages reflect daily and weekly rates, so they cannot be compared to the hourly wages listed in Exhibits 3, 4, and 5.

Exhibit 6: SAG-AFTRA theatrical daily/weekly wages for performers

Role	Time Commitment	Salary Rate (11/9/23–6/30/24)	Salary Rate (7/1/24 – 6/30/24)
Day Performer	Day	\$1,158	\$1,204
3-Day Performers	½ Hour or 1 Hour Show	\$2,933	\$3,050
	1½ Hour or 2 Hour Show	\$3,451	\$3,589
Weekly Performers	Weekly	\$4,019	\$4,180
	½ Hour or 1 Hour Show	\$2,979	\$3,098

⁶ [Television Agreement Wage Tables \(sagaftra.org\)](https://www.sagaftra.org/television-agreement-wage-tables)

Role	Time Commitment	Salary Rate (11/9/23– 6/30/24)	Salary Rate (7/1/24 – 6/30/24)
Multiple Program	1 ½ Hour	\$3,501	\$3,641
Performers (Weekly)	2 Hour Show	\$4,126	\$4,291
Major Role Performers	½ Hour Programs (10% above day performer rates, based on 5 days)	\$6,369	\$6,853
	1 Hour Programs (10% above day performer rates, based on days)	\$10,190	\$10,595

JOB POSTINGS

There were 1,287 online job postings for actors listed in the past 12 months in 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: The most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performers • Actresses • Background Actors • Character Performers • YouTube Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short films • Feature films • Acting • Scripting • Animations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiktok • Disney • JKL Productions • Rice Gorton Pictures • Cherry Hill Programs

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 6% of the actor job postings listed a minimum education requirement. The number and percentage of job postings by educational level appear in Exhibit 8.

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

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
High school diploma or vocational training	41	49%
Associate degree	3	4%
Bachelor's degree	39	47%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists some college, but no degree as the typical entry-level education for actors (Exhibit 9). Furthermore, the national-level data indicates 38% of workers in the field have completed some college/associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment.

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

Occupation	Education Level
Actors	Some college, but no degree

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 10 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest. The colleges with the most completions in the region are Santa Monica, Citrus, and East LA. Please note that Dramatic Arts (TOP 1007.00) programs are not designated as vocational. Also note that the awards issued in the selected TOP code, Other Fine and Applied Arts (TOP 1099.00), are related to gallery management, museum studies, and interaction design, not acting.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2019-2022

TOP Code	Program	College	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average	
1007.00	Dramatic Arts	Cerritos	7	3	4	5	
		Citrus	36	51	29	39	
		East LA	17	25	25	22	
		El Camino	7	10	10	9	
		Glendale	8	6	6	7	
		LA City	6	10	18	11	
		LA Mission	2	6	2	3	
		LA Pierce	10	12	12	11	
		LA Southwest	2	2	3	2	
		LA Valley	4	6	9	6	
		Long Beach	10	23	8	14	
		Mt San Antonio	6	20	13	13	
		Pasadena	13	7	5	8	
		Rio Hondo	9	6	4	6	
		Santa Monica	31	24	24	26	
		West LA	-	-	2	1	
		LA Subtotal		168	211	174	184
		Cypress	12	9	13	11	
		Fullerton	6	20	19	15	
		Golden West	3	10	8	7	
Irvine	3	2	8	4			
Orange Coast	10	8	9	9			

TOP Code	Program	College	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average
		Saddleback	3	15	7	8
		Santa Ana	47	71	73	64
		OC Subtotal	47	71	73	64
Supply Subtotal/Average			215	282	247	248
1099.00	Other Fine and Applied Arts	East LA	-	-	2	1
		El Camino	5	4	2	4
		Santa Monica	15	26	21	21
		LA Subtotal	20	30	25	25
Supply Subtotal/Average			20	30	25	25
Supply Total/Average			235	312	272	273

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 actors. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2019 to 2021. Between 2019 and 2021, other postsecondary educational institutions in the region conferred an average of 1,046 related awards. The majority of awards (82%) in Exhibit 11 are bachelor's degrees (853 awards).

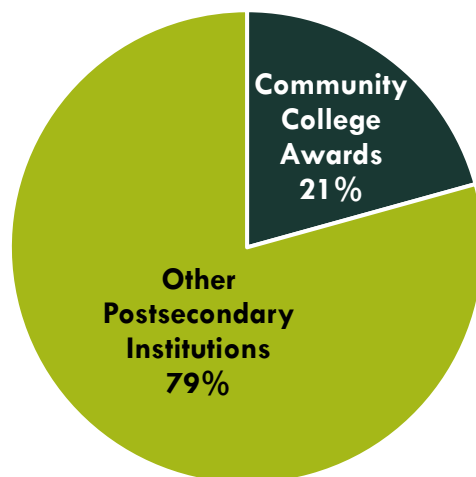
Exhibit 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2019-2021

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2-Year Average
50.0501	Drama and Dramatics/Theatre Arts, General	Biola University	4	3	4
		CA State Poly. Univ. Pomona	18	34	26
		CSU-Dominguez Hills	25	19	22
		CSU-Fullerton	107	110	109
		CSU-Long Beach	78	76	77
		CSU-Los Angeles	28	36	32
		CSU-Northridge	53	59	56
		Chapman University	30	26	28
		Concordia Univ.-Irvine	10	10	10
		Harvey Mudd College	2	-	1
		Loyola Marymount University	62	40	51
		Occidental College	9	7	8
		Pepperdine University	-	1	1
		Pitzer College	1	3	2
		Pomona College	8	13	11

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2-Year Average
		Scripps College	2	2	2
		UC-Irvine	76	97	87
		UC-Los Angeles	63	63	63
		University of La Verne	6	2	4
		USC	49	48	49
		Vanguard Univ. of Southern CA	1	2	2
		Whittier College	9	9	9
50.0506	Acting	American Academy of Dramatic Arts-LA	-	150	75
		California Institute of the Arts	29	23	26
		Chapman University	15	14	15
		New York Film Academy	256	141	199
		Pepperdine University	7	8	8
		Theatre of Arts	17	1	9
		USC	63	66	65
Supply Total/Average			1,028	1,063	1,046

Exhibit 12 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 12: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



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DATA SOURCES

- 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)
- Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)

Important Disclaimer: All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the reported findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence, COE host District, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for applications or decisions made by recipient community colleges or their representatives based upon components or recommendations contained in this study.

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