



**Labor Market Analysis: 1306.00 – Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts
Child Nutrition Management; Nutrition and Fitness Education;
Nutrition and Technology; Nutrition, Wellness, and Health Cooking
Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units
Los Angeles Center of Excellence, May 2025**

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"/> (see below)	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input 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 does not appear to be a supply gap for the occupations of interest. However, the talent oversupply is with the COE’s acceptable margin (the number of awards issued is 25% over or under the number of annual openings) and is therefore considered “supply met” rather than a “supply gap.” While this program does not meet the traditional supply/demand endorsement criteria, there may be demand for these workers from local employers that is not reflected in traditional labor market data. For this reason, real-time labor market data is included in this report as well – to provide a more nuanced view of the regional job market for these middle-skill nutrition and wellness occupations. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, two-thirds of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.

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.

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.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 265 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2028. This number is less than the three-year average of 270 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.
 - Although there are more awards conferred than job openings, the data suggests that the **demand has been met for these occupations within the LA/OC region** since the three-year average number of awards (supply) is within the COE's 25% margin of annual job openings (demand).
 - Over the past 12 months, there were **746 online job postings related to these target occupations**. The highest number of job postings were for general managers, fitness managers, diet clerks, nutrition assistants, and assistant general managers.

Living Wage

- \$17.87 is the typical entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians*, which is lower than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- An associate degree is the typical entry-level education for *dietetic technicians*, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 35% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 22 community colleges issued awards related to nutrition and wellness in the greater LA/OC region.
- 266 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- 1 educational institution in the LA/OC region has conferred sub-baccalaureate awards in programs related to nutrition and wellness over the past three years.
- 4 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 one middle-skill occupation and one emerging occupation. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- **Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)**³
- **Fitness and Wellness Coordinators (11-9179.01)**⁴

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

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

⁴ [Fitness and Wellness Coordinators \(onetonline.org\)](https://www.onetonline.org)

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *dietetic technicians*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 7% through 2028. There will be nearly 300 job openings per year through 2028 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2023 for *dietetic technicians* (79%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁵

Geography	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	2023-2028 Change	2023-2028 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	1,689	1,800	112	7%	208
Orange	460	493	33	7%	57
Total	2,149	2,293	144	7%	265

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation in Los Angeles County. Positive scores for automation resilience⁶ 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. On average, 81% of workers across all occupations in California are employed full-time.

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁷

Occupation	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Auto-mation Resilience	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Dietetic Technicians	1,689	1,800	7%	208	12.8	22%	100%

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* 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.

⁵ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Los Angeles County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* are \$17.87, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$22.32, which is still lower 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*
Dietetic Technicians	\$17.87	\$20.63	\$22.32	\$42,900

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* are \$18.20, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$22.73, which is still lower than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

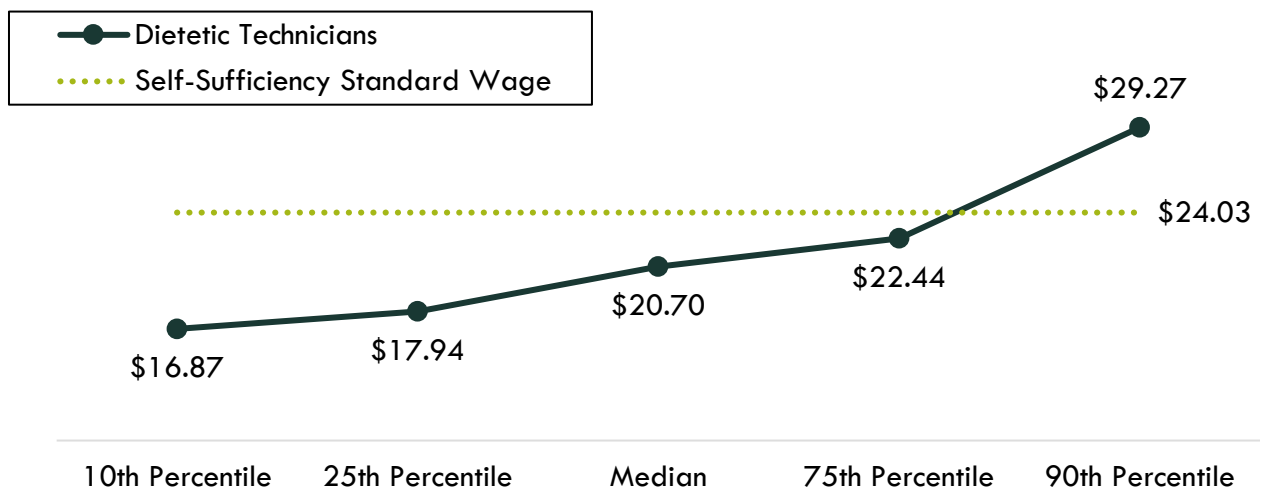
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Dietetic Technicians	\$18.20	\$21.01	\$22.73	\$43,700

*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 \$17.94; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupation in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for dietetic technicians, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 746 online job postings related to the target and emerging occupations 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 (60%) were for *fitness and wellness coordinators*, followed by *dietetic technicians* (40%).

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General managers • Fitness managers • Diet clerks • Nutrition assistants • Assistant general managers • Wellness coaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food services • Nutrition services • Membership sales • Clinical nutrition • Employee performance management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold's Gym • Compass Group • 24 Hour Fitness • UFC Gym • Irvine Unified School District

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 62% of the target 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 target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	201	44%
Associate degree	44	10%
High school diploma or vocational training	214	47%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *dietetic technicians* (Exhibit 9). Furthermore, the national-level data indicates 35% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree 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
Dietetic technicians	Associate 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 Long Beach, Golden West, and Mt. San Antonio.

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
1306.00	Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts	Citrus	6	2	3	4
		East LA	21	16	15	17
		Glendale	6	8	5	6
		LA City	4	1	6	4
		LA Harbor	3	1	2	2
		LA Mission	4	7	7	6
		LA Southwest	2	4	1	2
		LA Trade-Tech	3	-	-	1
		Long Beach	16	20	22	19
		Mt San Antonio	25	29	20	25
		Pasadena	3	1	6	3
		Rio Hondo	1	1	3	2
		Santa Monica	11	8	9	9
		West LA	5	2	2	3
		LA Subtotal	110	100	101	104
		Coastline	-	-	1	0
		Cypress	3	-	2	2
Fullerton	13	12	8	11		

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
		Orange Coast	11	9	10	10
		Saddleback	12	12	10	11
		Santa Ana	2	1	4	2
		Santiago Canyon	-	4	7	4
		OC Subtotal	41	38	42	40
Supply Subtotal/Average			151	138	143	144
1306.20	Dietetic Services and Management	Glendale	23	15	3	14
		LA City	6	6	9	7
		Long Beach	23	7	16	15
		LA Subtotal	52	28	28	36
		Fullerton	-	-	4	1
		Orange Coast	3	6	5	5
		OC Subtotal	3	6	9	6
Supply Subtotal/Average			55	34	37	42
1306.60	Dietetic Technology	Long Beach	4	7	6	6
		LA Subtotal	4	7	6	6
		Orange Coast	4	4	2	3
		OC Subtotal	4	4	2	3
Supply Subtotal/Average			8	11	8	9
1309.00	Gerontology	East LA	5	6	6	6
		LA Mission	2	-	4	2
		Pasadena	1	6	10	6
		LA Subtotal	8	12	20	13
		Coastline	3	4	-	2
		Cypress	4	5	3	4
		Golden West	-	-	114	38
		Saddleback	14	14	11	13
OC Subtotal	21	23	128	57		
Supply Subtotal/Average			29	35	148	71
Supply Total/Average			243	218	336	266

Exhibit 11: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	129	49%
Certificates	91	34%

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
Noncredit awards	45	17%
	266	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

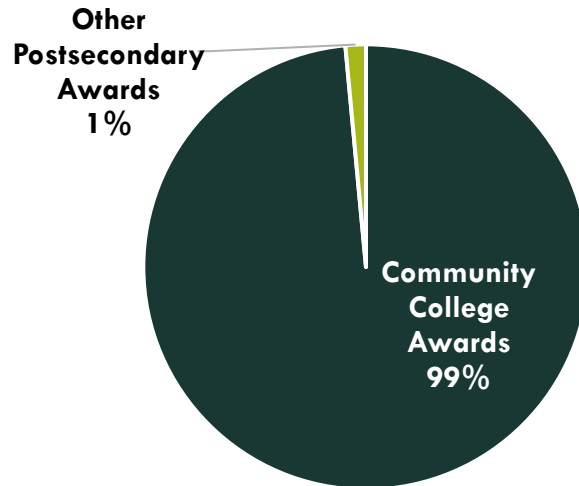
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for *dietetic technicians*. Exhibit 12 shows the number of awards conferred by this institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection 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 4 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
19.0501	Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General	University of Massachusetts Global	4	7	2	4
Supply Total/Average			4	7	2	4

Exhibit 13 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 community colleges in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 13: 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 one target occupation and one emerging occupation:

- **Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)** Assist in the provision of food service and nutritional programs, under the supervision of a dietitian. May plan and produce meals based on established guidelines, teach principles of food and nutrition, or counsel individuals.⁸
- **Fitness and Wellness Coordinators (11-9179.01)** Manage or coordinate fitness and wellness programs and services. Manage and train staff of wellness specialists, health educators, or fitness instructors.⁹

⁸ [Dietetic Technicians \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)

⁹ [Fitness and Wellness Coordinators \(onetonline.org\)](https://www.onetonline.org)

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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)

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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