



Labor Market Analysis: 1008.10 – Commercial Dance

Commercial Dance – Associate of Science

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, December 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, 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 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 two identified middle-skill occupations in the region. While the majority of annual openings in Los Angeles and Orange counties have entry-level wages that are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less educational attainment.

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

- 668 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2028. This number is greater than the three-year average of 238 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

- 78% of annual job openings for these commercial dance occupations have entry-level wages **below** Los Angeles County’s self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 77% of the annual job openings typically require no formal educational credential for middle-skill commercial dance occupations in the LA/OC region.
- 28% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree according to national educational attainment data, and 67% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less educational attainment.

Community college supply

- 6 community colleges issued awards related to commercial dance in the greater LA/OC region.
- 23 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2021 and 2023.

Other postsecondary supply

- 11 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to commercial dance over the past three years.
- 215 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2020 and 2022.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to two middle-skill occupations. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- **Dancers (27-2031)**³
- **Choreographers (27-2032)**⁴

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these middle-skill commercial dance occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 8% through 2028. There will be nearly 700 job openings per year through 2028 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2023 for these middle-skill commercial dance occupations (69%) were located in Los Angeles County.

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

³ [Dancers and Choreographers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Ibid.](#)

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	2,574	2,742	168	7%	450
Orange	1,163	1,297	134	12%	218
Total	3,737	4,040	302	8%	668

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 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
Dancers	2,033	2,151	6%	352	(34.8)	4%	100%
Choreographers	542	591	9%	98	13.2	4%	100%
Total	2,574	2,742	7%	450	-	-	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these commercial dance 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.

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 majority, 78%, of annual openings for middle-skill commercial dance 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 \$17.75 and \$25.63. (Exhibit 3).

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

- *Choreographers*, \$25.63

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$39.15 and \$40.80, 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*
Dancers	\$17.75	\$30.77	\$39.15	\$64,000
Choreographers	\$25.63	\$36.76	\$40.80	\$76,500

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

Both 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 \$17.97 and \$24.35 (Exhibit 4). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$32.90 and \$33.52, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

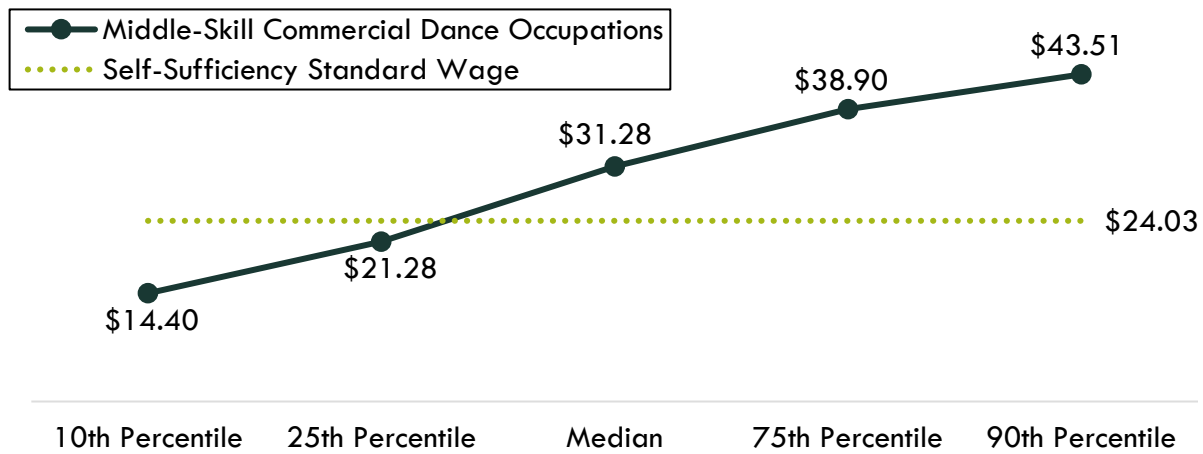
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Dancers	\$17.97	\$26.75	\$32.90	\$55,600
Choreographers	\$24.35	\$33.34	\$33.52	\$69,400

*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 \$21.28; 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 occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

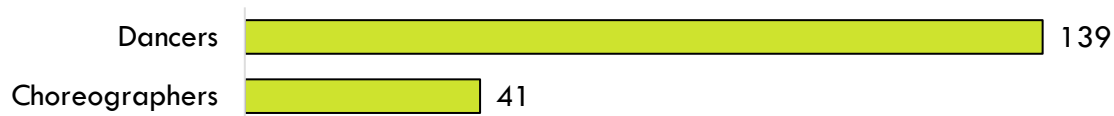
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for middle-skill commercial dance occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 180 online job postings related to commercial dance 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 (77%) were for *dancers*, followed by *choreographers* (23%).

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"> Hip hop dance instructors Music video directors Dance instructors/choreographers Dancers Dance choreographers Choreographers Entertainment managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choreography Hip-hop dance Ballet Working with children Jazz Classroom management Musical Theater TikTok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical Theater West Knott’s Berry Farm Six Flags Entertainment Corporation Cedar Fair Entertainment Company Dreams Come True Dance Funky Divas & Dudes

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 12% of the commercial dance 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 commercial dance, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	8	38%
Associate degree	3	14%
High school diploma or vocational training	10	48%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (78%) typically require no formal educational credential (Exhibit 9). The national-level data indicates 28% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment; furthermore, 67% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less 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
Choreographer	High school diploma or equivalent
Dancers	No formal educational credential

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 code: Commercial Dance (1008.10). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Orange Coast and Glendale.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2021-2023

TOP Code	Program	College	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
1008.10	Commercial Dance	Cerritos	1	1	-	1
		Citrus	-	1	1	1
		Glendale	8	3	10	7
		Mt San Antonio	3	1	2	2
		LA Subtotal	12	6	13	10
		Irvine	4	3	1	3
		Orange Coast	10	12	7	10
		OC Subtotal	14	15	8	12
Supply Total/Average			26	21	21	23

Other Postsecondary Supply

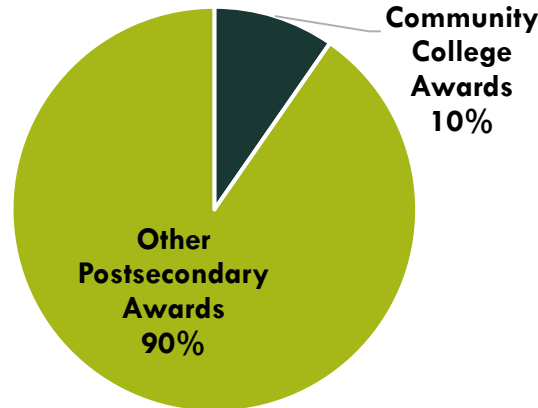
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for commercial dance occupations. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2020 to 2022. Between 2020 and 2022, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 215 bachelor's awards. There were no sub-baccalaureate awards (associate degrees, postsecondary awards, or other academic awards that typically take fewer than four years to complete) conferred at other postsecondary institutions in the region over the past three years.

Exhibit 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2020-2022

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average
50.0301	Dance, General	CA Institute of the Arts	14	17	11	14
		CSU-Dominguez Hills	-	-	1	0
		CSU-Fullerton	32	22	26	27
		CSU-Long Beach	33	38	43	38
		Chapman University	30	25	44	33
		Claremont McKenna College	1	-	-	0
		Loyola Marymount Univ.	15	13	10	13
		Scripps College	-	1	-	0
		UC-Irvine	33	43	46	41
		UC-Los Angeles	29	27	30	29
		USC	16	21	25	21
Supply Total/Average			203	207	236	215

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



APPENDIX: OCCUPATION DESCRIPTIONS

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

- **Dancers (27-2031)** Perform dances. May perform on stage, for broadcasting, or for video recording.⁸
- **Choreographers (27-2032)** Create new dance routines. Rehearse performance of routines. May direct and stage presentations.⁹

⁸ [Dancers and Choreographers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁹ [Ibid.](#)

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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)

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