

# Labor Market Analysis for Program Recommendation: 1306.30/ Culinary Arts (Associate of Science and Certificate of Achievement) CVML Center of Excellence, September 2025



## Summary

Program LMI Endorsement	Endorsed: All LMI Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some LMI Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not LMI Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/>
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### Program LMI Endorsement Criteria

	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Supply Gap:	<i>Comments:</i> There are projected to be <b>1,831 annual job openings</b> throughout the SCV/SML subregion for <i>culinary arts</i> -related occupations, which <b>are more than the 54 awards conferred by educational institutions in the SCV/SML subregion (CC + Non-CC).</b>	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th):	<i>Comments:</i> All four <i>culinary arts</i> -related occupations included in this report have an entry-level hourly wage <b>above the SCV/SML living wage of \$16.08.</b>	
Education:	<i>Comments:</i> The typical entry-level education for <i>culinary arts</i> -related occupations is a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, <b>between 24% and 38% have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.</b>	

### Emerging Occupations(s)

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments: N/A	

The Central Valley/Mother Lode Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (CVML COE) prepared this report to determine whether there is a supply gap in the South Central Valley/Southern Mother Lode regional labor market related to the following occupations:

- Food Service Managers (SOC 11-9051)
- Chefs and Head Cooks (SOC 35-1011)
- First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers (SOC 35-1012)
- Cooks, Restaurant (SOC 35-2014)

Middle-skill occupations typically require a community college education while above middle-skill occupations typically require at least a bachelor's degree.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for *culinary arts*-related occupations. All the occupations in this report have entry-level wages above the subregion's living wage, however, only between 24% to 38% of workers in this field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. **Therefore, due to most of the regional labor market criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.**

Exhibit 1 lists the occupational demand, supply, typical entry-level education, and educational attainment for *culinary arts*-related occupations.

### Exhibit 1: Labor Market Endorsement Summary

Occupation (SOC)	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (CC and Non-CC)	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Typical Entry-Level Education	Community College Educational Attainment
Cooks, Restaurant (35-2014)	NCV/NML: 874 SCV/SML: 1,298	NCV/NML: 55 SCV/SML: 108	NCV/NML: \$17.58 SCV/SML: \$17.13	No formal educational credential	24%
<b>Below Middle-Skill Total</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>163</b>	-	-	-
Food Service Managers (11-9051)	NCV/NML: 232 SCV/SML: 357	NCV/NML: 55 SCV/SML: 108	NCV/NML: \$18.29 SCV/SML: \$20.67	High school diploma or equivalent	36%
Chefs and Head Cooks (35-1011)	NCV/NML: 116 SCV/SML: 177		NCV/NML: \$18.26 SCV/SML: \$18.50	High school diploma or equivalent	38%
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers (35-1012)	NCV/NML: 775 SCV/SML: 1,297		NCV/NML: \$18.45 SCV/SML: \$18.48	High school diploma or equivalent	38%
<b>Middle-Skill Total</b>	<b>2,954</b>	<b>163</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,126</b>		-	-	-

### Demand:

- The number of jobs related to the four *culinary arts*-related occupations in this report are projected to increase 11% through 2029. However, there will be 3,129 annual job openings in the SCV/SML subregion.
- All four *culinary arts*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage of \$16.08 in the SCV/SML subregion.
- There were 3,326 online job postings for *culinary arts*-related occupations over the past 12 months.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for three out of the four *culinary arts*-related occupations: *Food Service Managers*;

Chefs and Head Cooks; and First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers. The occupation Cooks, Restaurant typically have no formal educational credential.

- National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 24% and 38% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

## Supply:

- Between 2021 and 2024, there was an average of 75 awards conferred by community colleges in the SCV/SML subregion.
- Between 2020 and 2023, non-community college institution in the SCV/SML subregion conferred an average of 33 awards in relevant programs.

## Demand

### Occupational Projections

Exhibit 2 shows the annual percent change in jobs for the four *culinary arts*-related occupations from 2019 through 2029. The SCV/SML subregion experienced the highest growth in 2021 at 15%, compared to the 2% growth across all CA occupations. Additionally, these occupations only experienced a 12% growth in 2022 compared to the 5% growth across all CA occupations. From 2025 to 2029, growth is projected to remain steady (between 1% and 3%) in the SCV/SML subregion.

**Exhibit 2: Annual Percent Change in Jobs for Culinary Arts-Related Occupations, 2019-2029**

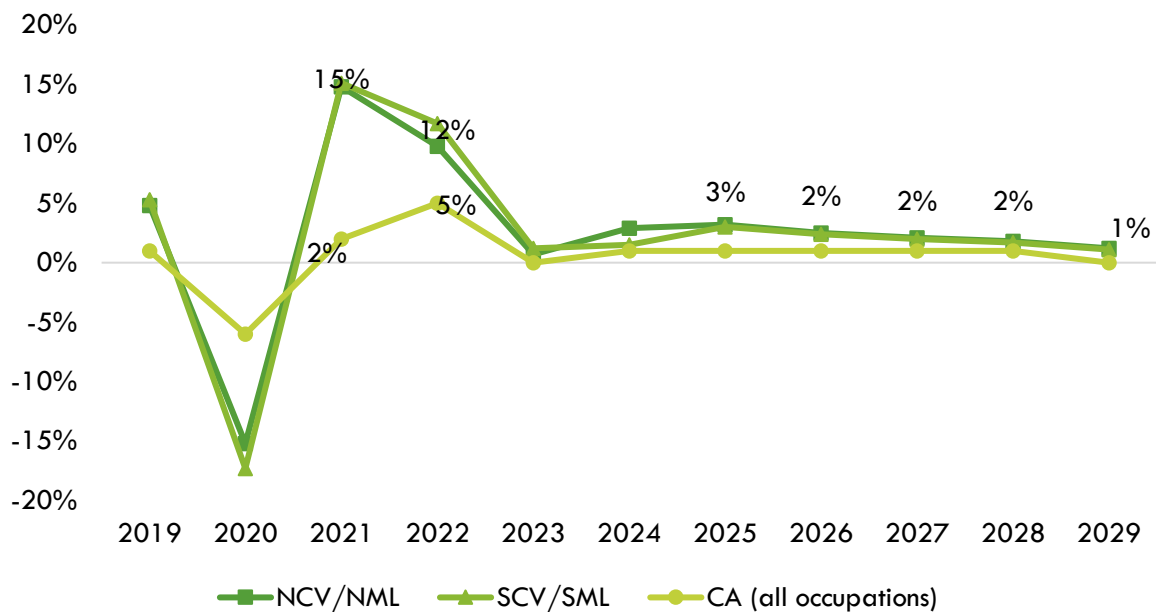


Exhibit 3 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the four *culinary arts*-related occupations. In the SCV/SML subregion, the number of jobs related to these occupations are projected to increase by 11% through 2029. There are projected to be 3,129 jobs available annually in the SCV/SML subregion.

**Exhibit 3: Occupational Demand in NCV/NML, SCV/SML, and CVML<sup>1</sup>**

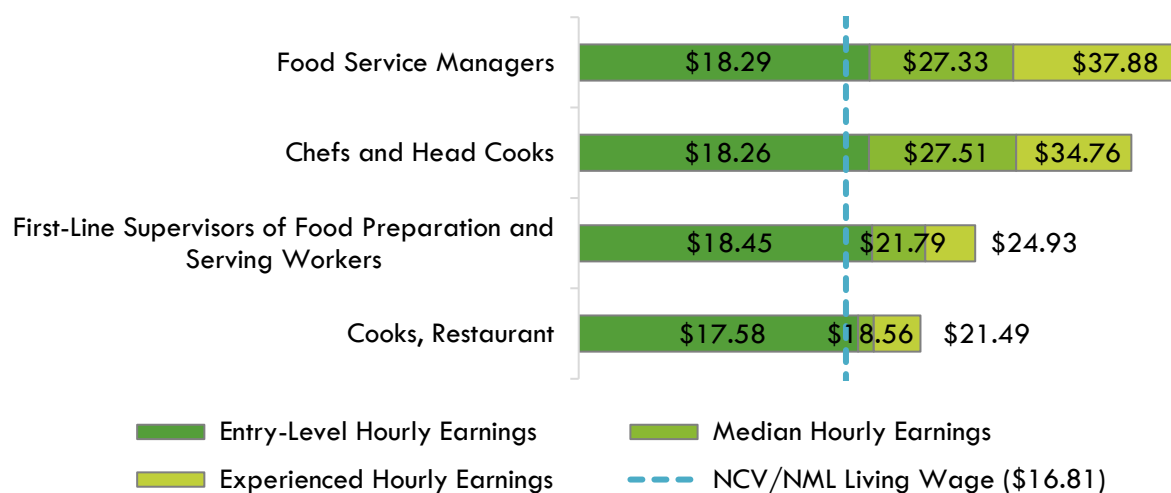
Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
NCV/NML	11,767	13,100	1,333	11%	1,998
SCV/SML	18,612	20,612	2,000	11%	3,129
<b>CVML</b>	<b>30,379</b>	<b>33,712</b>	<b>3,333</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5,127</b>

## Wages:

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for the four *culinary arts*-related occupations as they relate to the subregions and region's living wage. NCV/NML, SCV/SML, and CVML wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the region.

All four *culinary arts*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage for one adult in the NCV/NML subregion (\$16.81). The NCV/NML subregion average wage for these occupations is \$23.36, which is below the average statewide wage of \$25.04. Exhibit 4a shows the wage range for *culinary arts*-related occupations and how they compare to the NCV/NML subregion's living wage.

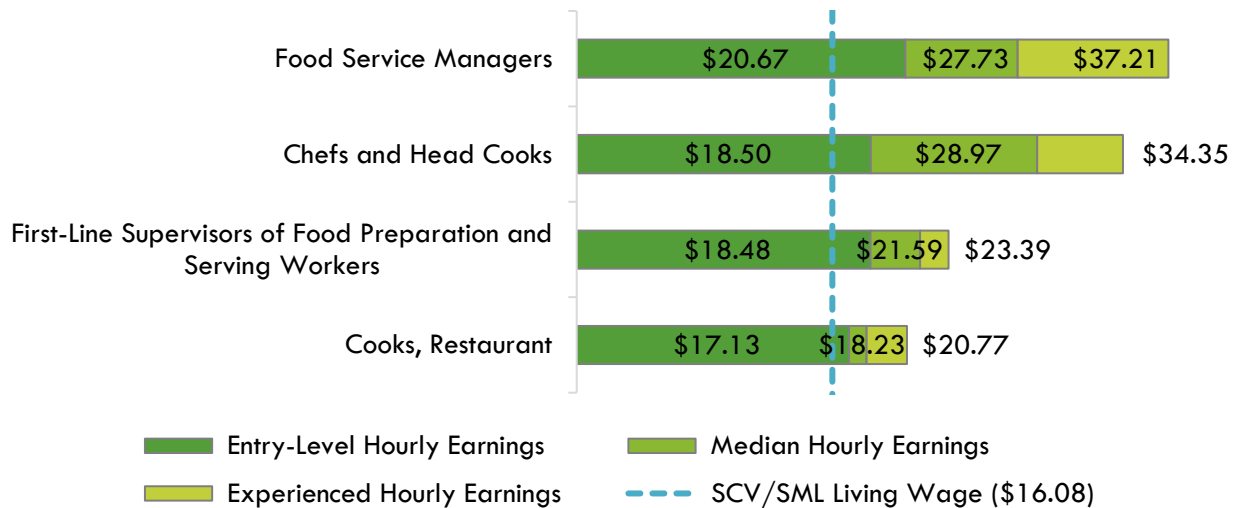
**Exhibit 4a: Wages by Occupation in NCV/NML**



All four *culinary arts*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage for one adult in the SCV/SML subregion (\$16.08). The SCV/SML subregion average wage for these occupations is \$22.94, which is below the average statewide wage of \$25.04. Exhibit 4b shows the wage range for *culinary arts*-related occupations and how they compare to the SCV/SML subregion's living wage.

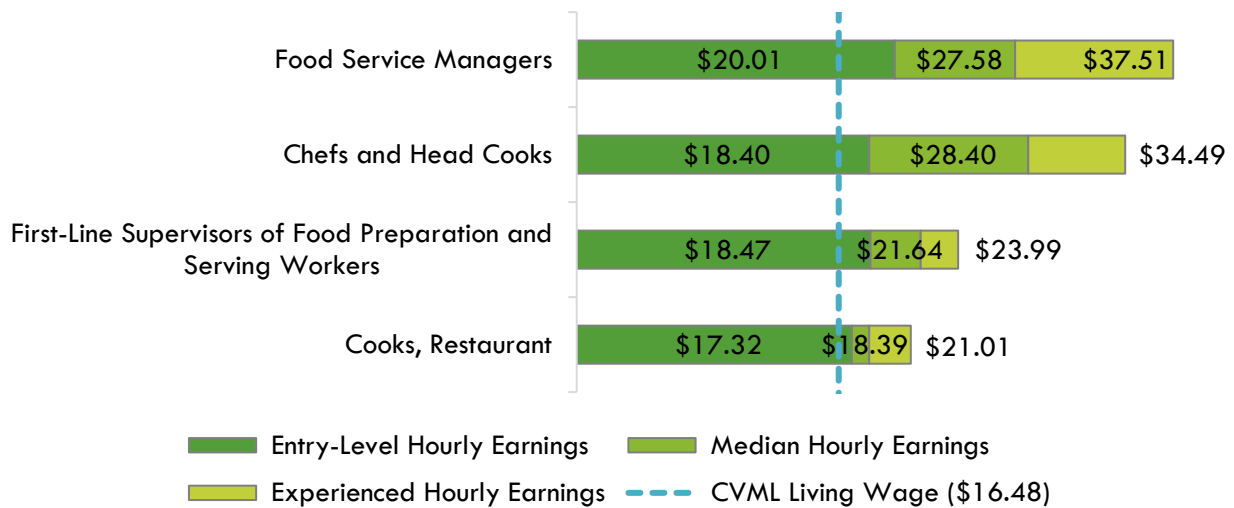
<sup>1</sup>Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

### Exhibit 4b: Wages by Occupation in SCV/SML



All four *culinary arts*-related occupations have an entry-level hourly wage above the living wage for one adult in the CVML region (\$16.48). The CVML region average wage for these occupations is \$23.11, which is below the average statewide wage of \$25.04. Exhibit 5 shows the wage range for *culinary arts*-related occupations and how they compare to the CVML region's living wage.

### Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in CVML



### Job Postings:

**Important Online Job Postings Data Note:** Online job postings data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm that scrapes, collects, and organizes data from online job boards such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor, Monster, GovernmentJobs.com, and thousands more. Lightcast uses natural language processing (NLP) to determine the related company, industry, occupation, and other information for each job posting. However, NLP has limitations that include understanding contextual words of phrases; determining differences in words that can be used as nouns, verbs, and/or adjectives; and misspellings or grammatical errors.<sup>2</sup> For these reasons, job postings could be assigned to the wrong employer, industry, or occupation within Lightcast's database.

<sup>2</sup>K. R. Chowdhary, *Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence* (Basingstoke: Springer Nature, 2020), <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-81-322-3972-7>

Additionally, there are several limitations when analyzing job postings. A single job posting may not represent a single job opening, as employers may be creating a pool of candidates for future openings or hiring for multiple positions with a single posting. Additionally, not all jobs are posted online, and jobs may be filled through other methods such as internal promotion, word-of-mouth advertising, physical job boards, or a variety of other channels.

There were 3,326 online job postings related to *culinary arts*-related occupations listed in the past 12 months (Exhibit 6).

### Exhibit 6: Number of Job Postings by Occupation (n=3,326)

Occupations	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Food Service Managers	1,278	38%
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,180	35%
Cooks, Restaurant	680	20%
Chefs and Head Cooks	188	6%

The top employers in the region for *culinary arts*-related occupations, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 7.

### Exhibit 7: Top Employers by Number of Job Postings (n=3,326)

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Starbucks	480	14%
Domino's Pizza	247	7%
Panda Express	127	4%
Compass Group	96	3%
Taco Bell	79	2%
Chipotle	70	2%
Levy Restaurants	65	2%
AutoZone	63	2%
Hard Rock International	51	2%
Jack in the Box	47	1%

The top specialized, common, and software skills for *culinary arts*-related occupations are listed by those most frequently mentioned in job postings (denoted in parentheses) are shown in Exhibit 8.

### Exhibit 8: Top Skills by Number of Job Postings (n=3,326)

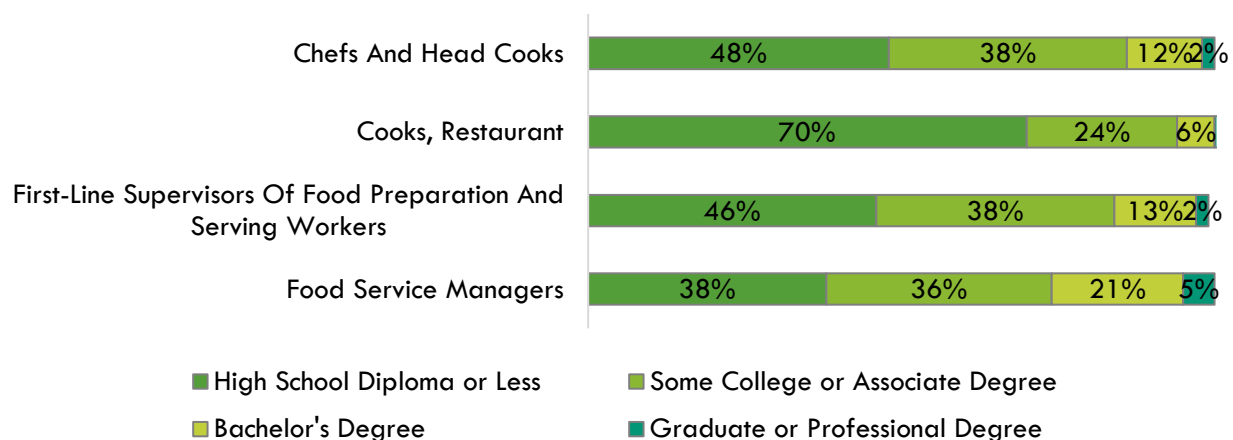
Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Restaurant Operation (1360)	Customer Service (1746)	Microsoft Excel (95)
Food Safety And Sanitation (869)	Communication (1639)	Microsoft Office (94)
Cash Handling (778)	Leadership (1222)	Microsoft Outlook (66)
Retail Operations (610)	Management (1194)	Microsoft PowerPoint (51)
Food Services (524)	Operations (853)	Microsoft Word (36)
Cooking (512)	Cleanliness (705)	Spreadsheets (36)
Collective Bargaining (485)	Energetic (567)	Inventory Management System (21)
Food Preparation (453)	Sales (556)	UKG (Ultimate Kronos Group) (14)
Marketing (410)	Proactivity (529)	R (Programming Language) (14)
Inventory Control (361)	Sanitation (516)	Microsoft Access (13)

### Educational Attainment:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *Food Service Managers, Chefs and Head Cooks* and *First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers* and lists no formal educational credential as the typical entry-level education for *Cooks, Restaurant*. National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 24% and 38% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Exhibit 9 shows the educational attainment for the four *culinary arts*-related occupations.

Of the 3,326 online job postings, 36% (equivalent to 1,203 postings) of cumulative job postings for the four *culinary arts*-related occupations listed a minimum education requirement in the SCV/SML subregion. Of the 1,203 postings, 78% (942) requested a high school or GED.

### Exhibit 9: National-level Educational Attainment for Culinary Arts-Related Occupations



# Educational Supply

## Community College Supply:

Exhibits 10a and 10b show the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the programs that have historically trained for the occupations included in this report. The colleges with the most completions are Columbia (North) and Lemoore (South).

**Exhibit 10a: NCV/NML Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees)  
2021-22 through 2023-24**

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1306.30	Culinary Arts	Columbia	11	27	33	24
		Merced	8	5	3	5
		San Joaquin Delta	28	16	21	22
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>
1307.10	Restaurant and Food Services and Management	Columbia	6	2	6	5
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NCV/NML Supply Grand Total</b>			<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>

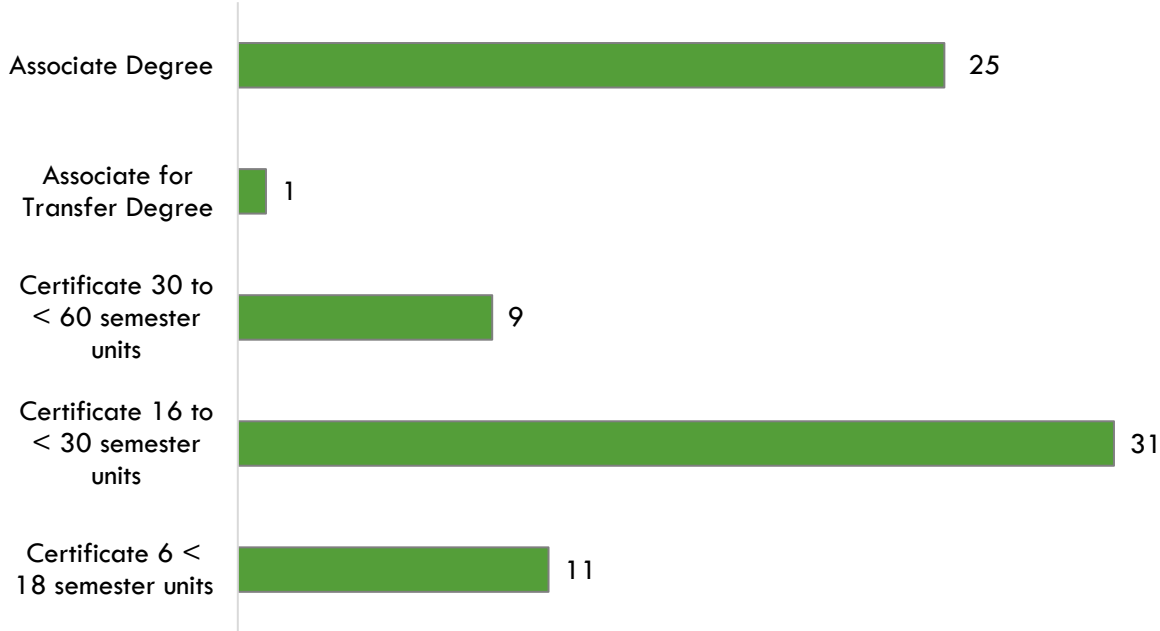
**Exhibit 10b: SCV/SML Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees)  
2021-22 through 2023-24**

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1306.30	Culinary Arts	Bakersfield	32	19	18	23
		Fresno City	-	-	6	2
		Lemoore	-	-	13	4
		Sequoias	3	25	37	22
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>51</b>

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1307.00	Hospitality	Lemoore	-	-	11	4
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
1307.10	Restaurant and Food Services and Management	Fresno City	5	6	3	5
		Lemoore	23	14	11	16
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SCV/SML Supply Grand Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>75</b>

Exhibit 11 shows the annual average community college awards by type from 2021-22 through 2023-24. Of the 75 awards conferred in the SCV/SML subregion, 41% (31) of these awards were for a certificate 16 to < 30 semester units.

**Exhibit 11: Annual Average Community College Awards (SCV/SML) by Type, 2021-2024**



## Community College Student Outcomes:

Exhibits 12 shows the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) metrics for programs related to culinary arts in Kern Community College District (KCCD), the SCV/SML subregion, the CVML region, and California.

Of the 11,618 culinary arts program students statewide in the 2023-2024 academic year, 7% (823) attended a CVML Institution. SCV/SML students that exited culinary arts programs in the 2022-2023 academic year had less median annual earnings (\$26,668) compared to all culinary arts students statewide (\$34,048). Notably, 35% of SCV/SML culinary arts students attained a living wage, which is greater than the number of students who attained a living wage statewide (27%).

**Exhibit 12: Culinary Arts (1306.30) Strong Workforce Program Metrics**

SWP Metric	KCCD	SCV/SML Subregion	CVML Region	California
SWP Students	188	504	823	11,618
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	39%	40%	39%	33%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	100%	94%	93%	72%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	9%	12%	10%	8%
SWP Students Who Transferred to a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution	N/A	3%	3%	2%
SWP Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study	N/A	N/A	N/A	62%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	\$21,454 (\$10.31)	\$26,668 (\$12.82)	\$27,020 (\$12.99)	\$34,048 (\$16.37)
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	7%	7%	7%	25%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage	36%	35%	34%	27%



2023-2024



2022-2023



2021-2022



N/A

## Non-Community College Supply:

For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is also important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for the occupations studied in this report. Exhibit 13 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by non-community college institutions in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest.

Between 2020 and 2023, non-community college institutions in the SCV/SML subregion conferred an average of 33 awards annually in related programs.

**Exhibit 13: SCV/SML Subregional Non-Community College Awards, 2020-2023**

<b>CIP Code</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>2020-21 Awards</b>	<b>2021-22 Awards</b>	<b>2022-23 Awards</b>	<b>3-Year Award Average</b>
12.0501	Baking and Pastry Arts/Baker/Pastry Chef	Institute of Technology	26	34	39	33
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>SCV/SML Supply Grand Total</b>			<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>

## Appendix A: Methodology

The CVML COE prepared this report by analyzing data from occupations and education programs.

Occupational data is derived from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm that consolidates data from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and other government agencies. Program supply data is drawn from two systems: Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

Using a TOP-SOC crosswalk, the CVML COE identified middle-skill jobs for which programs within these TOP codes train. Middle-skill jobs include:

- 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.

The CVML COE determined labor market supply for an occupation or SOC code by analyzing the number of program completers or awards in a related TOP or CIP code. The COE developed a "supply table" with this information, which is the source of the program supply data for this report. TOP code data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart ([datamart.cccco.edu](http://datamart.cccco.edu)) and CIP code data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System ([nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data)), also known as IPEDS. TOP is a system of numerical codes used at the state level to collect and report information on California community college programs and courses throughout the state that have similar outcomes. CIP codes are a taxonomy of academic disciplines at institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada. Institutions outside of the California Community College system do not use TOP codes in their reporting systems.

Data included in this analysis represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to the proposed program as expressed by the requesting college in consultation with the CVML COE. Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study which can signal demand and show what employers are looking for in potential employees but is not a perfect measure of the quantity of open positions.

All representations have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. The most recent data available at the time of the analysis was examined; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.

## Appendix B: Data Sources

Data Type	Source
Occupational Projections, Wages, and Job Postings	<p>Traditional labor market information data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm. Lightcast occupational employment data are based on final Lightcast industry data and final Lightcast staffing patterns. Wage estimates are based on Occupational Employment Statistics and the American Community Survey. For more information, see <a href="https://lightcast.io/">https://lightcast.io/</a></p>
Living Wage	<p>The living wage is derived from the Insight Center's California Family Needs Calculator, which measures the income necessary for an individual of family to afford basic expenses. The data assesses the cost of housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation, and taxes. For more information, see: <a href="https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California/">https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California/</a></p> <p>Wage figures are used by the CCCCCO to calculate the percentage of students that attained the regional living wage.</p>
Typical Education and Training Requirements, and Educational Attainment	<p>The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about education and training requirements for hundreds of occupations. BLS uses a system to assign categories for entry-level education, work experience in a related occupation, and typical on-the-job training to each occupation for which BLS publishes projections data. For more information, see <a href="https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education/tech.htm">https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education/tech.htm</a></p>
Emerging Occupation Descriptions, Additional Education Requirements, and Employer Preferences	<p>The O*NET database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledges, work activities, and interests associated with occupations. For more information, see <a href="https://www.onetonline.org/help/online/">https://www.onetonline.org/help/online/</a></p>
Educational Supply	<p>The CCCCCO Data Mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes and faculty and staff. For more information, see: <a href="https://datamart.cccco.edu">https://datamart.cccco.edu</a></p> <p>The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Integrated Data System (IPEDS) collects data on the number of postsecondary awards earned (completions). For more information, see <a href="https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/survey-components/7/completions">https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/survey-components/7/completions</a></p>
Student Metrics and Demographics	<p>DataVista, a statewide data system supported by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and hosted by Cal-PASS Plus, provides data on progress, success, employment, and earnings outcomes for California community college students. For more information, see: <a href="https://datavista.cccco.edu/">https://datavista.cccco.edu/</a></p>
Population and Occupation Demographics	<p>The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source for detailed population and housing information. For more information, see: <a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs</a></p> <p>Data is sourced from IPUMS USA, a database providing access to ACS and other Census Bureau data products. For more information, see: <a href="https://usa.ipums.org/usa/about.shtml">https://usa.ipums.org/usa/about.shtml</a></p>

For more information, please contact the Central Valley/Mother Lode Center of Excellence:

Patricia Salinas, District Director

[patricia.salinas@sccd.edu](mailto:patricia.salinas@sccd.edu)

Ignacio Faria, Senior Research and Planning Analyst

[ignacio.faria@sccd.edu](mailto:ignacio.faria@sccd.edu)

Angela Steitz, Program Specialist

[angela.steitz@sccd.edu](mailto:angela.steitz@sccd.edu)

September 2025



FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

CENTRAL VALLEY/MOTHER LODGE