

**Program Endorsement Brief: 1303.10/Fashion Design and 1303.30/Fashion Production  
Apparel Construction Certificate of Achievement  
Apparel Construction A.S. Degree  
Fashion Design Certificate of Achievement  
Fashion Design A.S. Degree**

Orange County Center of Excellence, August 2021

**Summary Analysis**

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

The Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide Los Angeles/Orange County regional labor market supply and demand data related to one middle-skill occupation: *fashion designer* (27-1022). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree.<sup>1</sup> Although the occupation in this report typically requires a bachelor’s degree, it is considered middle-skill because approximately one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Based on the available data, there does not appear to be a supply gap for fashion designers in the region; however, the oversupply is within the COE’s acceptable margin (25% over or under the number of annual job openings) and is therefore considered “supply met” rather than a “supply gap”. Furthermore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor’s degree as the typical entry-level education for this occupation. However, entry-level wages exceed the living wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

<sup>1</sup> 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.

### Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **454 jobs available annually** in the region due to retirements and workers leaving the field, **which is less than the 526 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.
  - The labor market information suggests that the **supply has been met for this occupation within the LA/OC region** since the average number of annual awards (supply) is within the COE's 25% margin of annual job openings (demand).
- **Living Wage Criteria** –Within Orange County, **typical entry-level hourly wages** for fashion designers are \$26.79, which is **higher than the California Family Needs Calculator** hourly wage (living wage) for one adult in the region (20.63 in Orange County).<sup>2</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a **bachelor's degree** as the **typical entry-level education** for fashion designers.
  - However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **29% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**

### Supply:

- There are **13 community colleges** in the LA/OC region that issue awards related to fashion and fashion design, conferring an average of **232 awards annually** between 2017 and 2020.
- Between 2016 and 2019, there was an average of **494 awards conferred annually** in related training programs by non-community college institutions throughout the region.

### Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for fashion designers. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to decrease by 11% through 2025. However, there will be more than 450 job openings per year through 2025 due to retirements and workers leaving the field.

*This report includes employment projection data by Emsi which uses EDD information. Emsi's projections are modeled on recorded (historical) employment figures and incorporate several underlying assumptions, including the assumption that the economy, during the projection period, will be at approximately full employment. To the extent that a recession or labor shock, such as the economic effects of COVID-19, can cause long-term structural change, it may impact the projections. At this time, it is not possible to quantify the impact of COVID-19 on projections of industry and occupational employment. Therefore, the projections included in this report do not take the impacts of COVID-19 into account.*

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<sup>2</sup> Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 8/17/2021. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

### Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>3</sup>

Geography	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	4,703	4,129	(574)	(12%)	379
Orange	907	838	(69)	(8%)	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,610</b>	<b>4,967</b>	<b>(643)</b>	<b>(11%)</b>	<b>456</b>

#### Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for fashion designers in Orange County as they relate to the county's living wage. Los Angeles County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

**Orange County**— The typical entry-level hourly wages for fashion designers are \$26.79, which exceeds the living wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$51.09, which is higher than the living wage estimate. Orange County's average wages are above the average statewide wage of \$44.76 for this occupation.

**Los Angeles County**— The typical entry-level hourly wages for fashion designers are \$26.93, which exceeds the living wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$50.05, which is higher than the living wage estimate. Los Angeles County's average wages are above the average statewide wage of \$44.76 for this occupation.

#### Job Postings

There were 532 online job postings related to fashion designers listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for fashion designers, apparel designers, design directors, assistant fashion designers, and designers. The top skills were: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, product development, sketching, and merchandising. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: Boardriders, Fam Brands, Lucky Brand, and Vince LLC.

*It is important to note that the job postings data included in this section reflects online job postings listed in the past 12 months and does not yet demonstrate the impact of COVID-19. While employers have generally posted fewer online job postings since the beginning of the pandemic, the long-term effects are currently unknown.*

#### Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education for fashion designers. However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates 29% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 47% of fashion designer job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 75% (187) requested a bachelor's degree, 12% (31) requested an associate degree, and 12% (31) requested a high school diploma.

<sup>3</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.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply**—Exhibit 2 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Fashion (1303.00), Fashion Design (1303.10), and Fashion Production (1303.30). The colleges with the most completions in the region are: LA Trade-Tech, Mt San Antonio, and Pasadena. Over the past 12 months, there were four other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

**Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2017-2020**

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	2019-2020 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1303.00	Fashion	El Camino	7	2	6	5
		Pasadena	16	38	25	26
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>
		Fullerton	-	3	1	1
		Saddleback	2	3	-	2
		Santa Ana	-	4	11	5
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>
1303.10	Fashion Design	El Camino	3	2	1	2
		LA Trade-Tech	119	84	57	87
		Long Beach	9	12	9	10
		Mt San Antonio	17	15	31	21
		Santa Monica	19	17	21	19
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>139</b>
		Fullerton	8	4	4	5
		Orange Coast	12	13	7	11
		Saddleback	11	16	8	12
		Santa Ana	8	9	15	11
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>206</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>177</b>
1303.30	Fashion Production	LA Trade	5	1	3	3
		Long Beach	2	-	-	1
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
		Fullerton	1	1	3	2
		Orange Coast	10	4	14	9
		Santa Ana	3	4	-	2
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>243</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>232</b>

**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 fashion and fashion design. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Codes: Apparel and Textiles, Manufacturing (19.0902) and Fashion/Apparel Design (50.0407). Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2016 to 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, four-year colleges in the region conferred an average of 294 awards annually in related training programs.

**Exhibit 3: Regional non-community college awards, 2016-2019**

CIP Code	Program	College	2016-2017 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	3-Year Award Average
19.0902	Apparel and Textile Manufacturing	Beverly Hills Design Institute	1	3	2	2
		FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	12	32	23	22
50.0407	Fashion/Apparel Design	Beverly Hills Design Institute	2	2	1	2
		FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	246	231	172	216
		Otis College of Art and Design	32	41	44	39
		Virginia Sewing Machines and School Center	12	-	-	4
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>315</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>294</b>

**Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county**

**Exhibit 4. Orange County**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)
Fashion Designers (27-1022)	907	838	(69)	(8%)	75	\$26.79	\$41.66	\$51.09

### Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Fashion Designers (27-1022)	4,703	4,129	(574)	(12%)	381	\$26.93	\$41.09	\$50.05

### Exhibit 6. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings
Fashion Designers (27-1022)	5,610	4,967	(643)	(11%)	456

#### Appendix B: Sources

- O\*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- California Family Needs Calculator, Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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