

Program Endorsement Brief: 1302.00/Interior Design and Merchandising
Interior Design Professional Certificate of Achievement
 Orange County Center of Excellence, August 2021

Summary Analysis

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met	Not Endorsed
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Education:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	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 two middle-skill occupations: *architectural and civil drafters* (17-3011), and *interior designers* (27-1025). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.¹ Although *interior designers* (17-1025) typically require a bachelor's degree, they are 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 appears to be a supply gap for these interior design program occupations in the region. Furthermore, the majority of annual openings for the occupations in this report have entry-level wages that exceed the living wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties. However, the majority of job openings for these occupations in LA/OC typically require a bachelor's degree. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **1,202 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 329 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.

¹ 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 Criteria** – Within Orange County, **all the annual job openings** for these interior design occupations have **entry-level wages above the county's living wage** (\$17.36/hour).²
- **Educational Criteria** – Within the LA/OC region, **57% of the annual job openings** for occupations related to interior design **typically require a bachelor's degree**.
 - The national-level educational attainment data varies between occupations: **60.9% of architectural and civil drafters in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, while 29% of interior designers have completed some college or an associate degree.**

Supply:

- There are **9 community colleges** in the LA/OC region that issue awards related to interior design and/or architectural drafting, conferring an average of **152 awards annually** between 2016 and 2019.
- Between 2014 and 2017, there was an average of **177 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 these interior design occupations. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 4% through 2024. There will be nearly 4% job openings per year through 2024 due to job growth and replacements.

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.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties³

Geography	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	2019-2024 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	7,549	7,806	257	3%	827
Orange	3,336	3,478	142	4%	375
Total	10,884	11,285	401	4%	1,202

² Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 07/31/2021. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

³ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these interior design occupations 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—All of the annual openings for these interior design occupations have entry-level wages above the living wage for one adult (\$17.36 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$22.01 and \$25.84. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$37.63 and \$42.77, which are higher than the living wage estimate. Orange County's average wages are above the average statewide wage of \$32.69 for these occupations.

Los Angeles County—All of the annual openings for these interior design occupations have entry-level wages above the living wage for one adult (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$20.95 and \$24.87. Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$36.39 and \$42.33, which are higher than the living wage estimate. Los Angeles County's average wages are above the average statewide wage of \$32.69 for these occupations.

Job Postings

There were 1,083 online job postings related to interior design listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for kitchen/bath designers, interior designers, design consultants, interior design assistants, and senior interior designers. The top skills were: interior design, AutoCAD, customer service, customer contact and SketchUp. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: The Home Depot, 3 Day Blinds, and Floor Décor.

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 *interior designers* (27-1025), and an associate degree for *architectural and civil drafters* (17-3011). In the LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (57%) typically require a bachelor's degree. The national-level educational attainment data varies between occupations: 60.9% of architectural and civil drafters in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, while 29% of interior designers have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 43% of interior design job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 76% (359) requested a bachelor's degree, 16% (73) requested a high school diploma and 8% (38) requested an associate degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply—Exhibit 2 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Architectural Drafting (0953.10), and Interior Design and Merchandising (1302.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region

are: Orange Coast, Saddleback, and Mt. San Antonio. Over the past 12 months, there were five other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2016-2019

TOP Code	Program	College	2016-	2017-	2018-	3-Year Award Average
			2017 Awards	2018 Awards	2019 Awards	
0953.10	Architectural Drafting	Citrus	1	-	-	0
		Long Beach	12	8	7	9
		LA Subtotal	13	8	7	9
		Fullerton	-	4	3	2
		Santa Ana	3	3	3	3
		OC Subtotal	3	7	6	5
Supply Subtotal/Average			16	15	13	15
1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising	LA Mission	3	7	5	5
		Mt San Antonio	16	19	36	24
		Santa Monica	15	30	15	20
		LA Subtotal	34	56	56	49
		Fullerton	15	34	12	20
		Orange Coast	32	34	43	36
		Saddleback	6	32	58	32
		OC Subtotal	53	100	113	89
		Supply Subtotal/Average	87	156	169	137
Supply Total/Average			103	171	182	152

Non-Community College Supply—It is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for these interior design occupations. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: Interior Design (50.0408). Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2014 to 2017. Between 2014 and 2017, four-year colleges in the region conferred an average of 177 awards annually in related training programs.

Exhibit 3: Regional non-community college awards, 2014-2017

CIP Code	Program	College	2014-	2015-	2016-	3-Year Award Average
			2015 Awards	2016 Awards	2017 Awards	
50.0408	Interior Design	Argosy University-The Art Institute of California-Hollywood	18	8	8	11
		Argosy University-The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles	21	13	11	15

CIP Code	Program	College	2014-2015 Awards	2015-2016 Awards	2016-2017 Awards	3-Year Award Average
		Argosy University-The Art Institute of California-Orange County	12	10	9	10
		California State University-Long Beach	23	36	33	31
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	51	50	53	51
		Interior Designers Institute	59	60	55	58
Supply Total/Average			184	177	169	177

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 4. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)
Architectural and Civil Drafters (17-3011)	1,726	1,770	44	3%	189	\$25.84	\$30.70	\$37.63
Interior Designers (27-1025)	1,610	1,709	99	6%	186	\$22.01	\$29.71	\$42.77
Total	3,336	3,478	142	4%	375			

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75th Percentile)
Architectural and Civil Drafters (17-3011)	2,999	3,049	50	2%	322	\$24.87	\$29.63	\$36.39
Interior Designers (27-1025)	4,550	4,757	207	5%	505	\$20.95	\$29.05	\$42.33
Total	7,549	7,806	257	3%	827			

Exhibit 6. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings
Architectural and Civil Drafters (17-3011)	4,725	4,819	94	2%	511
Interior Designers (27-1025)	6,159	6,466	307	5%	691
Total	10,884	11,285	401	4%	1,202

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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