

**Program Endorsement Brief: 1303.00/Fashion  
Quinceañera Dress Design Certificate**  
Orange County Center of Excellence, February 2021

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**Summary Analysis**

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" 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 designers* (27-1022), and two below middle-skill occupations: *tailors, dressmakers, and customer sewers* (51-6052), and *fabric and apparel patternmakers* (51-6092). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree.<sup>1</sup> 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 three fashion occupations in the region. However, the majority of annual openings for the occupations in this report in the LA/OC region typically require a bachelor’s degree, and the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages below the living wage in Orange County. **Therefore, the COE does not endorse this program.** Detailed reasons include:

**Demand:**

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **1,140 jobs available annually** in the region due to workers leaving the field, **which is more than the 694 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.
  - While there were 947 online job postings related to these fashion occupations, **0 of these postings mentioned quinceañera or quinceañera dress design.**

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<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.

- **Living Wage Criteria** – Within Orange County, the majority (55%) of annual job openings for these fashion occupations have entry-level wages below the county's living wage (\$17.36/hour).<sup>2</sup>
  - **Fabric and apparel patternmakers have entry-level wages below the living wage (\$15.03).**
  - While **tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers have typical entry-level hourly wages of \$10.56**, which is **both below the living wage** as well as **California's current minimum wage.**
  - However, *fashion designers have entry-level wages that exceed the county's living wage (\$25.21).*
- **Educational Criteria** – Within the LA/OC region, **54% of the annual job openings** for these fashion occupations **typically require a bachelor's degree.**
  - While the national-level educational attainment data indicates **29.6% of fashion designers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree**, only **23.5 % of fabric and apparel patternmakers and 24.4% of tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**
  - **The majority of fabric and apparel patternmakers (64.8%) and tailors, dressmakers, and customer sewers (59.2%) in the field have completed a high school diploma or less as their highest level of education.**

#### Supply:

- There are **10 community colleges** in the LA/OC region that issue awards related to fashion design and production, conferring an average of **218 awards annually** between 2016 and 2019.
- Between 2014 and 2017, there was an average of **476 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 three fashion occupations. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to decrease by 9% through 2024. However, there will be nearly 1,150 job openings per year through 2024 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*

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<sup>2</sup> Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 1/13/2021. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

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 Counties<sup>3</sup>**

Geography	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	2019-2024 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	8,645	7,809	(836)	(10%)	934
Orange	1,800	1,730	(69)	(4%)	206
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,444</b>	<b>9,539</b>	<b>(905)</b>	<b>(9%)</b>	<b>1,140</b>

### Wages

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

Nearly half of *tailors, dressmakers, and customer sewers* (49.3%) in the LA/OC region are self-employed and list self-employment as their primary source of income.<sup>4</sup> Self-employed workers have different earnings dynamics than wage and salaried workers, making direct comparisons difficult. Examples include deciphering what is a return to labor versus a return to capital, as well as showing possible negative earnings if expenses or investments exceed gross receipts.<sup>5</sup> For these reasons, wage data appears low throughout the region due to the high percentage of self-employed workers within this occupation.

**Orange County**—The majority (54%) of annual openings for the fashion occupations in this report have entry-level wages below the living wage for one adult (\$17.36 in Los Angeles County).<sup>6</sup> Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$10.76 and \$25.21. While *fashion designers* have entry-level wages that exceed the county’s living wage (\$25.21), *fabric and apparel patternmakers* have entry-level wages below the living wage (\$15.03). *Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers* have even lower typical entry-level hourly wages of \$10.56, which is below both the living wage as well as California’s current minimum wage (\$12.00/hour for employers with 25 employees or less; \$13.00/hour for employers with 26 or more employees).<sup>7</sup> Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$26.25 and \$48.48, which are higher than the living wage estimate. Orange County’s average wages are above the average statewide wage of \$32.65 for these occupations.

<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.

<sup>4</sup> Emsi provides self-employment data as reported to the Census’ American Community Survey, and counts respondents who list self-employment as their primary source of income.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/201911\\_Brookings-Metro\\_low-wage-workforce\\_Ross-Bateman.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/201911_Brookings-Metro_low-wage-workforce_Ross-Bateman.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 1/13/2021. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

<sup>7</sup> Wage data is based on data collected over the previous three years. This historical data is a “point-in-time” estimate and does not reflect recent changes in minimum wage laws. [https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/FAQ\\_MinimumWage.htm](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/FAQ_MinimumWage.htm)

**Los Angeles County**—The majority (56%) of annual openings for these fashion 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 \$11.81 and \$25.86. While *fashion designers* have entry-level wages that exceed the county’s living wage (\$25.86), *fabric and apparel patternmakers* have entry-level wages below the living wage (\$14.97). *Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers* have even lower typical entry-level hourly wages of \$11.81, which is below both the living wage as well as California’s current minimum wage (\$12.00/hour for employers with 25 employees or less; \$13.00/hour for employers with 26 or more employees).<sup>8</sup> Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$27.90 and \$48.62, which are higher than the living wage estimate. Los Angeles County’s average wages are above the average statewide wage of \$32.65 for these occupations.

### **Job Postings**

There were 947 online job postings related to these three fashion occupations listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for seamstresses/sewers, fashion designers, design directors, pattern makers, and tailors. The top skills were: sewing, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, product development, and sales. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: Nordstrom, David’s Bridal, and Macy’s. Of these 947 job postings, zero postings specifically mentioned *quinceañera* or *quinceañera dress design*.

*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*, a high school diploma for *fabric and apparel patternmakers*, and no formal education for *tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers*. In the LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (54%) typically require a bachelor’s degree. While the national-level educational attainment data indicates 29.6% of *fashion designers* in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, only 23.5 % of *fabric and apparel patternmakers* and 24.4% of *tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers* in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. It is also important to note that the majority of *fabric and apparel patternmakers* (64.8%) and *tailors, dressmakers, and customer sewers* (59.2%) in the field have completed a high school diploma or less education as their highest level of education. Of the 33% of these fashion job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 54% (170) requested a bachelor’s degree, 32% (101) requested a high school diploma and 13% (41) 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: Fashion (1303.00), Fashion Design (1303.10), and Fashion Production (1303.30). The colleges with the most completions in the region

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

are: LA Trade-Tech, Pasadena, 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 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 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-Tech	2	5	1	3
		Long Beach	1	2	-	1
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
		Fullerton	1	1	1	1
		Orange Coast	9	10	4	8
		Santa Ana	5	3	4	4
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>240</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>218</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 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) Codes: Apparel and Textiles, General (19.0901), Apparel and Textile Manufacture (19.0902), Fashion/Apparel Design (50.0407), and Costume Design (50.0510). 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 476 awards annually in related training programs.

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

CIP Code	Program	[College	2014-2015 Awards	2015-2016 Awards	2016-2017 Awards	3-Year Award Average
19.0901	Apparel and Textiles, General	Cal State Polytechnic Univ.-Pomona	71	76	109	85
19.0902	Apparel and Textile Manufacture	Beverly Hills Design Institute	3	7	1	4
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	-	-	12	4
50.0407	Fashion/Apparel Design	Argosy University-The Art Institute of California-Hollywood	44	23	22	30
		Argosy University-The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles	12	21	11	15
		Argosy University-The Art Institute of California-Orange County	6	7	9	7
		Beverly Hills Design Institute	2	1	2	2
		FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	275	227	246	249
		Otis College of Art and Design	33	42	32	36
		Virginia Sewing Machines and School Center	6	5	12	8
		Woodbury University	13	14	10	12
50.0510	Costume Design	FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising-Los Angeles	13	13	14	13
		Virginia Sewing Machines and School Center	26	8	-	11
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>504</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>476</b>

## 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 (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Fashion Designers (27-1022)	940	915	(25)	(3%)	94	\$25.21	\$39.17	\$48.48
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers (51-6052)	610	594	(16)	(3%)	80	\$10.76	\$16.38	\$26.25
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers (51-6092)	249	221	(28)	(11%)	32	\$15.03	\$27.41	\$38.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>(69)</b>	<b>(4%)</b>	<b>206</b>			

### Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 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)	5,344	5,048	(296)	(6%)	526	\$25.86	\$39.50	\$48.62
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers (51-6052)	2,216	1,999	(218)	(10%)	281	\$11.81	\$17.09	\$27.90
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers (51-6092)	1,084	762	(322)	(30%)	127	\$14.97	\$27.30	\$38.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>7,809</b>	<b>(836)</b>	<b>(10%)</b>	<b>934</b>			

### 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)	6,284	5,964	(321)	(5%)	620
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers (51-6052)	2,827	2,593	(234)	(8%)	361
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers (51-6092)	1,334	983	(351)	(26%)	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,444</b>	<b>9,539</b>	<b>(905)</b>	<b>(9%)</b>	<b>1,140</b>

#### 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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