

## Program Endorsement Brief: 1210.00/ Respiratory Care/Therapy

### Respiratory Care Associate of Science Degree

Orange County Center of Excellence, August 2021

#### Summary Analysis

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed:</b> All Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed:</b> Some Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not</b> <b>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:</b> (Entry-Level, 25 <sup>th</sup> )	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Education:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input 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: *respiratory therapists* (29-1126). 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, supply is within the COE's acceptable margin (25% over or under the number of annual job openings) to be considered "supply met" rather than a "supply gap" for *respiratory therapists* in the region. Furthermore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for this occupation and 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:

#### Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **386 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is slightly more than the 314 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.
  - However, 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).

<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 **typical entry-level hourly wage** for respiratory therapists is **\$32.13, which is higher than the living wage estimate** for one adult (\$17.36 in Orange County).<sup>2</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) **lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education** for respiratory therapists.
  - Furthermore, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **65% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree** as their highest level of education.

#### Supply:

- There are **7 community colleges** in the LA/OC region that issue awards related to respiratory care/therapy, conferring an average of **163 awards annually** between 2017 and 2020.
- Between 2016 and 2019, there was an average of **151 awards conferred annually** in related training programs by non-community college institutions.

#### Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for respiratory therapists. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 3% through 2024. There will be nearly 400 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 Counties<sup>3</sup>**

Geography	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	2019-2024 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	5,061	5,236	175	3%	305
Orange	1,407	1,419	12	1%	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>6,655</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>386</b>

<sup>2</sup> Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 7/28/2021. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

<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.

## Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wage for *respiratory therapists* in Orange County as it relates to the county's living wage. Los Angeles County wages are included below 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 wage for *respiratory therapists* is \$32.13, which is above the living wage for one adult (\$17.36 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$44.41, which is higher than the living wage estimate.

**Los Angeles County**—The typical entry-level hourly wage for *respiratory therapists* is \$34.46, which is above the living wage for one adult (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$47.63, which is higher than the living wage estimate.

## Job Postings

There were 1,500 online job postings related to *respiratory therapists* listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for respiratory care practitioner, RRT/CRT respiratory therapist, and respiratory therapist. The top skills were respiratory therapy, advanced cardiac life support, and patient care. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were Healthcare Traveler Allied Health, Allied Health Travel, and Kindred Healthcare Incorporated.

*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 an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *respiratory therapists* (29-1126). The national-level educational attainment data indicates 65% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Of the 21% of job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 53% (166) requested an associate degree, and 47% (149) requested a bachelor's degree.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply**—Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Respiratory Care/Therapy (1210.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are LA Valley, East LA, and El Camino. Over the past 12 months, there were two 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
1210.00	Respiratory Care/Therapy	Compton	-	2	-	1
		East LA	38	45	25	36

TOP Code	Program	College	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	2019-2020 Awards	3-Year Award Average
		El Camino	32	30	33	32
		LA Valley	48	50	54	51
		Mt San Antonio	24	19	13	19
		Santa Monica	3	15	14	11
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>148</b>
		Orange Coast	16	12	17	15
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>161</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>163</b>

**Non-Community College Supply** — It is important to consider the supply from non-community college institutions in the region that provide relevant training programs. Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by institutions in the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: 51.0908/ Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2016 to 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 151 awards annually.

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

CIP Code	Program	College	2016-2017 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	2018-2019 Awards	3-Year Award Average
51.0908	Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	American Career College-Anaheim	47	37	35	40
		Concorde Career College-Garden Grove	32	51	39	41
		Concorde Career College-North Hollywood	36	42	47	42
		Platt College-Los Angeles	34	34	18	29
		<b>Supply Total/Average</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>151</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)
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	1,407	1,419	12	1%	81	\$32.13	\$37.33	\$44.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>81</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)
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	5,061	5,236	175	3%	305	\$34.46	\$40.04	\$47.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,061</b>	<b>5,236</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>305</b>			

### Exhibit 6. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	6,468	6,655	187	3%	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>6,655</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>386</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)

For more information, please contact:

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