

Labor Market Analysis: 1228.00 – Athletic Training and Sports Medicine

Athletic Trainer Aide (Certificate)

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, October 2022

Summary

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

The Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to one middle-skill occupation and one above middle-skill occupation.

Middle-Skill Occupation:

- **Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031):** Instruct or coach groups or individuals in exercise activities for the primary purpose of personal fitness. Demonstrate techniques and form, observe participants, and explain to them corrective measures necessary to improve their skills. Develop and implement individualized approaches to exercise.¹

Above Middle-Skill Occupation:

- **Athletic Trainers (29-9091):** Evaluate and treat musculoskeletal injuries or illnesses. Provide preventive, therapeutic, emergency, and rehabilitative care.²

¹ [Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/39-9031.htm)

² [Athletic Trainers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/29-9091.htm)

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. Above middle-skill occupations typically require a bachelor's degree or more.³ Although *athletic trainers* is an above middle-skill occupation and not usually an entry-level job opportunity for community college-level students, this occupation is most closely aligned with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for an athletic trainer aide. Inclusion of this occupation also illuminates a pathway for athletic training students who wish to continue their education beyond community college. 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 in the region for the occupations of interest. Although the majority of annual openings for the occupations of interest have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the occupation with the majority of annual openings (*exercise trainers and group fitness instructors*) has 40% of workers in the field who have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less. **Therefore, due to some of the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

Demand:

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, more than **2,100 jobs are projected to be available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the three-year average of 406 awards conferred** by educational institutions in the region.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – In Los Angeles County, the majority (96%) of annual job openings for the occupations of interest have entry-level wages **below** the self-sufficiency standard wage (\$18.10/hour).⁴
- **Educational Criteria** – Within the greater LA/OC region, **97% of the annual job openings** for occupations in this report **typically require a high school diploma or equivalent**.
 - National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 27% and 40% of workers in the field have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less.
 - **NOTE:** The occupation with the majority of the annual openings (*exercise trainers and group fitness instructors*) has 40% of workers in the field who have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less.

³ 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.

⁴ Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

Supply:

- Between 2018 and 2021, **16 community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region issued awards in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest, conferring an average of **95 awards**.
- Between 2017 and 2020, non-community college institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region conferred an average of **311 awards in relevant programs**.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the two occupations of interest. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 1% through 2026. There will be more than 2,100 job openings per year through 2026 due to job growth and replacements.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties⁵

Geography	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	2021-2026 Change	2021-2026 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	9,320	9,085	(235)	(3%)	1,420
Orange	3,871	4,288	417	11%	683
Total	13,191	13,373	182	1%	2,102

Wages

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

Los Angeles County – The majority (96%) of annual openings for the occupations of interest have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). While entry-level *athletic trainers* typically earn above the county's self-sufficiency standard (\$22.85), entry-level *exercise trainers and group fitness instructors* usually earn below the self-sufficiency standard (\$14.87). Experienced workers can expect to earn slightly above \$31/hour, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Athletic Trainers (29-9091)	\$22.85	\$27.63	\$31.39
Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031)	\$14.87	\$22.68	\$31.69

⁵ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

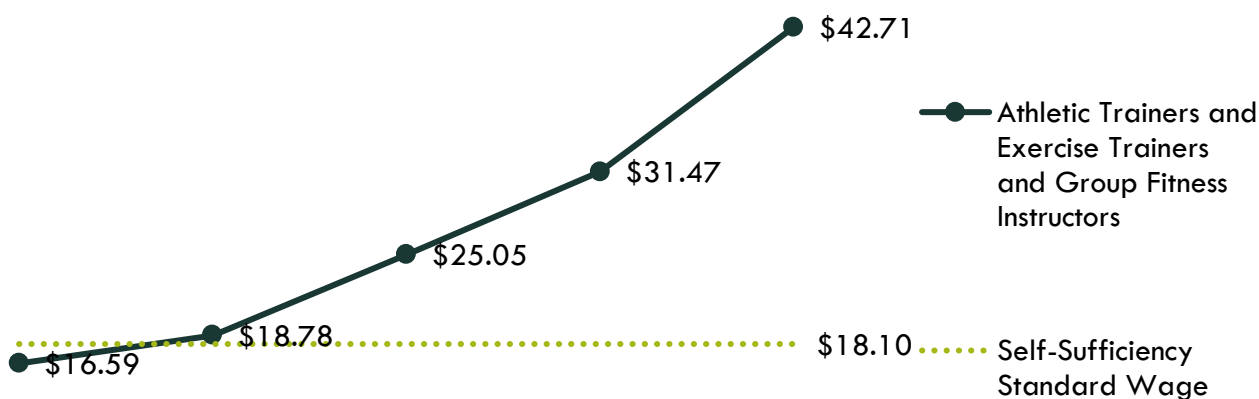
Orange County – The majority (98%) of annual openings for the occupations of interest have entry-level wages **below** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). While entry-level *athletic trainers* typically earn above the county’s self-sufficiency standard (\$22.27), entry-level *exercise trainers and group fitness instructors* usually earn below the self-sufficiency standard (\$14.16). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$30.35 and \$32.30, which are above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Athletic Trainers (29-9091)	\$22.27	\$27.38	\$32.30
Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031)	\$14.16	\$21.95	\$30.35

On average, the entry-level wage for the occupations in this report is \$18.78; this is above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 4 shows the average wages for the occupations in this report, from entry-level to experienced workers.

Exhibit 4: Average Hourly Earnings for Occupations in LA/OC



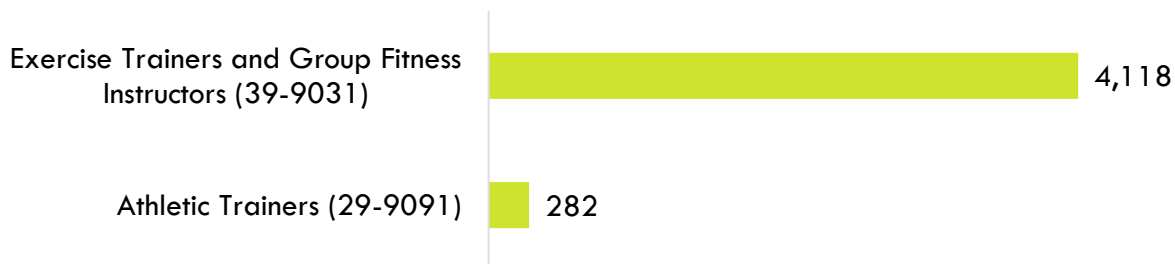
10th Percentile 25th Percentile Median 75th Percentile 90th Percentile

Job Postings

Over the past 12 months, there have been 4,400 online job postings related to the two occupations of interest in the region. Exhibit 5 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (94%) were for *exercise trainers and group fitness instructors*, followed by *athletic trainers* (6%). The highest number of job postings were for swim instructors, personal trainers, group fitness instructors, yoga instructors, and Pilates instructors.

Titles for athletic trainer-specific job postings included athletic trainers (128 job postings), certified athletic trainers (73 job postings), assistant athletic trainers (22 job postings), and head athletic trainers (11 job postings). The top skills were cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), knowledge of automated external defibrillator, knowledge of Pilates, group exercise instruction, and fitness training. “Athletic training” was a skill listed on 250 job postings (6%). The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were YMCA, 24 Hour Fitness, and Equinox.

Exhibit 5: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months)



Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

- **Bachelor’s degree:** *Athletic trainers* (29-9091)
- **High school diploma or equivalent:** *Exercise trainers and group fitness instructors* (39-9031)

In the greater LA/OC region, the majority of annual job openings (97%) typically require a high school diploma or equivalent. National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 27% and 40% of workers in the field have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less.

NOTE: The occupation with the majority of the annual openings (*exercise trainers and group fitness instructors*) has 40% of workers in the field who have completed some college, no degree/associate degree or less.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply – Exhibit 6 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest. The community colleges with the most completions in the region are Orange Coast and Mt. San Antonio.

Exhibit 6: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2018-2021

TOP	Program	College	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	3-Year Average
0835.20	Fitness Trainer	Cerritos	-	3	3	2
		East LA	-	1	-	0
		Glendale	3	2	6	4
		LA City	-	-	2	1
		LA Harbor	-	1	2	1
		Mt San Antonio	-	-	1	0
		Pasadena	2	3	8	4
		Rio Hondo	6	1	1	3
		LA Subtotal	11	11	23	15
		Cypress	-	1	1	1
		Fullerton	3	4	6	4
		Irvine Valley	4	4	-	3
		Orange Coast	5	32	26	21
		Saddleback	-	-	31	10
		Santa Ana	2	2	1	2
		OC Subtotal	14	43	65	41
		Supply Subtotal/Average	25	54	88	56
0835.60	Coaching	Citrus	8	-	-	3
		Rio Hondo	1	-	2	1
		Santa Monica	14	9	12	12
		LA Subtotal	23	9	14	15
		Cypress	1	2	-	1
		Fullerton	3	1	2	2
		Irvine Valley	1	-	-	0
		Saddleback	-	-	2	1
		OC Subtotal	5	3	4	4
		Supply Subtotal/Average	28	12	18	19

TOP	Program	College	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	3-Year Average
1 228.00	Athletic Training and Sports Medicine	Cerritos	-	2	4	2
		Mt San Antonio	11	17	25	18
		LA Subtotal	11	19	29	20
		Saddleback	1	-	-	0
		OC Subtotal	1	-	-	0
Supply Subtotal/Average			12	19	29	20
Supply Total/Average			65	85	135	95

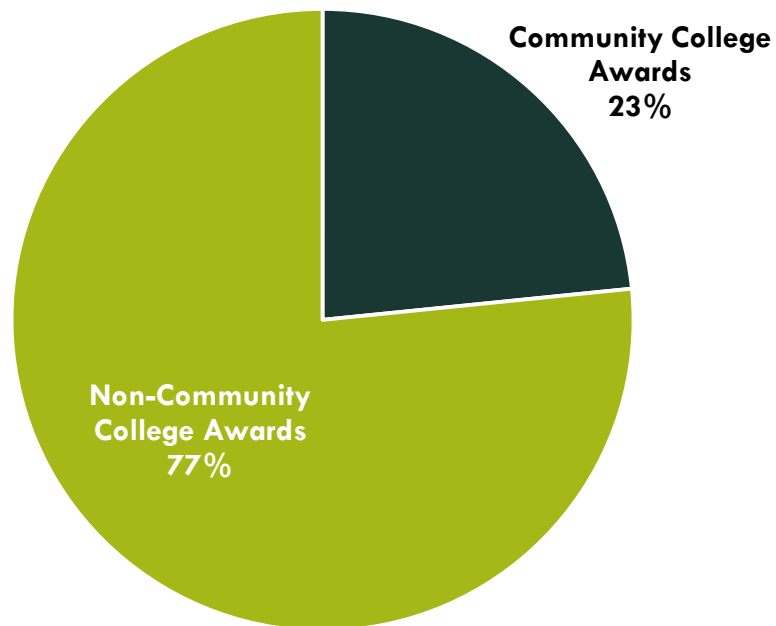
Non-Community College Supply – For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that may provide training programs for the occupations of interest. Exhibit 7 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2017 to 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 311 awards.

Exhibit 7: Regional non-community college awards, 2017-2020

CIP	Program	Institution	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
13.1314	Physical Education Teaching and Coaching	Azusa Pacific University	91	60	17	56
		Biola University	5	4	4	4
		University of La Verne	86	74	77	79
31.0504	Sport and Fitness Administration/Management	Pepperdine University	9	25	25	20
31.0507	Physical Fitness Technician	American Fitness and Nutrition Academy	-	23	38	20
		California Healing Arts College	11	6	-	6
		Southern California Health Institute	66	49	81	65
51.0913	Athletic Training/Trainer	CSU-Fullerton	8	6	6	7
		CSU-Long Beach	22	21	15	19
		CSU-Northridge	15	15	15	15
		Concordia University - Irvine	8	12	4	8
		Glendale Career College	6	-	-	2
		University of La Verne	11	7	11	10
Supply Total/Average			338	302	293	311

Exhibit 8 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in LA/OC versus the proportion of non-community college awards conferred. Based on the supply data in this report, non-community college institutions in the region have conferred more than three-fourths of the awards across relevant programs.

Exhibit 8: Community College Awards Compared to Non-Community College Awards in LA/OC Region, 3-Year Average



Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 9. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Athletic Trainers (29-9091)	536	622	86	16%	58	\$22.85	\$27.63	\$31.39
Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031)	8,784	8,463	(321)	(4%)	1,362	\$14.87	\$22.68	\$31.69
Total	9,320	9,085	(235)	(3%)	1,420	-	-	-

Exhibit 10. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Athletic Trainers (29-9091)	158	179	21	13%	16	\$22.27	\$27.38	\$32.30
Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031)	3,713	4,109	396	11%	667	\$14.16	\$21.95	\$30.35
Total	3,871	4,288	417	11%	683	-	-	-

Exhibit 11. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Athletic Trainers (29-9091)	694	801	107	15%	73	Bachelor's degree
Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031)	12,497	12,572	75	1%	2,029	High school diploma or equivalent
Total	13,191	13,373	182	1%	2,102	-

Appendix B: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)
- Lightcast (formerly Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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