

⚠ <b>Endorsed: Caution Advised</b>			
Program LMI Endorsement Criteria			
	Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partially Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Met <input type="checkbox"/>
Supply Gap:	There are projected to be <b>322 annual job openings</b> throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties for <i>dietetic technicians</i> , which <b>is more than the 199 awards conferred by educational institutions</b> .		
Self-Sufficiency Standard Living Wage <sup>1</sup> :	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	The typical entry-level wage for <i>dietetic technicians</i> is <b>\$18.51</b> , which is <b>below the OC living wage of \$27.13</b> .		
Education:	Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Met <input type="checkbox"/>
	Typical education requirement for <i>dietetic technicians</i> is an associate degree, and <b>32% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education</b> .		

## Summary

The Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (OC COE) prepared this report to determine whether there is a supply gap in the Los Angeles and Orange counties regional labor market related to one middle-skill occupation:

- *Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)*

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for *dietetic technicians*, and typical education requirements for this occupation align with a community college education. However, entry-level wages are below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage. **Therefore, due to some of the regional labor market criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.**

<sup>1</sup> The living wage endorsement criteria in this report uses the University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare Self-Sufficiency Standard, which the COE refers to as a living wage; Orange County's living wage of \$27.13, was last updated in March 2024.

Exhibit 1 lists the occupational demand, supply, typical entry-level education, and educational attainment for the middle-skill occupation included in this report.

### Exhibit 1: Labor Market Endorsement Summary

Occupation (SOC)	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (CC and Non-CC)	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25th Percentile)	Typical Entry-Level Education	Community College Educational Attainment
Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)	LA: 252 OC: 70	LA: 145 OC: 54	OC: \$18.51	Associate degree	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

#### Demand

- In Los Angeles and Orange counties, the number of jobs related to *dietetic technicians* is projected to increase 4% through 2029, equating to 322 annual job openings.
- Hourly entry-level wages for *dietetic technicians* are \$18.51 in Orange County; all annual openings have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage.
- There were 246 online job postings for *dietetic technicians* over the past 12 months. The highest number of postings were for diet clerks, nutrition assistants, and nutrition services attendants.
- The typical entry-level education for *dietetic technicians* is an associate degree.
- Approximately 32% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment.

#### Supply

- Between 2021 to 2024, an average of 195 awards conferred by 21 community colleges this middle-skill occupation in Los Angeles and Orange counties.
- From 2020 to 2023, non-community college institutions conferred an average of 4 awards for this middle-skill occupation.
- In the 2022-23 academic year, Orange County community college students that exited nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs had a median annual wage of \$33,032 (\$15.88 per hour) post-exit, and 20% attained the regional living wage.
- In 2021-22, 68% of Orange County nutrition, foods, and culinary arts students that exited their programs reported working a job closely related to their field of study.

#### Demand

##### Occupational Projections

Exhibit 2 shows the annual percentage change in jobs for *dietetic technicians* from 2019 through 2029. Between 2019 and 2020, employment levels across Los Angeles and Orange counties declined sharply due to the broader economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2021 to 2024, Orange County saw a drastic fluctuation in employment for this occupation—job levels dropped 19% in 2021 and 3% in 2022 then rebounded with 35% growth in 2023 and 19% in 2024. Beginning in 2025, Orange County job levels are projected to grow at

a similar rate than the average for all occupations through 2027, and a higher rate through 2029.

Exhibit 2: Annual Percentage Change in Jobs for *Dietetic Technicians*, 2019-2029

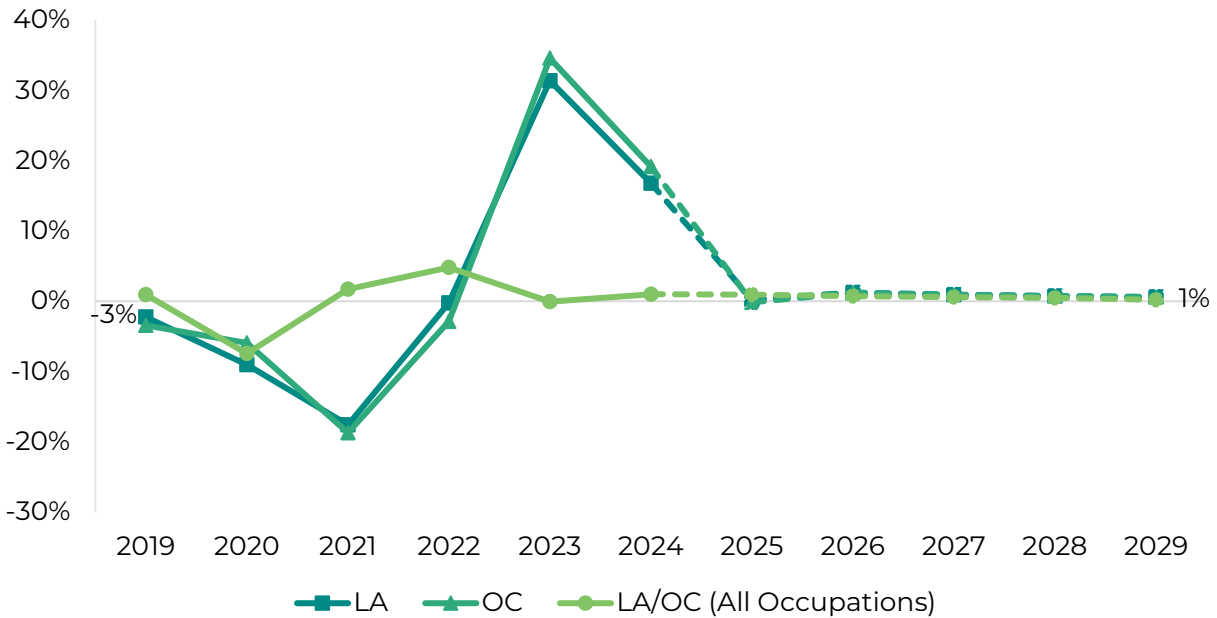


Exhibit 3 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the middle-skill occupation *dietetic technicians*. In Los Angeles and Orange counties, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase 4% through 2029. There is projected to be 322 available annually.

Exhibit 3: Middle-Skill Occupational Demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>2</sup>

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	1,847	1,918	71	4%	252
Orange	516	533	17	3%	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>322</b>

## Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* in Orange County as they relate to the county’s living wage. Los Angeles County wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the LA/OC region.

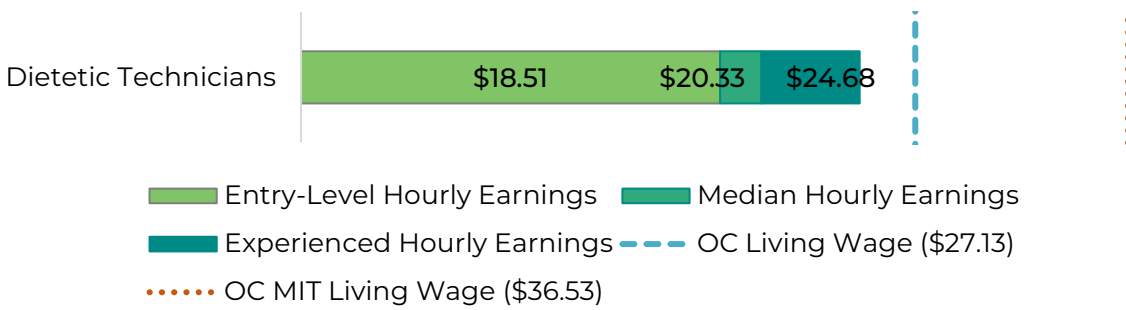
In addition to the Self Sufficiency Standard living wage, data for the MIT Living Wage (updated on February 15, 2026) is provided as a reference. Currently, the MIT Living Wage in Orange County is \$36.53. Both figures account for geographic-specific costs of necessities such as housing, food, health care, and transportation to assess the cost of living, and are notated in the exhibits below.

In Orange County, the typical entry-level wage for *dietetic technicians* is \$18.51, which is below the Self-Sufficiency living wage of \$27.13 for a single adult. Exhibit 4 shows the wage

<sup>2</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.

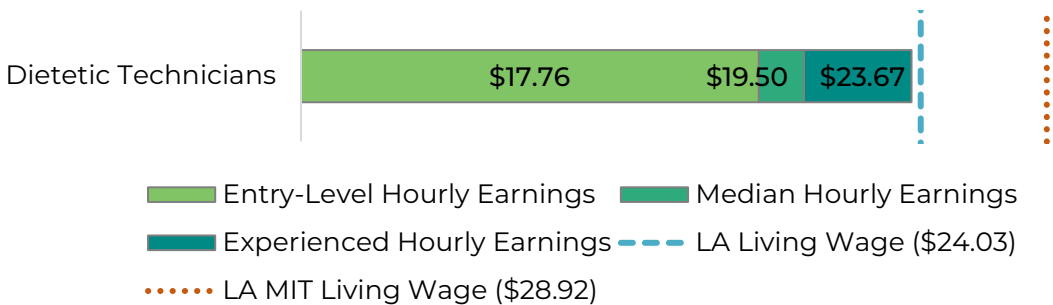
range for *dietetic technicians* in Orange County and how it compares to the regional living wage.

Exhibit 4: Wages by Occupation in Orange County



In Los Angeles County, the typical entry-level wage for *dietetic technicians* is \$17.76, which is below the Self-Sufficiency living wage of \$24.03 for a single adult. Exhibit 5 shows the wage range for *dietetic technicians* in Los Angeles County and how it compares to the regional living wage.

Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in Los Angeles County



### Resilient Jobs and U.S. News & World Report Best Jobs

Exhibit 6 shows if each occupation is considered an Orange County Great Recession-Resilient, COVID-19 Pandemic Recession-Resilient Job, or a 2025 U.S. News & World Report (USN&WR) Best Job<sup>3</sup>. *Dietetic technicians* did not meet the criteria for any of these designations.

Exhibit 6: Resilient Jobs and USN&WR Best Jobs Designations

Occupation	Great Recession-Resilient Job	COVID-19 Pandemic Recession-Resilient Job	2025 USN&WR Best Job
Dietetic Technicians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Job Postings

**Important Job Postings Data Note:** There are limitations when analyzing job postings. A single job posting may not represent a single job opening for a variety of reasons.

<sup>3</sup> "100 Best Jobs," U.S. News & World Report, accessed January 28, 2025, <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs>.

There were 246 online job postings related to *dietetic technicians* listed in the past 12 months. Exhibit 7 shows the number of job postings by occupation.

Exhibit 7: Number of Job Postings by Occupation (n=246)

Occupation	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Dietetic Technicians	246	100%
<b>Total Postings</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>100%</b>

The top job titles for *dietetic technicians* in the region, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 8.

Exhibit 8: Top Job Titles by Number of Job Postings for *Dietetic Technicians* (n=246)

Job Titles	Job Postings	Percentage
Diet Clerks	30	12%
Nutrition Assistants	24	10%
Nutrition Services Attendants	18	7%
Dietetic Technicians	17	7%
Diet Technicians	16	7%
Registered Dietetic Technicians	15	6%
Nutrition Technicians	12	5%
Nutrition Aides	10	4%
Nutrition Ambassadors	10	4%
Nutrition Services Assistants	10	4%

The top employers for *dietetic technicians* in the region, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 9.

Exhibit 9: Top Employers by Number of Job Postings for *Dietetic Technicians* (n=246)

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Providence	20	8%
Cedars-Sinai	16	7%
Compass Group	15	6%
Volunteers of America	10	4%
Kaiser Permanente	10	4%
Irvine Unified School District	10	4%
Morrison Healthcare	8	3%
Adventist Health	8	3%
Newport Mesa Unified School District	7	3%
La Palma Intercommunity Hospital	6	2%

The top specialized, soft, and computer skills for the middle-skill occupation *dietetic technicians* listed by those most frequently mentioned in job postings (denoted in parentheses) are shown in Exhibit 10.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills by Number of Job Postings for *Dietetic Technicians* (n=246)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Food Services (141)	Customer Service (78)	Microsoft Office (24)
Nutrition Services (81)	Communication (75)	Microsoft Outlook (11)

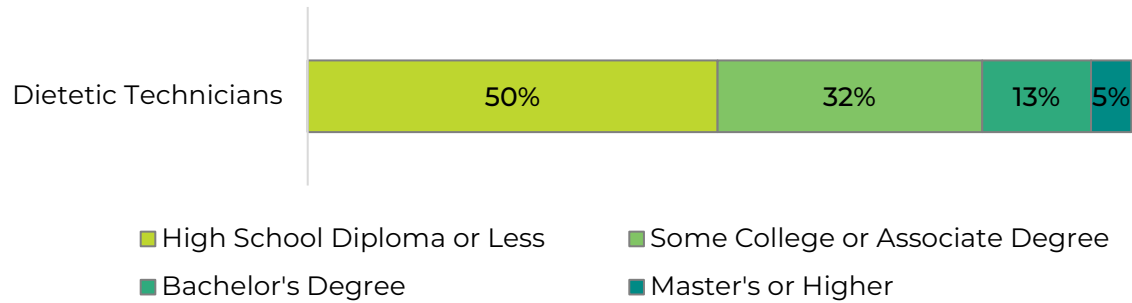
Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Clinical Nutrition (70)	Confidentiality (45)	Epic EMR (8)
Sanitation (63)	Computer Literacy (35)	Microsoft Excel (5)
Dietetics (57)	Operations (33)	Microsoft Word (3)
Patient Assistance (50)	English Language (31)	Software Systems (3)
Performance Improvement (49)	Record Keeping (28)	Microsoft PowerPoint (2)
Food Safety And Sanitation (47)	Microsoft Office (24)	Operating Systems (2)
Cooking (44)	Clerical Works (20)	Procurement Software (2)
Food Preparation (37)	Management (20)	Electronic Health Record Applications (1)

## Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists associate degree for as the typical entry-level education for *dietetic technicians*.

The national-level educational attainment data indicates that 32% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Exhibit 11 shows the educational attainment for this occupation.

Exhibit 11: National-level Educational Attainment for Occupations



## Requested Minimum Education Requirement

In Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 70% (173) of job postings for *dietetic technicians* included a stated minimum education requirement:

- 75% (129) requested a high school diploma or associate degree.
- 25% (43) requested a bachelor's degree.

## Educational Supply

The following supply tables display the total supply for *dietetic technicians* that align with these TOP and CIP codes and program needs.

### Community College Supply

Exhibit 12 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes:

- Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts (1306.00)
- Dietetic Services and Management (1306.20)
- Dietetic Technology (1306.60)

The colleges with the most completions in the region were Long Beach (40), followed by Mt San Antonio (25), and Glendale (20). Over the past 12 months, there were two other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

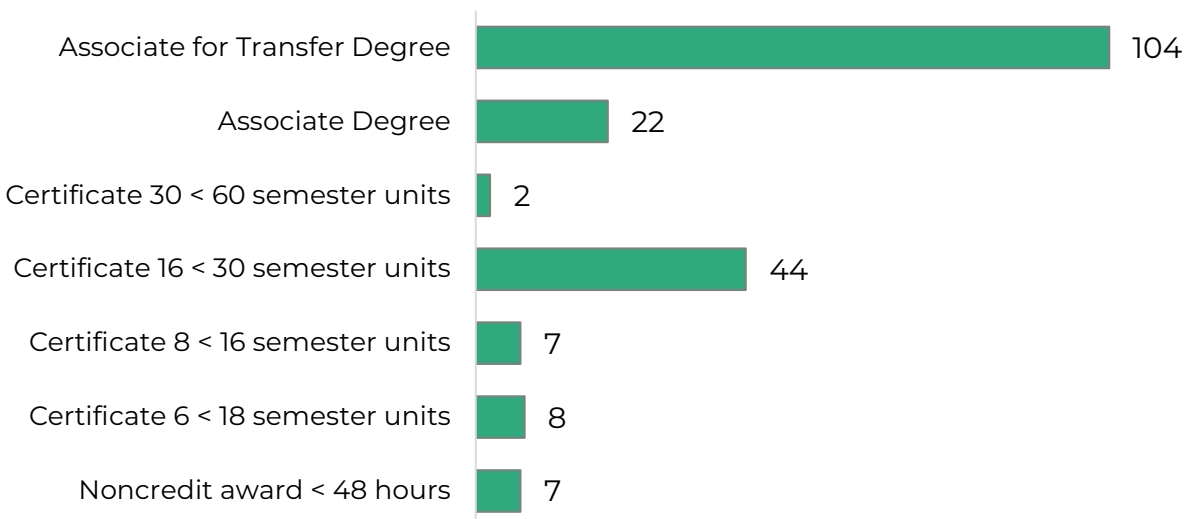
Exhibit 12: Regional Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees), 2021-2024

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average	
1306.00	Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts	Citrus	6	2	3	4	
		East LA	21	16	15	17	
		Glendale	6	8	5	6	
		LA City	4	1	6	4	
		LA Harbor	3	1	2	2	
		LA Mission	4	7	7	6	
		LA Trade	3	0	0	1	
		Long Beach	16	20	22	19	
		Mt San Antonio	25	29	20	25	
		Pasadena	3	1	6	3	
		Rio Hondo	1	1	3	2	
		Santa Monica	11	8	9	9	
		West LA	5	2	2	3	
		LA Southwest	2	4	1	2	
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>		<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>104</b>
		Coastline	0	0	1	0	
		Cypress	3	0	2	2	
		Fullerton	13	12	8	11	
		Orange Coast	11	9	10	10	
		Saddleback	12	12	10	11	
		Santa Ana	2	1	4	2	
		Santiago Canyon	0	4	7	4	
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>151</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>144</b>
1306.20	Dietetic Services and Management	Glendale	23	15	3	14
		LA City	6	6	9	7
		Long Beach	23	7	16	15
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>
		Fullerton	0	0	4	1
		Orange Coast	3	6	5	5
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>55</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>
1306.60	Dietetic Technology	Long Beach	4	7	6	6
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>214</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>195</b>

Exhibit 13 shows the annual average community college awards by type from 2021-22 to 2023-24. The plurality of the awards are for associate for transfer degrees, followed by certificates with 16 or less than 30 semester units. And associate degrees.

Exhibit 13: Annual Average Community College Awards by Type, 2021-2024



## Community College Student Outcomes

Exhibit 14 shows the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) metrics for nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs in the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD), the Orange County Region, and California. Of the 5,351 Orange County nutrition, foods, and culinary arts students in the 2023-24 academic year, 46% (2,450) attended a NOCCCD college.

NOCCCD students that exited nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs in the 2022-23 academic year had lower median annual earnings (\$31,526 or \$15.16 per hour) compared to all nutrition, foods, and culinary arts students in Orange County (\$33,032 or \$15.88 per hour). A lower percentage of NOCCCD nutrition, foods, and culinary arts students attained the living wage (16%) when compared to all nutrition, foods, and culinary arts students in Orange County (20%).

Exhibit 14: Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts (1306.00) Strong Workforce Program Metrics, 2021-24<sup>4</sup>

SWP Metric	NOCCCD	OC Region	California
SWP Students	2,450	5,351	52,412
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	17%	18%	17%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	71%	78%	74%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	Insufficient Data	37	384
SWP Students Who Transferred to a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution (2022-23)	76	304	3,213
SWP Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study (2021-22)	56%	68%	68%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2022-23)	\$31,526 (\$15.16)	\$33,032 (\$15.88)	\$35,244 (\$16.94)
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2022-23)	48%	49%	35%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage (2022-23)	16%	20%	31%

## Non-Community College Supply

To comprehensively analyze the regional supply, it is crucial to include data from other institutions offering nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs. Exhibit 15 displays the annual and three-year average awards granted by these institutions under the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General (19.0501). No awards were under CIP: Dietetic Technician (51.3103), nor the related CIP: Dietitian Assistant (51.3104).

The available data covers 2020 to 2023. During this period, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 4 awards annually in related program.

Exhibit 15: Regional Non-Community College Awards, 2020-2023

CIP Code	Program	College	2020-2021 Awards	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	3-Year Award Average
19.0501	Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General	University of Massachusetts Global	4	7	2	4
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>4</sup> All SWP metrics are for 2023-24 unless otherwise noted.

## Regional Demographics

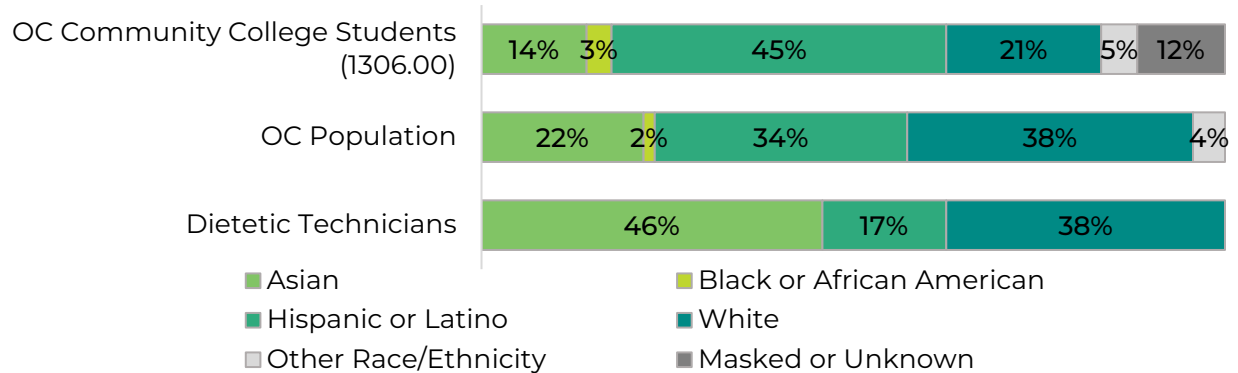
The following section presents occupational, community college program, and population demographic data for Orange County. This comparison can help identify possible equity gaps between the local workforce and the student pipeline who are preparing for this occupation. These insights can inform program development, outreach, and support strategies to better align community college programs with current labor market needs.

### Ethnicity

Exhibit 16 compares the ethnicity of Orange County community college students enrolled in nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs, the overall Orange County population, and occupation-specific data for *dietetic technicians* included in this report.

Nearly half (46%) of *dietetic technicians* are Asian, which is three times larger than their representation in nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs (14%). This suggests that Asian workers may be entering these jobs through alternate training pathways. In contrast, Hispanic or Latino individuals make up only 17% of the workforce but account for 45% of program enrollment, indicating a potential disconnect between education and employment outcomes.

Exhibit 16: Program and County Demographics by Ethnicity

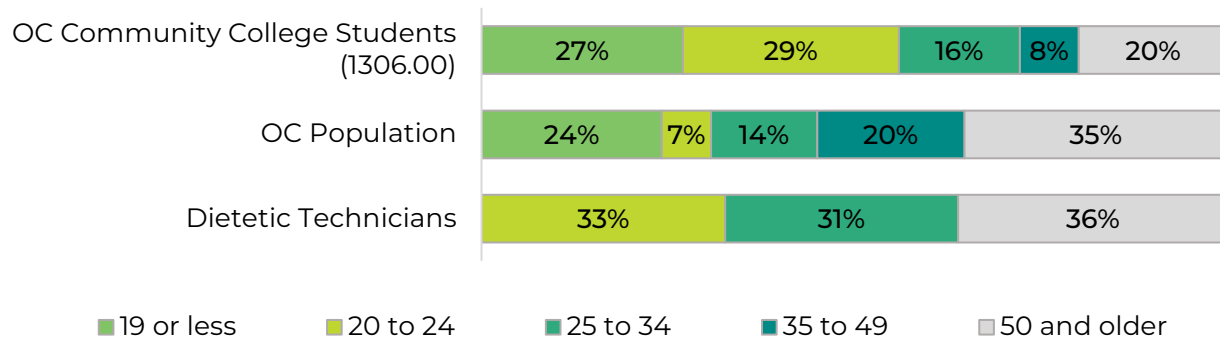


## Age

Exhibit 17 compares the age of Orange County community college students enrolled in Nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs, the overall Orange County population, and occupation-specific data for *dietetic technicians*.

The age distribution of dietetic technicians is nearly even across the 20 to 24 (33%), 35 to 49 (31%), and 50 and older (36%) age groups. This suggests workforce stability and that entry into the field likely requires postsecondary education or training, given the absence of workers aged 19 or younger.

Exhibit 17: Program and County Demographics by Age

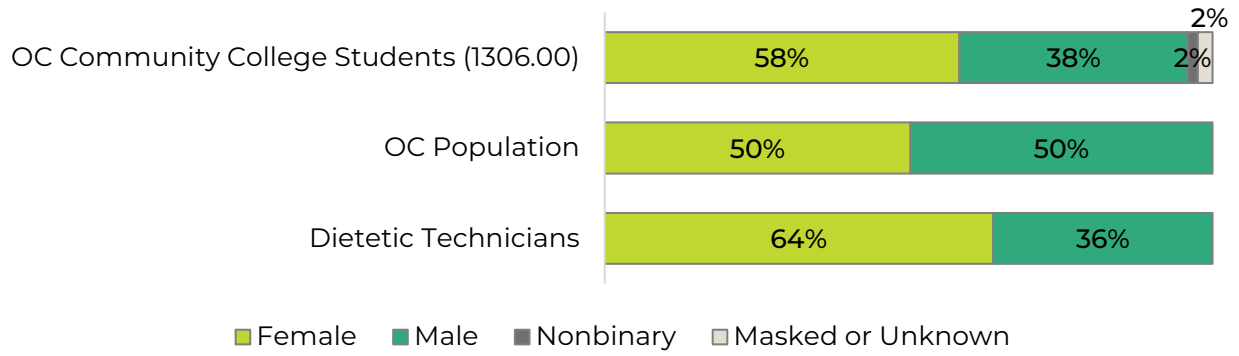


## Sex

Exhibit 18 compares the sex of Orange County community college students enrolled in nutrition, foods, and culinary arts programs, the overall Orange County population, and occupation-specific data for *dietetic technicians*.

Although the gender distribution in the general population is relatively balanced, men represent only 36% of the workforce and 38% of nutrition, foods, and culinary arts program enrollment. This underrepresentation highlights possible gender disparities in the field.

Exhibit 18: Program and County Demographics by Sex



## Appendix A: Methodology

OC COE prepared this report by analyzing occupational and educational program data. Occupational data comes from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm which compiles information from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and other agencies. Analysis of emerging occupations is predicated on online job postings data combined with Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) profile descriptions. Program supply data was sourced from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart (MIS Data Mart) ([datamart.cccco.edu](http://datamart.cccco.edu)) and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System ([nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data)), also known as IPEDS, which was integrated into the COE's Supply Table. (IPEDS).

Using a TOP-SOC crosswalk, the OC COE identified middle-skill jobs for which programs within these TOP codes train. Middle-skill jobs include:

- All occupations that have 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.

The OC COE determined labor market supply for each occupation (SOC code) by analyzing the number of 3-year average program completers or awards in related TOP and CIP codes. TOP code data comes from MIS Data Mart and CIP code data comes from the IPEDS. The TOP is a system of numerical codes used at the state level to collect and report information on California community college programs and courses throughout the state that have similar outcomes. CIP codes are a taxonomy of academic disciplines at institutions of higher education throughout the United States and Canada. The California Community Colleges are the only system that use TOP codes.

The analysis reflects labor market demand for occupations closely related to the proposed program as expressed by the requesting college in consultation with the OC COE. assess current and projected employment based on data trends for detailed occupations, as well as annual average awards granted by regional postsecondary educational institutions. Real-time labor market information (online job postings) assesses employer preferences but cannot be used to measure the quantity of open positions, number of jobs, or annual openings.

All findings are based on the most current available data and a combination of primary and secondary sources. While care was taken to ensure accuracy, the OC COE, its host district, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are not responsible for individual decisions made based on this report.

## Appendix B: Data Sources

Data Type	Source
Occupational Projections, Wages, and Job Postings	Traditional and real-time labor market information are captured using data from <a href="#">Lightcast</a> (v.2026.1), a labor market analytics firm.
Living Wage	<p>Per the CCCC's this report's endorsement criteria uses the <a href="#">University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare Self-Sufficiency Standard</a> last updated in March 2024, which is \$27.13 per hour (\$57,294 annually) in Orange County.</p> <p>The <a href="#">MIT Living Wage</a>, updated on February 15, 2026, is a nationally recognized living wage metric and is provided for reference. The current MIT Living Wage in Orange County is \$36.53.</p>
Typical Education and Training Requirements, and Educational Attainment	The <a href="#">Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)</a> uses a system to assign categories for entry-level education, work experience in a related occupation, and typical on-the-job training to each occupation for which BLS publishes projections data.
Emerging Occupation Descriptions, Additional Education Requirements, and Employer Preferences	The <a href="#">O*NET</a> database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledges, work activities, and interests associated with occupations.
Educational Supply	<p>The <a href="#">CCCCO Data Mart</a> provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes and faculty and staff.</p> <p>The <a href="#">National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Integrated Data System (IPEDS)</a> collects data on the number of postsecondary awards earned (completions).</p>
Student Metrics and Demographics	The <a href="#">Data Vista</a> (v.2.0), a statewide data system supported by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office provides data on progress, success, employment, and earnings outcomes for California community college students.
Population and Occupation Demographics	<p>The <a href="#">Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)</a> is the premier source for detailed population and housing information.</p> <p>Data is sourced from <a href="#">IPUMS USA</a>, a database providing access to ACS and other Census Bureau data products.</p>

For more information, please contact the Orange County Center of Excellence:

**Jesse Crete, Ed. D., Regional Director**

crete\_jesse@rscdd.edu

March 2026

