










Interior Designers

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

April 2023

Summary

NEW PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION?	EVIDENCE OF A SUPPLY GAP?	AT OR ABOVE THE LIVING WAGE?	EXPECTED LEVEL OF EDUCATION
 <p>Do Not Proceed with New Program</p>	 	 	<input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree
<p>SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATION?</p>  	<p>NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING</p> <p>MEDIUM</p> 	<p>NUMBER OF ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS</p> <p>MEDIUM</p> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Some College or Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> HS Diploma or Equivalent <input type="checkbox"/> Less than a HS Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship

The Center of Excellence (COE) for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges developed this brief to assist the region's community colleges with strategic planning and program development. According to available labor market information, *Interior Designers* in San Diego County have a labor market demand of 85 annual job openings (while average demand for a single occupation in San Diego County is 289 annual job openings), and five educational institutions in San Diego County supply 88 awards for this occupation, suggesting that supply is met in the labor market. Entry-level and median wages for this occupation are above the living wage. This brief recommends to not proceed with developing a new program, but supports a program modification because 1) supply meets labor market demand in the region; and 2) entry-level and median earnings are above the living wage. **The colleges should note that employers typically require a bachelor's degree as the minimum educational requirement for this occupation.**

Introduction

This report provides labor market information in San Diego County for the following occupational code in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)¹ system:

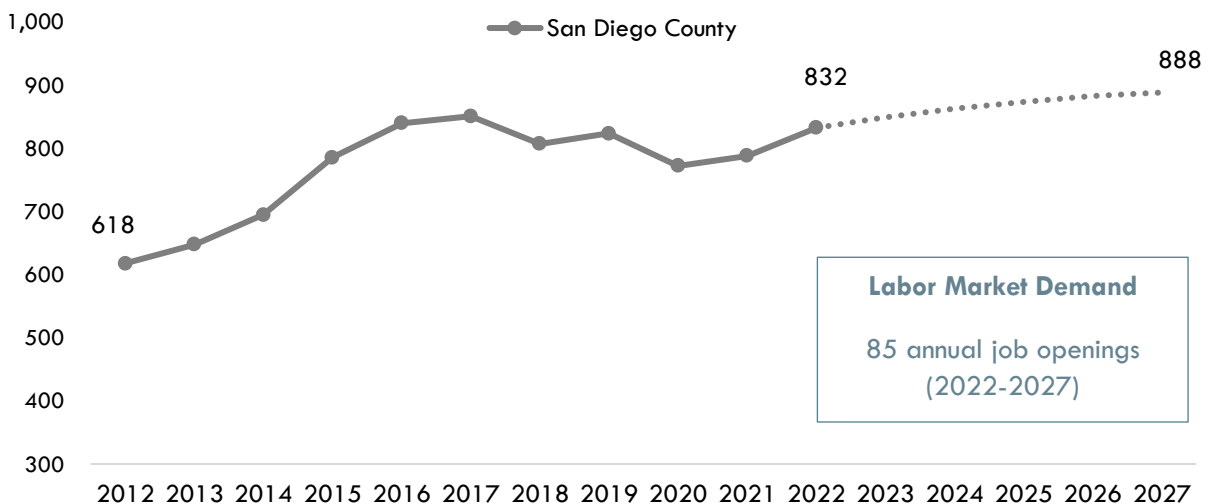
Interior Designers (SOC 27-1025): Plan, design, and furnish the internal space of rooms or buildings. Design interior environments or create physical layouts that are practical, aesthetic, and conducive to the intended purposes. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Sample reported job titles include:

- Decorating Consultant
- Interior Decorator
- Certified Kitchen Designer
- Interior Design Coordinator
- Interior Design Consultant
- Designer
- Kitchen Designer
- Kitchen and Bath Designer
- Home Lighting Advisor

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2022 and 2027, *Interior Designers* are projected to increase by 56 net jobs or seven percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 85 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition caused by turnover and retirement, for example.

Exhibit 1: Number of Jobs for Interior Designers (2012-2027)²



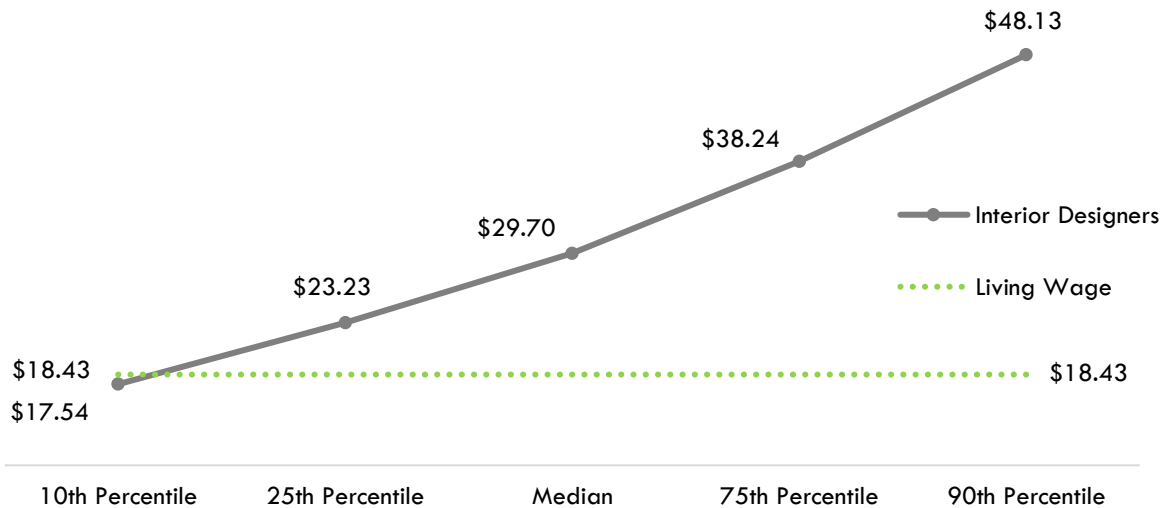
¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. [bls.gov/soc](https://www.bls.gov/soc).

² Lightcast 2023.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Earnings

Interior Designers receive entry-level hourly earnings of **\$23.23**; this is more than the living wage for a single adult in San Diego County, which is **\$18.43** per hour (Exhibit 2).³

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings⁴ for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County⁵



³ "Family Needs Calculator (formerly the California Family Needs Calculator)," Insight: Center for Community Economic Development, last updated 2022. insightccd.org/family-needs-calculator.

⁴ 10th and 25th percentiles could be considered entry-level wages, and 75th and 90th percentiles could be considered experienced wages for individuals who may have been in the occupation longer, received more training than others, etc.

⁵ Lightcast 2023.01; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Educational Supply

Educational supply for an occupation can be estimated by analyzing the number of awards in related Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) or Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.⁶ There is **one** TOP code and **one** CIP code related to *Interior Designers* (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: Related TOP and CIP Codes for Interior Designers⁷

TOP or CIP Code	TOP or CIP Program Title
TOP 1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising
CIP 50.0408	Interior Design

According to TOP data, **two** community colleges supply the region with awards for this occupation: **Palomar College** and **San Diego Mesa College**. According to CIP data, **three** non-community-college institutions supply the region with awards: **Design Institute of San Diego**, **Newschool of Architecture and Design**, and **Point Loma Nazarene University** (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions (Program Year 2017-18 through Program Year 2020-21 Average)

TOP6 or CIP Code	TOP6 or CIP Program Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY18-19 to PY20-21)	Other Educational Institutions 3-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY17-18 to PY19-20)	3-Yr Total Average Supply (PY17-18 to PY20-21)
1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising	47	0	47
	• Palomar	23	0	
	• San Diego Mesa	24	0	
50.0408	Interior Design	0	41	41
	• Design Institute of San Diego	0	30	
	• Newschool of Architecture and Design	0	11	
	• Point Loma Nazarene University	0	0	
			Total	88

⁶ TOP data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart (datamart.cccco.edu) and CIP data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data).

⁷ This brief uses a conservative estimate of program supply and only calculates awards from the TOP code listed in Exhibit 3.

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply⁸ suggests that **supply is met** for this occupation in San Diego County, with **85** annual openings and **88** awards. Comparatively, there are **1,483** annual openings in California and **748** awards, suggesting that there is a supply gap across the state⁹ (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared with Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
San Diego	85	88	3
California	1,483	748	735

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. The data does not include workers currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data. This data should be used to discuss the potential gaps or oversupply of workers; however, it should not be the only basis for determining whether or not a program should be developed.

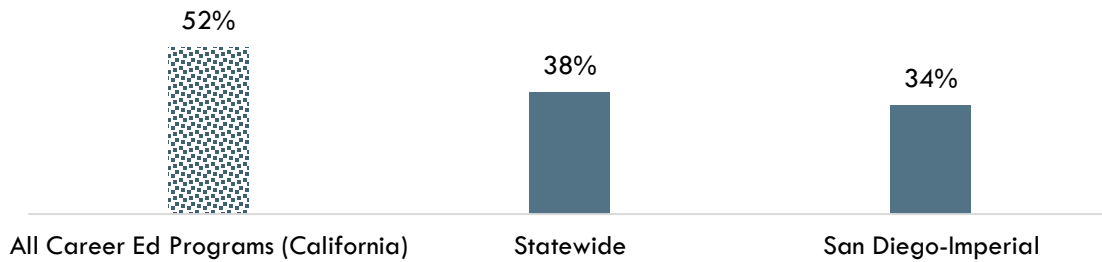
⁸ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

⁹ "Supply and Demand," Centers of Excellence Student Outcomes, coecc.net/our-resources.

Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

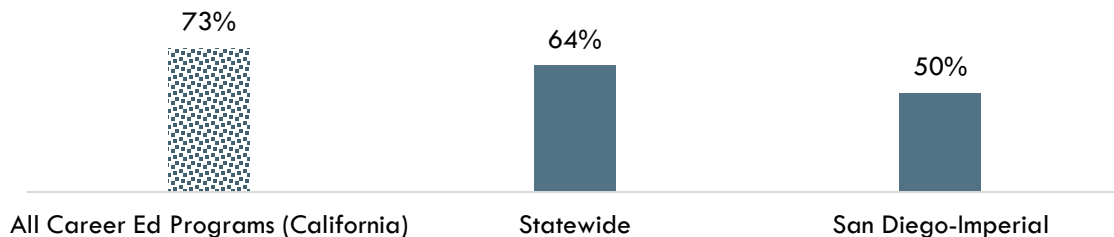
According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 34 percent of students in the San Diego-Imperial region earned a living wage after completing an Interior Design and Merchandising (TOP 1302.00) program, compared to 38 percent of students statewide and 52 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6a).¹⁰

**Exhibit 6a: Percentage of Students Who Earned a Living Wage by Program
(Interior Design and Merchandising, PY2019-20)¹¹**



According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 50 percent of students in the San Diego-Imperial region obtained a job closely related to their field of study after completing an Interior Design and Merchandising (TOP 1302.00) program, compared to 64 percent statewide and 73 percent of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 6b).¹²

**Exhibit 6b: Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study by Program
(Interior Design and Merchandising, PY2018-19)¹³**



¹⁰ "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

¹¹ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2019-20. Among completers and skills builders who exited, the percentage of students who attained a living wage.

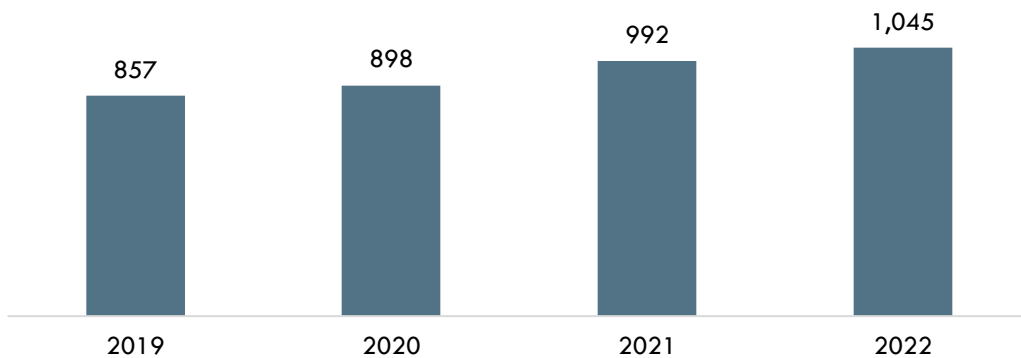
¹² "California Community Colleges Strong Workforce Program," California Community Colleges, calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/SWP.aspx.

¹³ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2018-19. Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study: Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

Online Job Postings

This report analyzes not only historical and projected (traditional LMI) data, but also recent data from online job postings (real-time LMI). Online job postings may provide additional insight about recent changes in the labor market that are not captured by historical data. Between 2019 and 2022, there was an average of 948 online job postings per year for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County (Exhibit 7). Please note that online job postings do **not** equal labor market demand; demand is represented by annual job openings (see Exhibit 1). While this brief includes online jobs postings data to help with curriculum development, the community colleges should note that this type of data is impacted by several variables: employers may post a position multiple times to increase the pool of applicants; a job posting can remain posted after a business decides not to fill a position; or an employer may use one posting to fill multiple positions, for example.

Exhibit 7: Number of Online Job Postings for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County (2019-2022)¹⁴



¹⁴ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2019-2022.

Top Employers

Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022, the top five employers in San Diego County for *Interior Designers* were [The Home Depot](#), [La-Z-Boy](#), [GPAC](#), [LPA](#), and [Floor & Decor](#) based on online job postings (Exhibit 8).

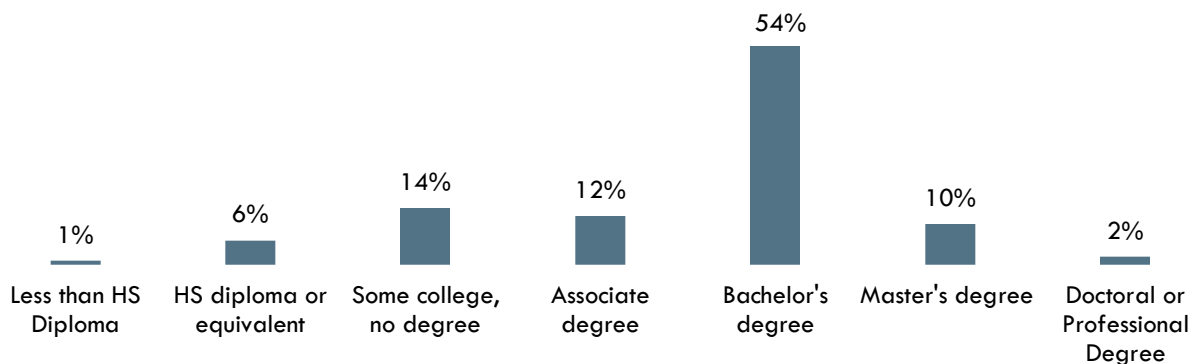
Exhibit 8: Top Employers for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County¹⁵

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Home Depot • La-Z-Boy • GPAC • LPA • Floor & Decor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bassett Furniture • 3 Day Blinds • Rockwell Interiors • Woodbridge Interiors • WSP Global

Education, Skills, and Certifications

Exhibit 9a indicates that the typical educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the California labor force is a [bachelor's degree](#). The typical entry-level education is a [bachelor's degree](#).

Exhibit 9a: California Educational Attainment of *Interior Designers*¹⁶



*may not equal 100 percent due to rounding

¹⁵ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

¹⁶ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified September 8, 2022. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

Based on online job postings between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022 in San Diego County, employers posted a **bachelor's degree** as the educational requirement for *Interior Designers* (Exhibit 9b).¹⁷

Exhibit 9b: Educational Requirements for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County¹⁸

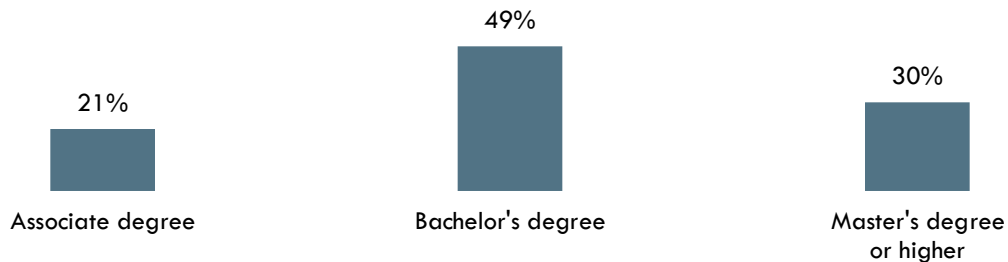


Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County¹⁹

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SketchUp • Space Planning • Autodesk Revit • Showrooms • Purchasing • Construction • Selling Techniques • Renovation • Textiles • Product Knowledge • Furniture Fixtures And Equipment • Construction Management • Conceptual Design • Rendering • New Product Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales • Communications • Presentations • Customer Service • Detail Oriented • Research • Self-Motivation • Organizational Skills • Coordinating • Management • Writing • Planning • Multitasking • Professionalism • Project Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AutoCAD • SketchUp • Autodesk Revit • Adobe Photoshop • Microsoft Excel • Microsoft Outlook • Adobe Creative Suite • Adobe InDesign • Microsoft PowerPoint • Adobe Illustrator • Microsoft Word • Lumion • Google Workspace • 2020 Design Software • V-Ray

¹⁷ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

¹⁸ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified April 9, 2021. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

¹⁹ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

Exhibit 11 lists the top certifications that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022.

Exhibit 11: Top Certifications for *Interior Designers* in San Diego County²⁰

Top Certifications in Online Job Postings

1. National Council For Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ)
 2. LEED Accredited Professional (AP)
 3. Architecture License
 4. Certified Interior Designer
 5. Security Clearance
 6. Contractor License
 7. NATE Certification (North American Technician Excellence)
 8. Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification
 9. School Bus Endorsement
 10. Certified Kitchen And Bath Designer (CKBD)
 11. Certified Loss Control Specialist
 12. LEED Green Associate
 13. Real Estate Salesperson License
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²⁰ Lightcast; "Job Posting Analytics." 2020-2022.

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Important Disclaimers

All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. This study examines the most recent data available at the time of the analysis; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the report findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.