

Labor Market Analysis: 1306.20 – Dietetic Services and Management Nutrition and Dietetics – Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T) Degree

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, July 2024

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, 25 th)	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"/>	

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupations¹ or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the two identified nutrition and dietetics occupations in the region. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the entry-level education level for *dietetic technicians*. While the occupation, *dietitians and nutritionists*, typically requires a bachelor's degree, this occupation is included because it is the target occupation for the Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T.) degree in this report.

Recommendation: Due to some of the program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 818 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2027. This number is greater than the three-year average of 297 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. 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

- Both occupations have entry-level wages **below** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$18.10/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 45% of the annual job openings typically require a bachelor's degree for these nutrition and dietetics occupations in the LA/OC region.
 - *Dietitians and nutritionists* typically requires a bachelor's degree; however, this is the target occupation for the proposed Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T.) degree program in this report.
- 35% of current *dietetic technicians* in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment, while only 9% of *dietitians and nutritionists* have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education, according to national-level data.

Community college supply

- 4 community colleges issued awards related to dietetics in the greater LA/OC region.
- 56 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2021 and 2023.

Other postsecondary supply

- 5 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred bachelor's awards in nutrition sciences programs over the past three years.
- 241 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2020 and 2022.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to these related occupations. Although the occupation, *dietitians and nutritionists*, typically requires a bachelor's degree, it are included in this report since they are the target occupation for the proposed Nutrition and Dietetics Associate in Science for Transfer (A.S.-T.) degree. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- ***Dietitians and Nutritionists (29-1031)***³
- ***Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)***⁴

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these nutrition and dietetics occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 22% through 2027. There will be more than 800

² Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

³ [Dietitians and Nutritionists \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Dietetic Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

job openings per year through 2027 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2022 for these nutrition and dietetics occupations (77%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁵

Geography	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	4,862	5,891	1,029	21%	623
Orange	1,478	1,824	346	23%	195
Total	6,340	7,715	1,375	22%	818

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for each of the target occupations in Los Angeles County. The percentage of workers aged 55+ and automation index are included in order to visualize upcoming replacement demand for these occupations. These occupations have a lower-than-average risk of automation, and a smaller share of older workers in the field.

Exhibit 2: Current employment, projected occupational demand, percentage of workers aged 55+, Los Angeles County⁶

Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older*	Automation Index**	% Full Time Workers***
Dietitians and Nutritionists	3,606	4,079	13%	336	26%	84.7	74%
Dietetic Technicians	1,256	1,812	44%	287	22%	87.2	100%
Total	4,862	5,891	21%	623	-	-	-

*The average percentage of workers aged 55 and older across all occupations in the greater LA/OC region is 27%. These occupations have a smaller share of older workers, which typically indicates fewer replacements needs to offset the amount of impending retirements.

**The automation index captures an occupation’s risk of being affected by automation with a base of 100. An automation index greater than 100 indicates a higher-than average risk of automation; less than 100 indicates a lower-than-average risk.

*** Across all jobs in California, 81% of workers are employed full-time.

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these nutrition and dietetics occupations 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 Los Angeles/Orange County region.

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.

⁶ Ibid.

Los Angeles County

Both occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$16.63 and \$17.88. (Exhibit 3). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$22.34 and \$46.38, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupations in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Dietitians and Nutritionists	\$16.63	\$37.45	\$46.38	\$77,900
Dietetic Technicians	\$17.88	\$20.64	\$22.34	\$42,900

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

Both occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$16.87 and \$18.16 (Exhibit 4). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$22.68 and \$47.11, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

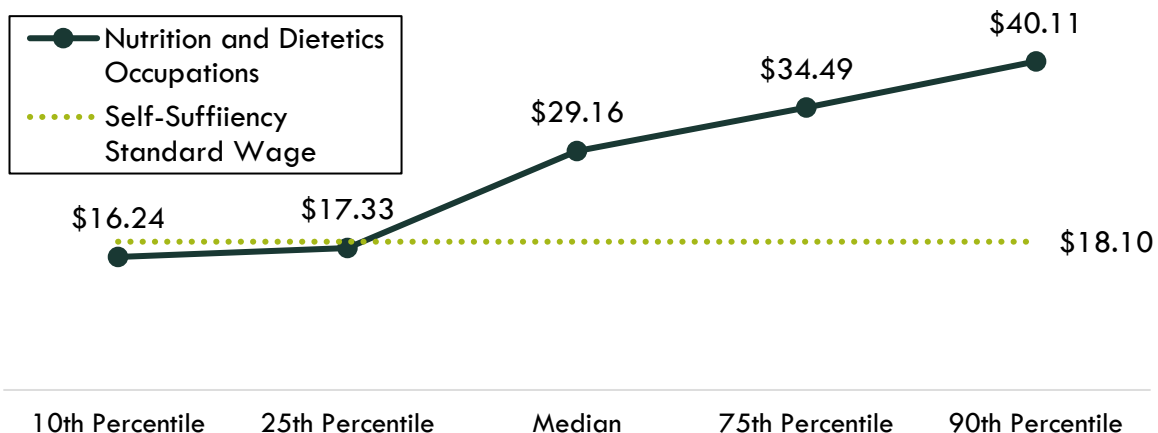
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Dietitians and Nutritionists	\$16.87	\$38.05	\$47.11	\$79,200
Dietetic Technicians	\$18.16	\$20.96	\$22.68	\$43,600

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupations in this report are \$17.33; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

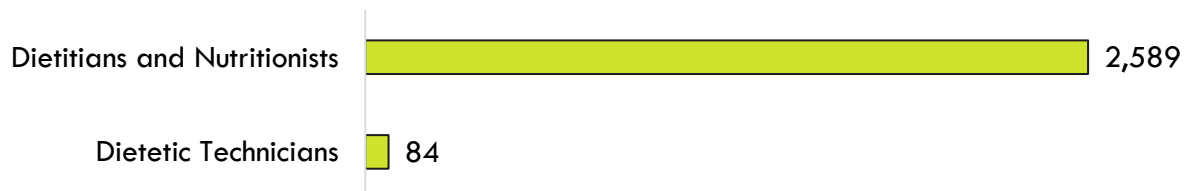
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for nutrition and dietetics occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 2,673 online job postings related to nutrition and dietetic occupations listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Exhibit 6 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (97%) were for *dietitians and nutritionists*, followed by *dietetic technicians* (3%).

Exhibit 6: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months), Los Angeles and Orange counties



Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupations in this report (Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 7: Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered dietitians Dietary aides Dietitians Clinical dietitians Dietary supervisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food/nutrition services Dietetics Nutritional assessment Clinical nutrition Nutrition education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sodexo Compass Group Morrison Healthcare Providence Fresenius

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 56% of the nutrition and dietetics job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. The number and percentage of job postings by educational level appear in exhibit 8.

Exhibit 8: Education levels requested in job postings for occupations related to nutrition and dietetics occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	896	60%
Associate degree	73	5%
High school diploma or vocational training	525	35%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (55%) typically require a bachelor's degree (Exhibit 9). The national-level data indicates 35% of current *dietetic technicians* in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment, while only 9% of *dietitians and nutritionists* have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

Exhibit 9: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Dietitians and Nutritionists	Bachelor's degree
Dietetic Technicians	Associate degree

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 10 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Dietetic Services and Management (1306.20) and Dietetic Technology (1306.60). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Long Beach, Glendale, and Orange Coast.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2021-2023

TOP Code	Program	College	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
1306.20	Dietetic Services and Management	Glendale	12	23	15	17
		LA City	8	6	6	7
		Long Beach	8	23	7	13
		LA Subtotal	28	52	28	36
		Orange Coast	6	3	6	5
		OC Subtotal	6	3	6	5
Supply Subtotal/Average			34	55	34	41
1306.60	Dietetic Technology	Long Beach	17	4	7	9
		LA Subtotal	17	4	7	9
		Orange Coast	8	4	4	5
		OC Subtotal	8	4	4	5
Supply Subtotal/Average			25	8	11	15
Supply Total/Average			59	63	45	56

Other Postsecondary Supply

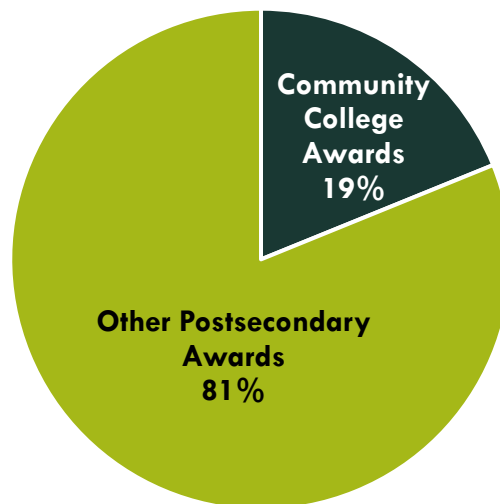
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for nutrition and dietetics. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2020 to 2022. Between 2020 and 2022, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 241 bachelor's awards.

Exhibit 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2020-2022

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	3-Year Average
30.1901	Nutrition Sciences	California State Polytechnic Univ.-Pomona	110	93	82	95
		California State University-Long Beach	51	72	81	68
		California State University-Los Angeles	68	82	61	70
		Chapman University	-	-	1	0
		Pepperdine University	8	4	9	7
Supply Total/Average			237	251	234	241

Exhibit 12 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region compared to the number of other postsecondary awards for the programs in this report. The majority of awards conferred in these programs are awarded by other institutions in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 12: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



APPENDIX: OCCUPATION DESCRIPTIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to these target occupations:

- **Dietitians and Nutritionists (29-1031)** Plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and control of disease. May supervise activities of a department providing quantity food services, counsel individuals, or conduct nutritional research.⁷
- **Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)** Assist in the provision of food service and nutritional programs, under the supervision of a dietitian. May plan and produce meals based on established guidelines, teach principles of food and nutrition, or counsel individuals.⁸

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DATA SOURCES

- O*NET Online
- 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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⁷ [Dietitians and Nutritionists \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)

⁸ [Dietetic Technicians \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)