



## Technical Theater (TOP 1006.00)

October 2024

Prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence for  
Labor Market Research

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### Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the South Central Coast<sup>1</sup> Center of Excellence to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation – Technical Theater. This report can help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study that align with this occupation group.

### Key Findings

- In 2022, there were 1,688 jobs for Technical Theater-related occupations in the South Central Coast Region.
- This number is expected to increase by 2% through 2027.
- Projections show nearly 350 annual openings in the region. An average of 341 awards were conferred in relevant programs, indicating a slight undersupply.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for lighting technicians, and costume attendants; a postsecondary nondegree award for audio and video technicians, sound engineering technicians, and makeup artists, theatrical and performance; some college (no degree) for actors; and a bachelor's degree for fashion designers, editors, and set and exhibit designers.

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<sup>1</sup> The South Central Coast Region consists of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and the following cities from North Los Angeles County: Canyon Country, Castaic, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Littlerock, Llano, Newhall, Palmdale, Pearblossom, Santa Clarita, Stevenson Ranch, and Valencia.

## Occupation Codes and Descriptions

There are nine occupations in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system that were identified as related to Technical Theater for this analysis. The occupation titles and descriptions, as well as reported job titles, are included in Exhibit 1.

**Exhibit 1 – Occupation, Description, and Sample Job Titles**

SOC Code	Title	Description	Sample of Reported Job Titles
27-1022	Fashion Designers	Design clothing and accessories. Create original designs or adapt fashion trends.	Apparel Fashion Designer, Clothing Designer, Costume Designer, Dance Costume Designer, Designer, Fashion Designer, Historic Clothing and Costume Maker, Latex Fashions Designer, Product Developer
27-1027	Set and Exhibit Designers	Design special exhibits and sets for film, video, television, and theater productions. May study scripts, confer with directors, and conduct research to determine appropriate architectural styles.	Designer, Display Coordinator, Exhibit Coordinator, Exhibit Designer, Exhibit Preparator, Historical Society Window Dresser, Installations Designer, Projection Designer, Scenic Designer, Set Designer
27-2011	Actors	Play parts in stage, television, radio, video, or film productions, or other settings for entertainment, information, or instruction. Interpret serious or comic role by speech, gesture, and body movement to entertain or inform audience. May dance and sing.	Actor, Actress, Comedian, Comic, Community Theater Actor, Ensemble Member, Narrator, Performer, Tour Actor, Voice-Over Artist
27-3041	Editors	Plan, coordinate, revise, or edit written material. May review proposals and drafts for possible publication.	Acquisitions Editor, Business Editor, Editor, Features Editor, Legal Editor, News Editor, Newspaper Copy Editor, Science Editor, Sports Editor, Web Editor
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians	Set up, maintain, and dismantle audio and video equipment, such as microphones, sound speakers, connecting wires and cables, sound and mixing boards, video cameras, video monitors and servers, and related electronic equipment for live or recorded events, such as concerts, meetings, conventions, presentations, podcasts, news conferences, and sporting events.	Audio Technician, Audio Visual Specialist (AV Specialist), AV Tech (Audio Visual Technician), Media Technician, Operations Technician, Stagehand, Video Technician

27-4014	Sound Engineering Technicians	Assemble and operate equipment to record, synchronize, mix, edit, or reproduce sound, including music, voices, or sound effects, for theater, video, film, television, podcasts, sporting events, and other productions.	Audio Engineer, Audio Operator, Mastering Engineer, Mixer, Mixing Engineer, Recording Engineer, Sound Editor, Sound Engineer, Sound Technician, Studio Engineer
27-4015	Lighting Technicians	Set up, maintain, and dismantle light fixtures, lighting control devices, and the associated lighting electrical and rigging equipment used for photography, television, film, video, and live productions. May focus or operate light fixtures, or attach color filters or other lighting accessories.	N/A
39-3092	Costume Attendants	Select, fit, and take care of costumes for cast members, and aid entertainers. May assist with multiple costume changes during performances.	Costume Draper, Costume Seamstress, Costumer, Draper, Dresser, Wardrobe Assistant, Wardrobe Attendant
39-5091	Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance	Apply makeup to performers to reflect period, setting, and situation of their role.	Commercial Makeup Artist, Hair and Makeup Designer, Makeup Artist, Prosthetic Makeup Designer, Special Effects Makeup Artist, Special Makeup Effects Artist

Source: O\*NET Online

## Current and Future Employment

In the South Central Coast region, the number of jobs related to Technical Theater occupations are expected to grow 2% through 2027. Nearly 350 openings are expected for these occupations every year through 2027.

### Exhibit 2 – Five-Year Projections for Technical Theater Occupations in the South Central Coast Region

SOC	Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
27-1022	Fashion Designers	121	133	12	10%	36
27-1027	Set and Exhibit Designers	124	119	(6)	(5%)	30
27-2011	Actors	518	539	21	4%	76
27-3041	Editors	498	471	(27)	(5%)	52
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians	267	290	23	9%	69
27-4014	Sound Engineering Technicians	101	110	9	9%	32
27-4015	Lighting Technicians	12	13	1	11%	19
39-3092	Costume Attendants	30	34	4	15%	12
39-5091	Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance	17	17	0	0%	19
		<b>1,688</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>345</b>

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

## Earnings

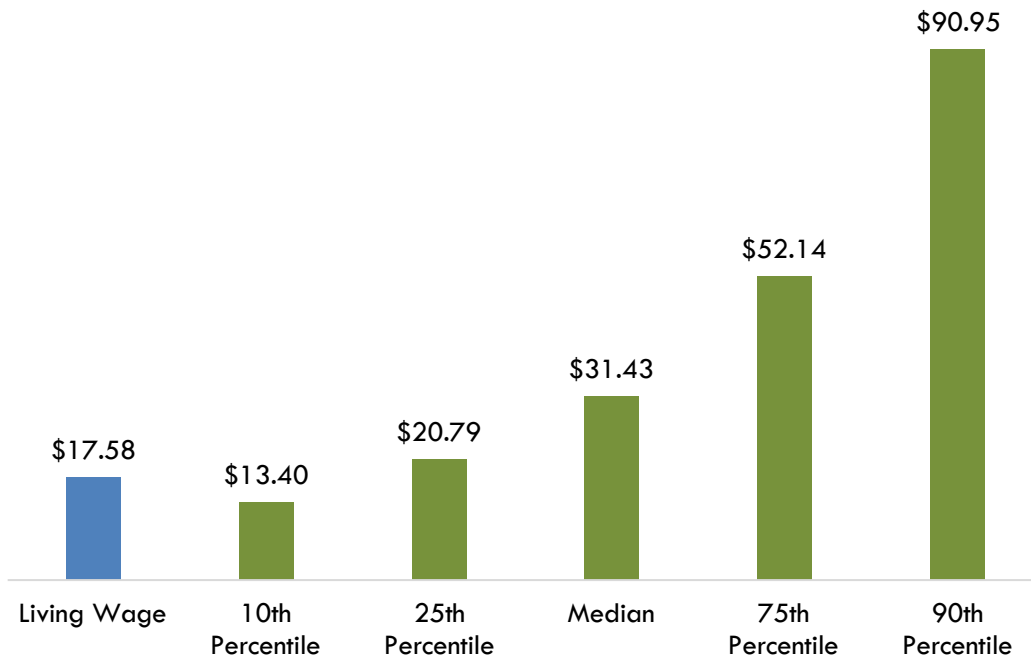
Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for these occupations. Entry-level hourly earnings are represented by the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, median hourly earnings are represented by the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings are represented by the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

**Exhibit 3 – Earnings for Technical Theater Occupations in the South Central Coast Region**

<b>SOC</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Entry-Level Hourly Earnings</b>	<b>Median Hourly Earnings</b>	<b>Experienced Hourly Earnings</b>
27-1022	Fashion Designers	\$25.81	\$38.90	\$54.38
27-1027	Set and Exhibit Designers	\$11.96	\$24.19	\$43.42
27-2011	Actors	\$16.17	\$20.72	\$32.62
27-3041	Editors	\$23.50	\$31.96	\$44.18
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians	\$19.94	\$24.93	\$35.22
27-4014	Sound Engineering Technicians	\$20.50	\$30.62	\$54.18
27-4015	Lighting Technicians	\$19.07	\$31.67	\$56.74
39-3092	Costume Attendants	\$18.65	\$26.66	\$29.54
39-5091	Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance	\$31.46	\$53.23	\$118.97

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

**Exhibit 3b – Earnings for Technical Theater Occupations in the South Central Coast Region**



Source: Family Needs Calculator (Living wage is based on Single Adult households with no children); Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

## Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is looking for professionals in a given field, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to Technical Theater the following standard occupational classifications were used:

27-1022	Fashion Designers
27-1027	Set and Exhibit Designers
27-2011	Actors
27-3041	Editors
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians
27-4014	Sound Engineering Technicians
27-4015	Lighting Technicians
39-3092	Costume Attendants
39-5091	Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance

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## Top Occupations

Over the past 12 months, there have been 513 employer postings for occupations related to Technical Theater.

**Exhibit 4 – Top Occupations by Job Postings**

<b>SOC Code</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Job Postings, Last 12 months</b>
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians	129
27-2011	Actors	119
39-5091	Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance	116
27-3041	Editors	87
27-1022	Fashion Designers	29
39-3092	Costume Attendants	11
27-1027	Set and Exhibit Designers	8
27-4015	Lighting Technicians	8
27-4014	Sound Engineering Technicians	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

## Top Titles

The top job titles for employers posting ads for jobs related to Technical Theater are listed in Exhibit 5. Audiovisual Technician is mentioned as the job title in 45 job postings.

**Exhibit 5 – Job Titles**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Job Postings, Last 12 months</b>
Audiovisual Technicians	45
Technical Editors	26
Beauty Specialists	21
Audio Technicians	20
Stage Technicians	19
Character Artists	16
Makeup Artists	15
Audiovisual Specialists	15
Wardrobe Attendants	13
Visual Specialists	13

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

## Skills

The tables in Exhibit 6 list employers' most commonly requested skills in job postings related to Technical Theater. Costume Design is the most sought-after specialized skill for employers. Communication was the most requested baseline skill. Microsoft Excel was the most requested software and programming skill.

**Exhibit 6 – Specialized Skills**

<b>Skills</b>	<b>Job Postings, Last 12 months</b>
Costume Design	83
Photography	67
Sewing	61
Office Equipment	59
Dyeing	53
Fabrication	48
Machinery	46
Hand Tools	42
Costumes	38
Project Management	30

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023



### Exhibit 6b – Baseline Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Last 12 months
Communication	176
Customer Service	147
Sales	139
Operations	127
Management	80
Lifting Ability	69
Writing	66
Detail Oriented	66
Problem Solving	60
Editing	51

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

### Exhibit 6c – Software and Programming Skills

Skills	Job Postings, Last 12 months
Microsoft Excel	28
Microsoft Outlook	27
Adobe Photoshop	25
Adobe FrameMaker	24
Adobe Illustrator	24

Source: Lightcast™ Analyst 2023

## Education and Training

Exhibit 7 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for occupations of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation.

**Exhibit 7 – Education and Training Requirements**

SOC	Occupation	Typical entry-level education	Typical on-the-job training
27-1022	Fashion Designers	Bachelor's degree	None
27-1027	Set and Exhibit Designers	Bachelor's degree	None
27-2011	Actors	Some college, no degree	Long-term
27-3041	Editors	Bachelor's degree	None
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term
27-4014	Sound Engineering Technicians	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term
27-4015	Lighting Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term
39-3092	Costume Attendants	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term
39-5091	Makeup Artists, Theatrical and Performance	Postsecondary nondegree award	None

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

## Regional Completions and Openings

Between 2020 and 2023, there were 341 awards conferred in the South Central Coast region aligned with programs related to the occupations in this report.

### Exhibit 8 – Three-Year Average of Awards Conferred in the Region

TOP Code	Program	3-Year Average (2020-2023)
1005.00	Commercial Music	35
1006.00	Technical Theater	15
1007.00	Dramatic Arts	82
1303.00	Fashion	12
3007.00	Cosmetology and Barbering	66
12.0401	Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	69
12.0406	Make-Up Artist/Specialist	3
50.0501	Drama and Dramatics/Theatre Arts, General	59
50.0502	Technical Theatre/Theatre Design and Technology	-
50.0504	Playwriting and Screenwriting	-
50.0510	Costume Design	-
	<b>Average</b>	<b>341</b>

Source: Datamart

## CCC Awards

Exhibit 9 shows the average number of awards granted by community colleges within programs historically dedicated to training for the occupations included in this report.

### Exhibit 9 – CCC Awards in the South Central Coast Region, 2020-2023 Average

CCC Programs	3-Year Average
Allan Hancock	59
Antelope Valley	24
Canyons	18
Cuesta	20
Moorpark	49
Santa Barbara	33
Ventura	7

Source: DataMart, 2023

## Sources

O\*Net Online, Lightcast™ Analyst 2023, MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

## Notes

Data included in this analysis represent the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to Technical Theater. Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study and can signal demand and show what employers are looking for in potential employees, but is not a perfect measure of the quantity of open positions. All representations have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. The most recent data available at the time of the analysis was examined; 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 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.