Labor Market Analysis for Program Review:
TOP Code: 1005.00/Commercial Music
CIP Codes: 50.0904/ Music Theory and Composition 50.0913/Music Technology

(Music Industry Studies, AA) (Commercial Music, AA)
(Music Composition & Songwriting, Certificate)
(Music Technology Production & Management, Certificate)
(Commercial Music: Level I Certificate) (Commercial Music: Level II Certificate)

South Central Coast Center of Excellence, November 2026

FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

Summary

Program LMI Endorsement		
Endorsed: All LMI Criteria Met	**Endorsed: Some LMI Criteria Met**	**Not LMI Endorsed**
☐	☒	☐

Program LMI Endorsement Criteria		
Criterion	**Finding**	**Comments**
Supply Gap	☑ Met	There is projected to be **213 annual job openings** in the South Central Coast (SCC) Region for these audio engineering occupations, which **is more than the 116 awards conferred by educational institutions**.
Self-Sufficiency Standard Living Wage[1]	☑ Met	**The majority (83%) of annual job openings** for these audio engineering occupations **have entry-level hourly wages above the Los Angeles County living wage of $24.03**.
Education	☑ Met	Though **the majority (74%) of annual job openings** for these audio engineering occupations typically require **no formal educational credential, between 25% and 39% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education**.

Additional Considerations		
Emerging Occupation(s)	None	N/A

The South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (SCC COE) prepared this report to determine whether there is a supply gap in the SCC regional labor market related to three occupations:

- *Musicians and Singers (27-2042)*
- *Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)*
- *Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)*

[1] 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; the living wage for Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, last updated in March 2024.

Based on the available data there appears to be a supply gap for these audio engineering occupations and typical education requirements for these occupations align with a community college education. Additionally, the majority of annual job openings have entry-level wages above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage. **Therefore, due to some of the regional labor market criteria being met, the COE endorses this proposed program.**

Exhibit 1 lists the occupational demand, supply, typical entry-level education, and educational attainment for the occupations 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
Musicians and Singers (27-2042)	157	40	$24.09	No formal educational credential	25%
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	39	66	$22.55	Postsecondary nondegree award	39%
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	17	10	$24.16	Postsecondary nondegree award	39%
Total	**213**	**116**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Demand:

- The number of jobs related to these audio engineering occupations is projected to grow 4% through 2030 in the SCC region. There is projected to be 213 annual job openings due to job creation and replacements.
- Hourly entry-level wages for these audio engineering occupations in Northern Los Angeles County range from $22.55 to $24.16; 83% of annual job openings have entry-level wages above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage ($24.03 for Northern Los Angeles County).
- There were 195 online job postings for these audio engineering occupations over the past 12 months. The highest number of postings were for audiovisual technicians, retail display associates, and orchestra managers.
- The typical entry-level education for these audio engineering occupations ranges from no formal educational credential to a postsecondary nondegree award.
- Between 25% and 39% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

Supply:

- There was an average of 104 awards conferred by seven community colleges in the SCC Region from 2022 to 2025.
- Non-community college institutions conferred 12 related awards from 2021 to 2024.
- SCC community college students that exited Commercial Music (1005.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had a median annual wage of ($27,846 or $13.39 per hour)

after exiting the program and 16% attained the regional living wage (Self-Sufficiency Standard).

- Throughout California, 52% of Commercial Music (1005.00) students that exited their program in 2022-23 reported that they are working in a job closely related to their field of study.

Demand

Occupational Projections:

Exhibit 2 compares historical and projected changes in employment for these occupations compared to the number of jobs in 2020. Notably, employment for these audio engineering occupations throughout Northern Los Angeles declined 22% from 2020 to 2025, which is significantly higher when compared to employment for these occupations in the SCC Region and California. From 2025 to 2030, employment for these audio engineering occupations in all areas are projected to lightly grow.

Exhibit 2: Historical and Projected Employment for
Audio Engineering Occupations in the SCC Region, 2020-2030

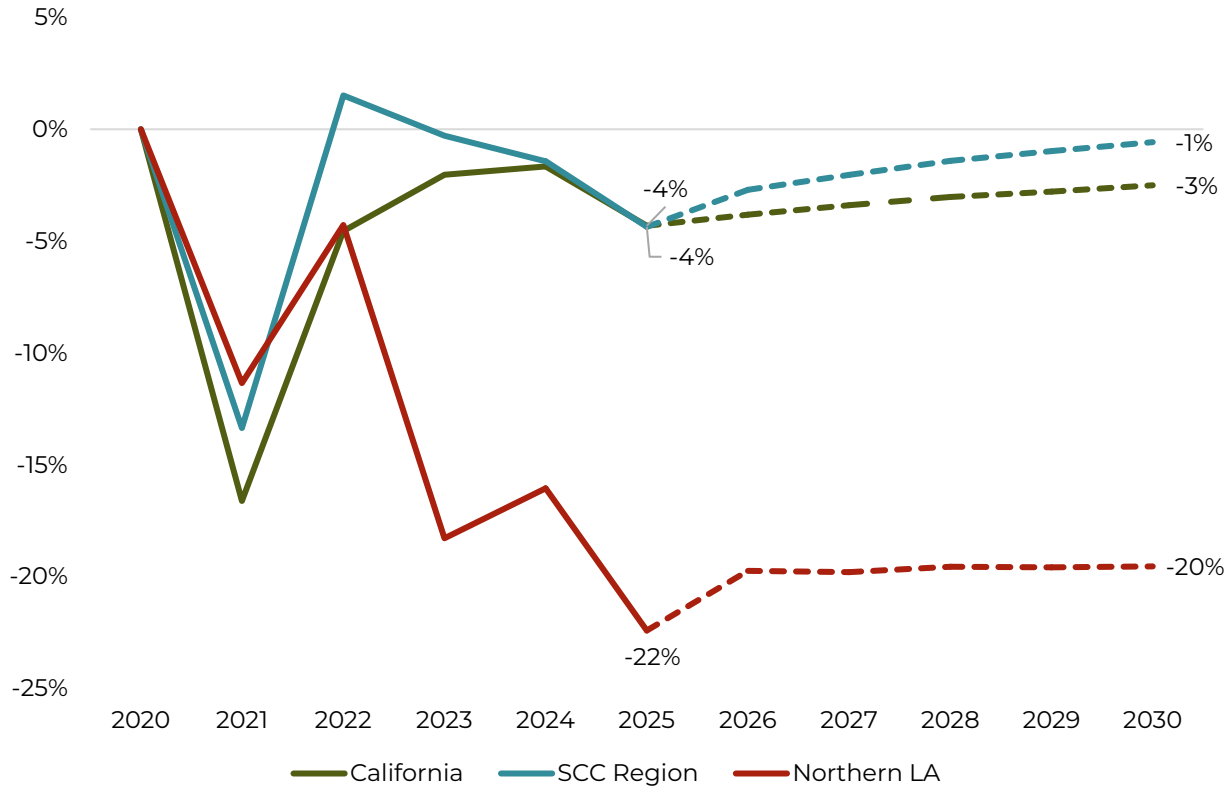


Exhibit 3 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these audio engineering occupations. In the SCC Region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to grow 4% by 2030. There is projected to be 213 jobs available annually due to job creation and replacements. Ventura County has the highest number of jobs and annual openings, with employment projected to grow 4% by 2030.

Exhibit 3: Occupational Demand in the SCC Region[2]

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Northern Los Angeles	376	390	14	4%	45
San Luis Obispo	282	299	17	6%	34
Santa Barbara	378	388	10	3%	41
Ventura	808	840	32	4%	90
SCC Region	**1,842**	**1,915**	**73**	**4%**	**213**

Wages:

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these audio engineering occupations in relation to the living wage of the county where the requesting community college is located. This report was requested by Antelope Valley College, which is in Los Angeles County. Wages for other counties are included below to provide a complete analysis of the SCC Region.

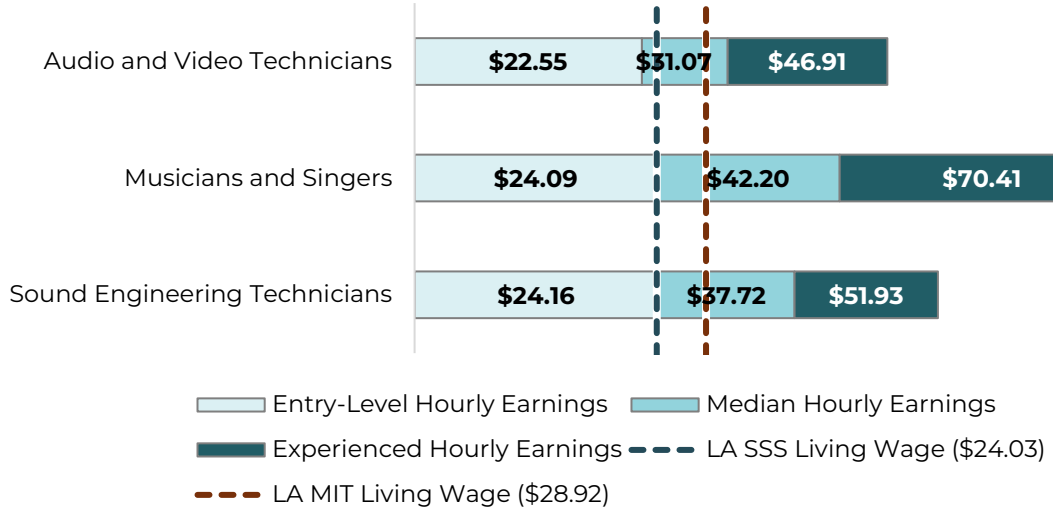
In addition to the Self Sufficiency Standard living wage, data for the MIT Living Wage, updated on February 15, 2026, is provided as a reference. Currently, the MIT Living Wage in Los Angeles County is $28.92. Both figures account for geographic-specific costs of necessities such as housing, food, health care, and transportation to assess the cost of living, and are notated in the exhibits below.

Northern Los Angeles

The majority (83%) of annual openings for these audio engineering occupations have entry-level wages above the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $22.55 and $24.16. Median hourly earnings for all occupations in Northern Los Angeles County are above the living wage. Exhibit 4, on the following page, shows the wage range for each of these audio engineering occupations in Northern Los Angeles and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

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

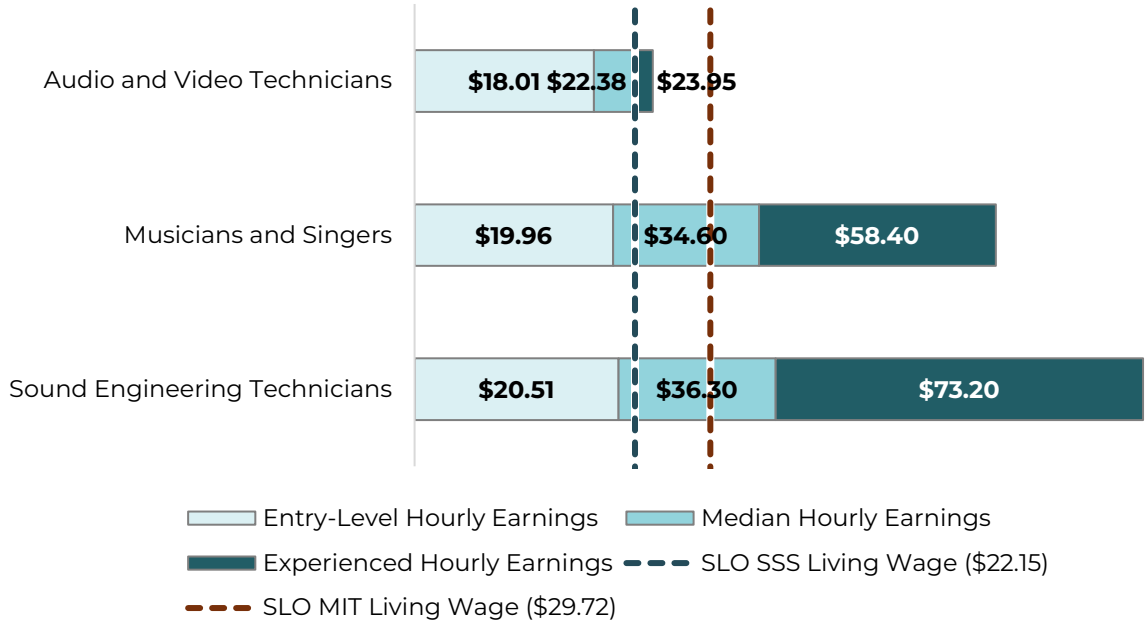
Exhibit 4: Wages by Occupation in Northern Los Angeles County



San Luis Obispo

All (100%) annual openings for these audio engineering occupations have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($22.15 in San Luis Obispo County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $18.01 and $20.51. Median hourly earnings for *Musicians and Singers (27-2042)* and *Sound Engineering Technicians (27-2014)* in San Luis Obispo County are above the living wage, while experienced hourly earnings for *Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)* are above it. Exhibit 5 shows the wage range for each of these audio engineering occupations in San Luis Obispo County and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

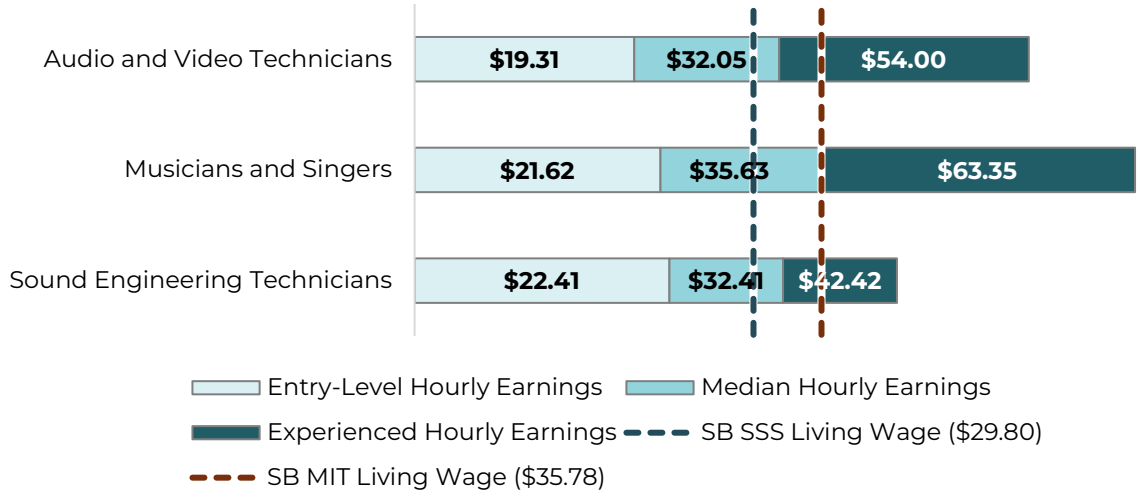
Exhibit 5: Wages by Occupation in San Luis Obispo County



Santa Barbara

All (100%) annual openings for these audio engineering occupations have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($29.80 in Santa Barbara County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $19.31 and $22.41. Median level wages are above the living wage for all three occupations. Exhibit 6 shows the wage range for each of these audio engineering occupations in Santa Barbara County and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

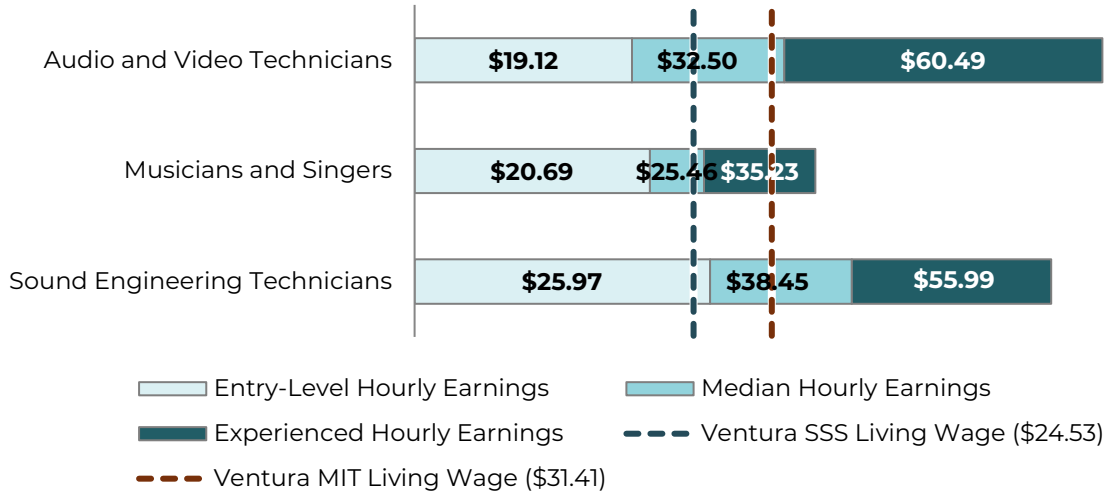
Exhibit 6: Wages by Occupation in Santa Barbara County



Ventura

The majority (92%) of annual openings for these audio engineering occupations have entry-level wages below the Self-Sufficiency Standard living wage for one adult ($24.53 in Ventura County). Typical entry-level hourly wages range between $19.12 and $25.97. Median hourly earnings for these audio engineering occupations in Ventura County are above the living wage. Exhibit 7 shows the wage range for each of these audio engineering occupations in Ventura County and how they compare to the regional living wage, sorted from lowest to highest entry-level wage.

Exhibit 7: Wages by Occupation in Ventura County



Job Quality

Based on the SCC COE's analysis of traditional labor market and job quality indicators[3], the occupations analyzed in this report are considered Low- and Medium-Quality across the SCC Region and within Northern Los Angeles County, as shown in Exhibit 8.

Exhibit 8: Job Quality Level by County

Occupation	Northern LA	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Ventura	SCC Region
Musicians and Singers	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Audio and Video Technicians	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Sound Engineering Technicians	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

To better understand measures of job quality for these occupations in Northern Los Angeles County, Exhibit 9 shows which job quality criteria were met for each occupation. Notably, all three occupations met the criteria for positive projected change and the number of hours worked per week. Two of the three occupations met the criteria for number of jobs, positive projected change, and a low automation risk. Additionally, none were considered "Best Jobs" by U.S. News & World Report in 2025.

Exhibit 9: Job Quality Indicators for Audio Engineering Occupations in Northern Los Angeles County

Job Quality Measure	Musicians and Singers	Audio and Video Technicians	Sound Engineering Technicians
# of Jobs	**Met**	**Met**	**Not Met**
Positive Projected Change	**Met**	**Met**	**Met**
Demand (Annual Openings)	**Met**	**Met**	**Not Met**
Living Wage (SSS)	**Met**	**Not Met**	**Not Met**
Living Wage (MIT)	**Not Met**	**Not Met**	**Not Met**
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance	**Not Met**	**Met**	**Met**
# of Hours Worked Per Week	**Met**	**Met**	**Met**
Automation Risk	**Met**	**Met**	**Not Met**
U.S. News & World Report Best Job	**Not Met**	**Not Met**	**Not Met**

Job Postings:

There were 195 online job postings related to these audio engineering occupations listed in the past 12 months in the SCC Region. Exhibit 10 shows the number of job postings by county. Approximately 31% of job postings were in Santa Barbara.

[3] "South Central Coast Labor Market Landscape: Assessing Job Quality in the South Central Coast Region," South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research, last modified October 2025, https://coeccc.net/south-central-coast/2025/09/south-central-coast-labor-market-landscape-assessing-job-quality-in-the-scc-region/.

Exhibit 10: Number of Job Postings by County (n=195)

County	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Santa Barbara	60	31%
Ventura	54	28%
Northern Los Angeles	51	26%
San Luis Obispo	30	15%
Total Postings	**195**	**100%**

Of the 195 postings, the majority (52%) were for *Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011),* followed by *Musicians and Singers (27-2042)*, as shown in Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11: Number of Job Postings by Occupation (n=195)

Occupation	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Audio and Video Technicians	102	52%
Musicians and Singers	77	39%
Sound Engineering Technicians	16	8%
Total Postings	**195**	**100%**

The top employers in the region, by number of job postings, are shown in Exhibit 12.

Exhibit 12: Top Employers by Number of Job Postings (n=195)

Employer	Job Postings	Percentage of Job Postings
Antelope Valley College	11	6%
Six Flags Entertainment Corporation	10	5%
Retail Operators	7	4%
Encore Global	5	3%
Five-Star Audiovisual	5	3%
Central Coast Audio Visual	4	2%
TEKsystems	3	2%
Associated Students	3	2%
City Of Lancaster	3	2%
Trinity United Methodist Church Of Los Osos	3	2%

The top specialized, soft, and computer skills listed by those most frequently mentioned in job postings (denoted in parentheses) are shown in Exhibit 13.

Exhibit 13: Top Skills by Number of Job Postings (n=195)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Audio Systems (19)	Troubleshooting (Problem Solving) (59)	Zoom (Video Conferencing Tool) (12)
Technical Issues (19)	Communication (58)	Microsoft Teams (8)
Crestron (A/V Systems) (18)	Customer Service (27)	Cisco WebEx (7)
Electrical Wiring (17)	Management (27)	Business Software (5)

Top Specialized Skills	Top Soft Skills	Top Computer Skills
Low Voltage (17)	Problem Solving (25)	Microsoft 365 (5)
Control Systems (15)	Detail Oriented (22)	Snap One (5)
Electronic Components (15)	Operations (22)	Adobe Premiere Pro (3)
Lifting Ability (15)	Planning (21)	Blackmagic (3)
Power Tool Operation (15)	Interpersonal Communications (18)	Collaborative Software (3)
Stage Lighting (13)	Accountability (16)	Microsoft Intune (Mobile Device Management Software) (3)

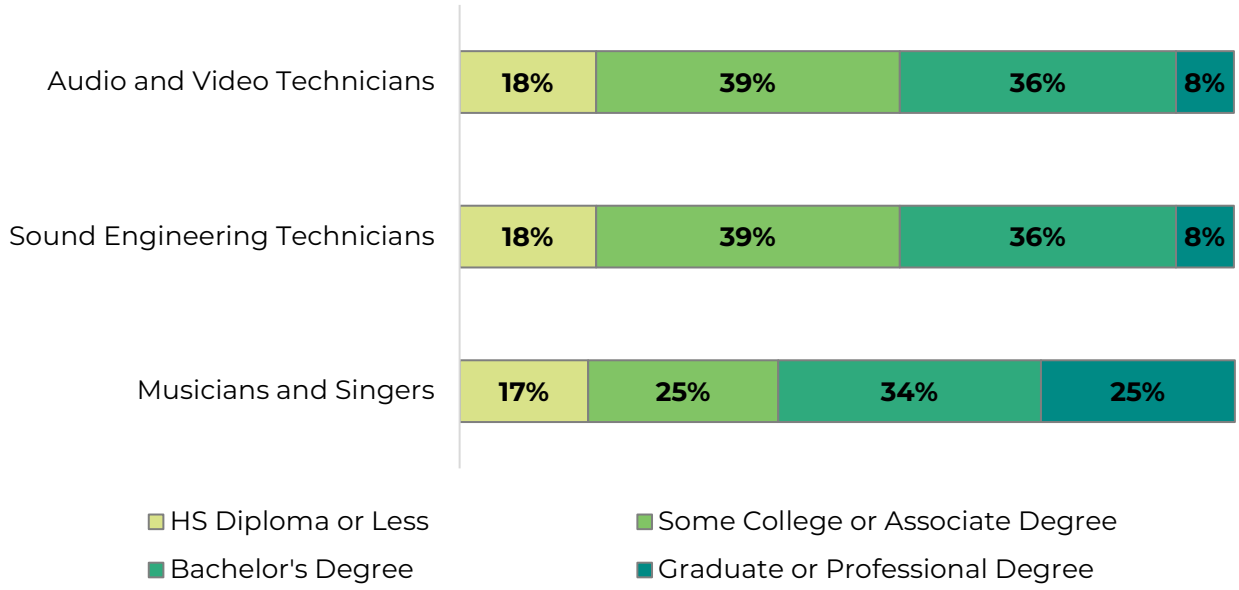
Educational Attainment:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following as the typical entry-level education for these audio engineering occupations:

- No formal education credential
  - *Musicians and Singers (27-2042)*
- Postsecondary nondegree award
  - *Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)*
  - *Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)*

The national-level educational attainment data indicates between 25% and 39% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. Exhibit 14 shows the educational attainment for each occupation, sorted by highest community college educational attainment to lowest.

Exhibit 14: National-level Educational Attainment for Occupations



Of the 21% of the cumulative job postings for these audio engineering occupations that listed a minimum education requirement in the SCC Region, 68% (27) requested a high school diploma or GED, 15% (6) requested an associate degree, and 18% (7) requested a bachelor's degree.

Educational Supply

Community College Supply:

Exhibit 15 shows the three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes:

- Commercial Music (1005.00)
- Applied Photography (1012.00)

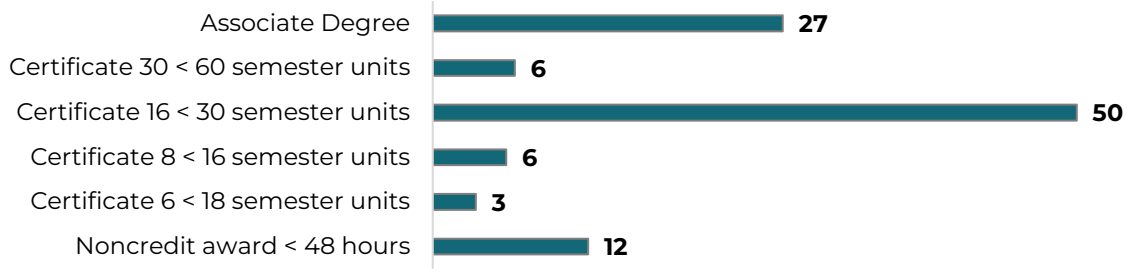
The college with the most completions in the region is Antelope Valley (36), followed by Moorpark (19), and Canyons (16).

Exhibit 15: Regional Community College Awards (Certificates and Degrees), 2022-2025

College	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	2024-2025 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1005.00 (Commercial Music)				
Allan Hancock	2	7	9	6
Antelope Valley	18	13	12	14
Canyons	2	1	2	2
Cuesta	11	19	6	12
Moorpark	4	8	7	6
Supply Subtotal/Average	**37**	**48**	**36**	**40**
1012.00 (Applied Photography)				
Allan Hancock	5	9	8	7
Antelope Valley	13	29	22	21
Canyons	26	5	12	14
Moorpark	4	19	15	13
Santa Barbara	3	0	2	2
Ventura	0	8	11	6
Supply Subtotal/Average	**51**	**70**	**70**	**64**
Supply Total/Average	**88**	**118**	**106**	**104**

Exhibit 16 shows the annual average community college awards by type from 2022-23 to 2024-25. The plurality of the awards are for certificates between 16 and less than 30 semester units, followed by associate degrees.

Exhibit 16: Annual Average Community College Awards by Type, 2022-2025



Community College Student Outcomes:

Exhibit 17 shows the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) metrics for Commercial Music (1005.00) programs at Antelope Valley College (AVC), the SCC Region, and California. Of the 1,860 Commercial Music (1005.00) students throughout the region in the 2024-25 academic year, 71% (1,326) attended AVC.

AVC students that exited Commercial Music (1005.00) programs in the 2023-24 academic year had similar median annual earnings ($27,952 or $13.44 per hour) compared to all Commercial Music (1005.00) students in the SCC Region ($27,846 or $13.39 per hour); both figures are lower than statewide ($30,568 or $14.70 per hour). A lower percentage of AVC (17%) and SCC Region (16%) Commercial Music (1005.00) students attained the living wage when compared to all Commercial Music (1005.00) students in the state (23%).

Exhibit 17: Commercial Music (1005.00) Strong Workforce Program Metrics, 2024-25[4][5]

SWP Metric	AVC	SCC Region	California
SWP Students	1,326	1,860	9,475
SWP Students Who Earned 9 or More Career Education Units in the District in a Single Year	24%	24%	23%
SWP Students Who Completed a Noncredit CTE or Workforce Preparation Course	95%	86%	72%
SWP Students Who Earned a Degree or Certificate or Attained Apprenticeship Journey Status	Insufficient data	1%	4%
SWP Students Who Transferred to a Four-Year Postsecondary Institution (2023-24)	5%	6%	6%
SWP Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study (2022-23)	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	52%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	$27,952 ($13.44)	$27,846 ($13.39)	$30,568 ($14.70)
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students (2023-24)	11%	24%	30%
SWP Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage (2023-24)	17%	16%	23%

[4] All SWP metrics are for 2024-25 unless otherwise noted. Metrics data is sourced from DataVista.
[5] Data that is not available in DataVista is denoted in Exhibit 15 as "data unavailable." Data may not be available for various reasons, including cases where data is masked to protect personally identifiable information.

Non-Community College Supply:

To comprehensively analyze the regional supply, it is crucial to include data from other institutions offering related training programs. Over the past three years (2021-2024), there were 12 awards conferred by non-community college institutions under the related Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes:

- Recording Arts Technology/Technician (10.0203)
- Music Technology (50.0913)

No awards were conferred for the following CIP codes:

- Photographic and Film/Video Technology/Technician (10.0201)
- Audio Engineering Technology/Technician (15.0307)
- Music Performance, General (50.0903)

Exhibit 18 shows the number of awards conferred by non-community college institutions from 2021 to 2024.

Exhibit 18: Regional Non-Community College Awards, 2021-2024

CIP Code	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
10.0203	Recording Arts Technology/Technician	Laurus College	0	0	6	2
Supply Subtotal/Average			**0**	**0**	**6**	**2**
50.0913	Music Technology	California Lutheran University	12	17	0	10
Supply Subtotal/Average			**12**	**17**	**0**	**10**
Supply Total/Average			**12**	**17**	**6**	**12**

Regional Demographics

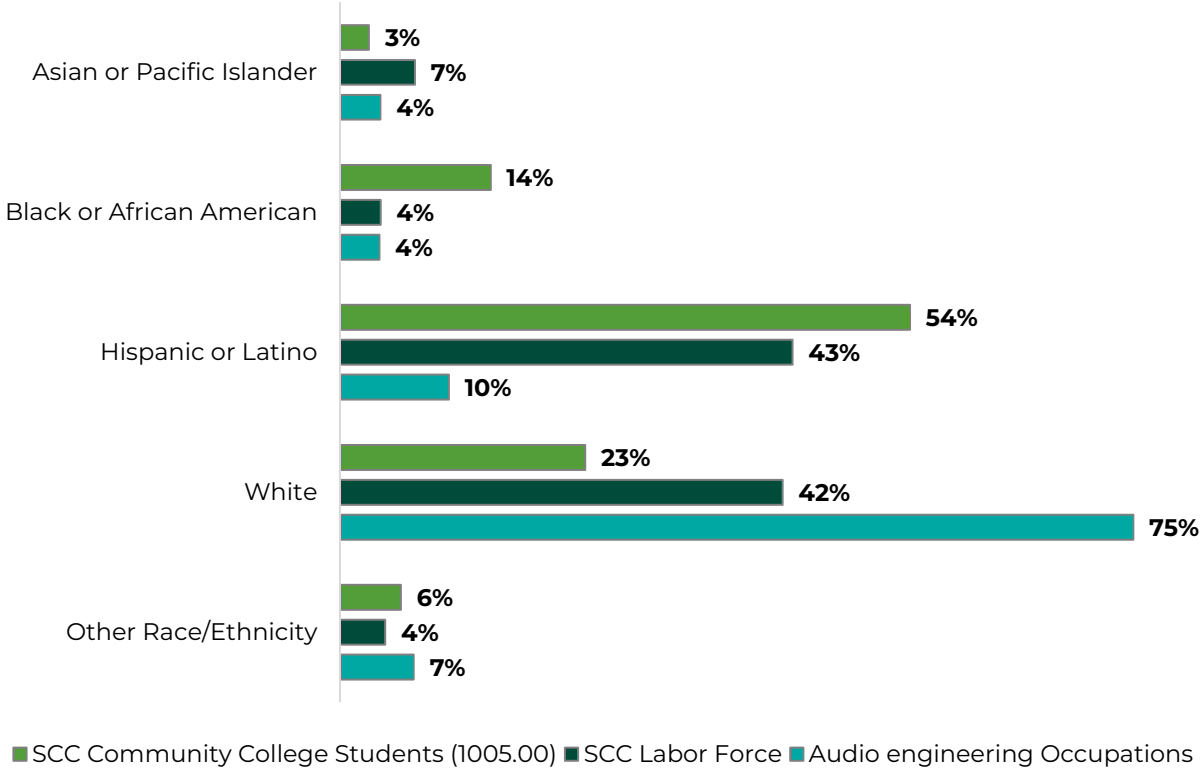
This section examines demographic data for SCC community college students in Commercial Music (1005.00) programs compared to the SCC labor force, along with occupational data, to identify potential diversity and equity issues addressable by community college programs.

Ethnicity:

Exhibit 19 compares the ethnicity of SCC community college students enrolled in Commercial Music (1005.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for the three audio engineering occupations included in this report.

Notably, 75% of workers employed in these audio engineering occupations are white, which is significantly higher than the labor force (42%) and community college Commercial Music (1005.00) students (23%). Conversely, 54% of community college Commercial Music (1005.00) students are Hispanic or Latino, which is higher than the labor force (43%) and these audio engineering occupations (10%).

Exhibit 19: Program and County Demographics by Ethnicity

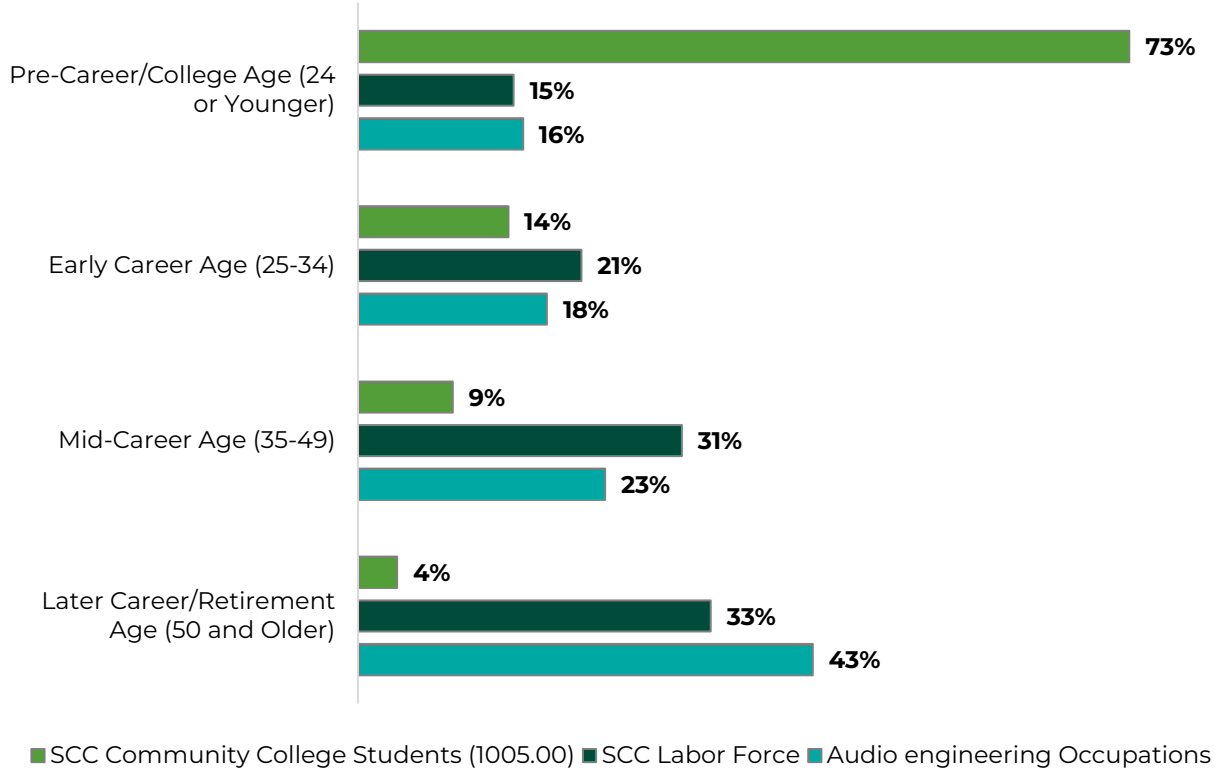


Age:

Exhibit 20 compares the age of SCC community college students enrolled in Commercial Music (1005.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for the three audio engineering occupations included in this report.

Almost half (43%) of workers in these audio engineering occupations are Later Career/Retirement Age (50 and older), which is higher than the labor force (33%) and community college Commercial Music (1005.00) students (4%).

Exhibit 20: Program and County Demographics by Age

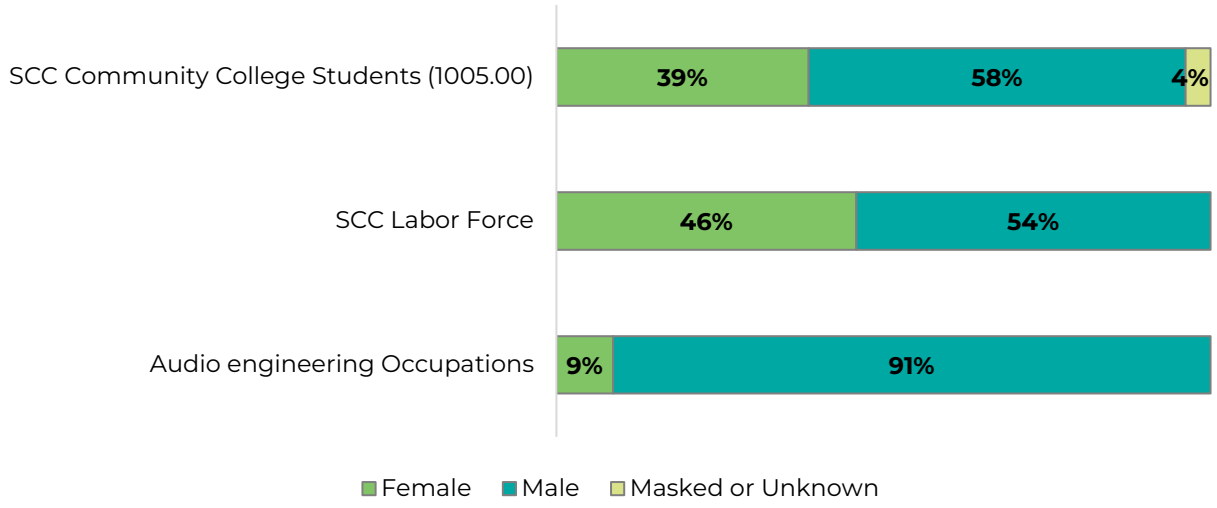


Sex:

Exhibit 21 compares the sex of SCC community college students enrolled in Commercial Music (1005.00) programs, the overall SCC labor force, and occupation-specific data for these audio engineering occupations.

There is a majority of male Commercial Music (1005.00) students (58%) and workers in these audio engineering occupations (91%), which is slightly higher than the labor force (54% male).

Exhibit 21: Program and County Demographics by Sex



Appendix A: Methodology

Traditional Labor Market Data

The SCC COE prepared this report by analyzing data from occupations and education programs. Occupational data is derived from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm that consolidates data from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and other government agencies.

Data included in this analysis represents the labor market demand for relevant positions most closely related to the proposed program as expressed by the requesting college in consultation with the SCC COE. 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.

Program supply data is drawn from two systems: Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP).

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

- 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.

The SCC COE determined labor market supply for an occupation or SOC code by analyzing the number of program completers or awards in a related TOP or CIP code. The COE developed a "supply table" with this information, which is the source of the program supply data for this report. TOP code data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart (datamart.cccco.edu) and CIP code data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data), also known as IPEDS.

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 in the United States and Canada. Institutions outside of the California Community College system do not use TOP codes in their reporting systems.

Online Job Postings Data

Online job postings data, also known as real-time labor market information, captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study which 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. Online job postings data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm that scrapes, collects, and organizes data from online job boards such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor, Monster, GovernmentJobs.com, and thousands more.

There are several limitations when analyzing job postings. A single job posting may not represent a single job opening, as employers may be creating a pool of candidates for future openings or hiring for multiple positions with a single posting. Additionally, not all jobs are posted online, and jobs may be filled through other methods such as internal promotion, word-of-mouth advertising, physical job boards, or a variety of other channels.

Additionally, Lightcast uses natural language processing (NLP) to determine the related company, industry, occupation, and other information for each job posting. However, NLP has limitations that include understanding contextual words of phrases; determining differences in words that can be used as nouns, verbs, and/or adjectives; and misspellings or grammatical errors.[6] For these reasons, job postings could be assigned to the wrong employer, industry, or occupation within Lightcast's database.

Geography

The South Central Coast region encompasses San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, as well as parts of Northern Los Angeles County. Exhibit 22 shows the 34 ZIP codes used to define Northern Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 22: Northern Los Angeles ZIP Codes

ZIP Code	Primary City
91310	Castaic
91321	Newhall
91322	Newhall
91350	Santa Clarita
91351	Canyon Country
91354	Valencia
91355	Valencia
91380	Santa Clarita
91381	Stevenson Ranch
91382	Santa Clarita
91383	Santa Clarita
91384	Castaic
91385	Valencia
91386	Canyon Country
91387	Canyon Country
91390	Santa Clarita
93510	Acton

ZIP Code	Primary City
93532	Lake Hughes
93534	Lancaster
93535	Lancaster
93536	Lancaster
93539	Lancaster
93543	Littlerock
93544	Llano
93550	Palmdale
93551	Palmdale
93552	Palmdale
93553	Pearblossom
93563	Valyermo
93584	Lancaster
93586	Lancaster
93590	Palmdale
93591	Palmdale
93599	Palmdale

Though traditional labor market information is available at the ZIP code level, it does not always add up to data reported at the county level for multiple reasons:

- ZIP codes are not official geographically bounded areas, unlike states and counties.
- ZIP codes may cross county lines, such as ZIP code 93461, which is primarily in San Luis Obispo County, but also crosses into Kern County.

For these reasons, the number of jobs and average annual openings for each county may not add up to the total for the SCC Region. However, considering jobseekers may cross county lines for opportunities, the traditional labor market data is reflective of opportunities available to jobseekers in the SCC Region.

Additionally, job postings data is available only at the city or county level. To analyze job postings for the entire SCC region, the SCC COE developed a list of cities available in Lightcast for analysis. Additionally, demographic data is not available at the ZIP code level but is available at the Census Bureau's Public `Use Microdata Area (PUMA) level. Demographic data was sourced via IPUMS and analyzed by the SCC COE.

[6] K. R. Chowdhary, Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (Basingstoke: Springer Nature, 2020), https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-81-322-3972-7.

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 Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm.
Living Wage	Per the CCCCO, this report's endorsement criteria uses the University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare Self-Sufficiency Standard last updated in March 2024. The MIT Living Wage, updated on February 15, 2026, is a nationally recognized living wage metric and is provided for reference.
Typical Education and Training Requirements, and Educational Attainment	The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 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 O*NET database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledge, work activities, and interests associated with occupations.
Educational Supply	The CCCCO Data Mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes and faculty and staff. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Integrated Data System (IPEDS) collects data on the number of postsecondary awards earned (completions).
Job Quality	To classify each occupation as High, Medium, or Low Quality, the SCC COE identified nine criteria, five of which are considered traditional labor market information indicators (Traditional LMI Indicators) and four of which are considered Job Quality Indicators. These criteria were used to determine occupations that have significant employment and demand, pay at or above the living wage, typically provide employer-sponsored health insurance and full-time hours, have a lower risk of automation, and are considered a "Best Job" by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, see the SCC COE's *South Central Coast Labor Market Landscape* report.
Student Metrics and Demographics	Data Vista, 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	The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source for detailed population and housing information. Data is sourced from IPUMS USA, a database providing access to ACS and other Census Bureau data products.

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.

For more information, please contact the South Central Coast Center of Excellence:

Jacob Poore, Director
jacob.poore@canyons.edu

Ashley Kernan, Research Manager
ashley.kernan@canyons.edu

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