



Labor Market Analysis: 1005.00 – Commercial Music

50.0913 – Music Technology

Disc Jockey (DJ) Fundamentals—Noncredit award requiring from 48<96 hours

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, March 2026

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 type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (See below)	
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 does not appear to be a supply gap for the four identified middle-skill occupations in the region. While this program does not meet the traditional supply/demand endorsement criteria, there may be demand for these workers from local employers that is not reflected in traditional labor market data. For this reason, real-time labor market data is included in this report as well – to provide a more nuanced view of the regional job market for commercial music occupations. While the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, approximately one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment.

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

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.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 1,433 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is less than the three-year average of 1,647 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.
 - Although there are more awards conferred than job openings, the data suggests that the **demand has been met for these occupations within the LA/OC region** since the three-year average number of awards (supply) is within the COE's 25% margin of annual job openings (demand).
 - Over the past 12 months, there were **1,590 online job postings related to commercial music occupations**. The highest number of job postings were for audiovisual technicians, sound mixers, disc jockeys, audio/video technicians, and low voltage technicians.

Living Wage

- 91% of annual job openings for these commercial music occupations have entry-level wages **below** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 69% of the annual job openings typically require a postsecondary non-degree award for middle-skill occupations related to commercial music in the LA/OC region.
- 33%-40% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 19 community colleges issued awards related to commercial music in the greater LA/OC region.
- 364 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2023 and 2025.

Other postsecondary supply

- 13 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to commercial music over the past three years.
- 1,283 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2022 and 2024.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to four middle-skill occupations. Although *disc jockeys, except radio* typically requires no formal educational credential, they are included in this report because approximately one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- **Disc Jockeys, Except Radio (27-2091)** Play prerecorded music for live audiences at venues or events such as clubs, parties, or wedding receptions. May use techniques such as mixing,

² Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). *The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024*. <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California>.

cutting, or sampling to manipulate recordings. May also perform as emcee (master of ceremonies).³

- **Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys (27-3011)** Speak or read from scripted materials, such as news reports or commercial messages, on radio, television, or other communications media. May play and queue music, announce artist or title of performance, identify station, or interview guests.⁴
- **Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)** 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.⁵
- **Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)** 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.⁶

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these commercial music occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 4% through 2029. There will be more than 1,400 job openings per year through 2029 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2024 for these commercial music occupations (89%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁷

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	12,998	13,468	470	4%	1,272
Orange	1,548	1,642	94	6%	160
Total	14,547	15,110	564	4%	1,433

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for each of the target occupations in Los Angeles County. The average percentage of workers aged 55+ across all occupations in the Los Angeles/Orange County region is 26%; occupations with a larger share

³ [Announcers and DJs \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Ibid.](#)

⁵ [Broadcast, Sound, and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁶ [Ibid.](#)

⁷ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements.

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁸

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older
Disc Jockeys, Except Radio	2,343	2,628	12%	275	17%
Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys	1,012	1,000	(1%)	115	25%
Audio and Video Technicians	5,947	6,050	2%	530	24%
Sound Engineering Technicians	3,697	3,791	3%	352	26%
Total	12,998	13,468	4%	1,272	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these commercial music 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.

Los Angeles County

The majority, 91%, of annual openings for commercial music occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$16.81 and \$25.35. (Exhibit 3).

One occupation has entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Broadcast announcers and radio disc jockeys, \$25.35*

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$48.63 and \$68.12, 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*
Disc Jockeys, Except Radio	\$16.81	\$22.17	\$55.01	\$46,100
Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys	\$25.35	\$37.50	\$68.12	\$78,000
Audio and Video Technicians	\$21.76	\$29.89	\$48.63	\$62,200
Sound Engineering Technicians	\$22.72	\$36.19	\$57.41	\$75,300

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

All four occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between

⁸ Ibid.

\$16.02 and \$20.52 (Exhibit 4). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$44.29 and \$62.40, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

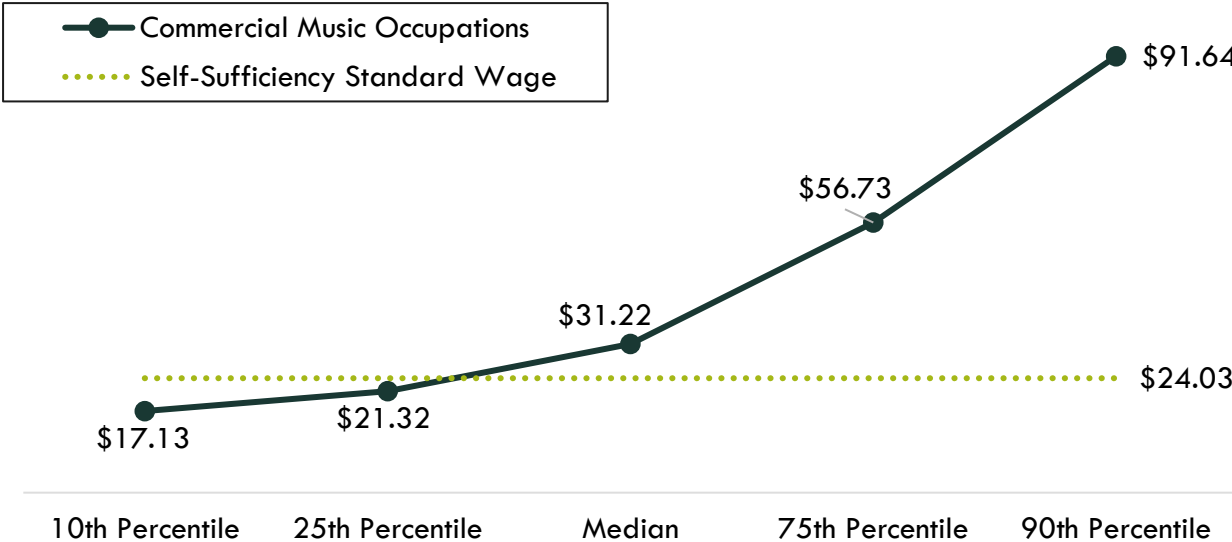
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Disc Jockeys, Except Radio	\$16.02	\$19.58	\$50.21	\$40,700
Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys	\$19.56	\$31.81	\$62.40	\$66,200
Audio and Video Technicians	\$19.79	\$27.38	\$44.29	\$57,000
Sound Engineering Technicians	\$20.52	\$33.44	\$52.06	\$69,500

*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 \$21.32; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

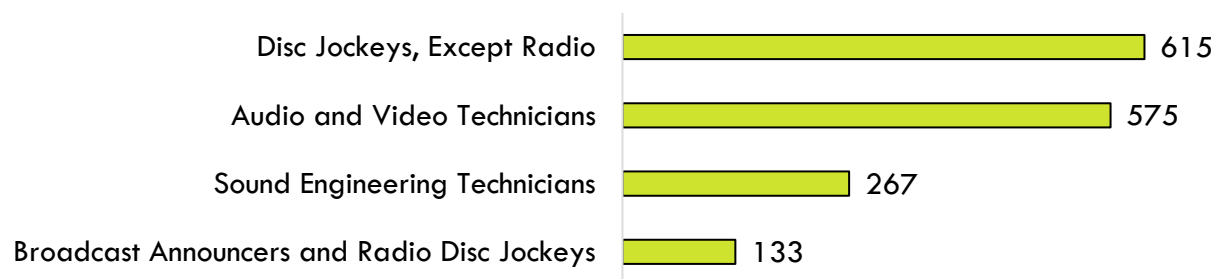
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 1,590 online job postings related to commercial music 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 (39%) were for *disc jockeys, except radio*, followed by *audio and video technicians* (36%) and *sound engineering technicians* (17%).

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"> • Audiovisual technicians • Sound mixers • Disc jockeys • Audio/video technicians • Low voltage technicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifting ability • Creston (A/V systems) • Technical issues • Project management • Good driving record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encore Global • AVI-SPL* • Milestone Technologies • Five Star Audio Visual • AEG

*Staffing Company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 24% of the commercial music job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 8 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

Exhibit 8: Education levels requested in job postings for commercial music occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	141	37%
Associate degree	12	3%
High school diploma or vocational training	232	60%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (69%) typically require a postsecondary non-degree award (Exhibit 9). Furthermore, the national-level data indicates between 33% and 40% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment. 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
Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys	Bachelor's degree
Audio and Video Technicians	Postsecondary non-degree award
Sound Engineering Technicians	Postsecondary non-degree award
Disc Jockeys, Except Radio	No formal education

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 10 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest. The colleges with the most completions in the region are Saddleback, Citrus, and LA Valley.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2023-2025

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	2024-25 Awards	3-Year Average
0604.00	Radio and Television	LA Valley	9	15	10	11
		Long Beach	7	9	14	10
		Mt San Antonio	-	1	-	0
		Santa Monica	8	5	16	10
		LA Subtotal	24	30	40	31
		Fullerton	1	1	2	1
		Saddleback	144	112	97	118
		OC Subtotal	145	113	99	119
Supply Subtotal/Average			169	143	139	150
0604.10	Radio	LA Valley	4	4	6	5
		Mt San Antonio	-	12	3	5
		Pasadena	1	2	8	4
		LA Subtotal	5	18	17	13
		Fullerton	-	3	5	3
		OC Subtotal	-	3	5	3
Supply Subtotal/Average			5	21	22	16
1005.00	Commercial Music	Cerritos	13	6	5	8
		Citrus	26	36	36	33
		Compton	-	1	5	2
		East LA	-	6	2	3
		LA City	25	11	19	18
		LA Harbor	7	4	2	4
		LA Pierce	-	1	-	0

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	2024-25 Awards	3-Year Average
		LA Valley	18	12	12	14
		Long Beach	-	-	1	0
		Pasadena	-	3	18	7
		Rio Hondo	1	8	27	12
		LA Subtotal	90	88	127	102
		Cypress	12	11	23	15
		Fullerton	7	2	15	8
		Irvine	-	-	1	0
		Orange Coast	1	-	8	3
		Saddleback	95	45	52	64
		Santa Ana	7	6	4	6
		OC Subtotal	122	64	103	96
		Supply Subtotal/Average	212	152	230	198
		Supply Total/Average	386	316	391	364

Exhibit 11 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (78%).

Exhibit 11: Community college awards by award type, 2023-2025

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	80	22%
Certificates	284	78%
Total	364	100%

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 commercial music. Exhibit 12 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2022 to 2024. Between 2022 and 2024, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 1,283 bachelor's and sub-baccalaureate awards. Sub-baccalaureate awards include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and other academic awards that typically take fewer than four years to complete.

Exhibit 12: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2022-2024

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
09.0701	Radio and Television	CSU-Fullerton	177	146	147	157
		CSU-Los Angeles	145	108	171	141
		CSU-Northridge	426	469	430	442
		Loyola Marymount Univ.	1	-	-	0
		Pepperdine University	11	6	3	7
		University of La Verne	11	8	10	10
10.0203	Recording Arts Technology/ Technician	CA College of ASU	21	3	-	8
		CSU-Dominguez Hills	2	9	27	13
		Loyola Marymount Univ.	12	13	11	12
		Musicians Institute	48	31	59	46
50.0913	Music Technology	CA College of Music	3	3	6	4
		LA College of Music	19	14	14	16
		Los Angeles Film School	524	411	348	428
		Whittier College	-	-	1	0
Supply Total/Average			1,400	1,221	1,227	1,283

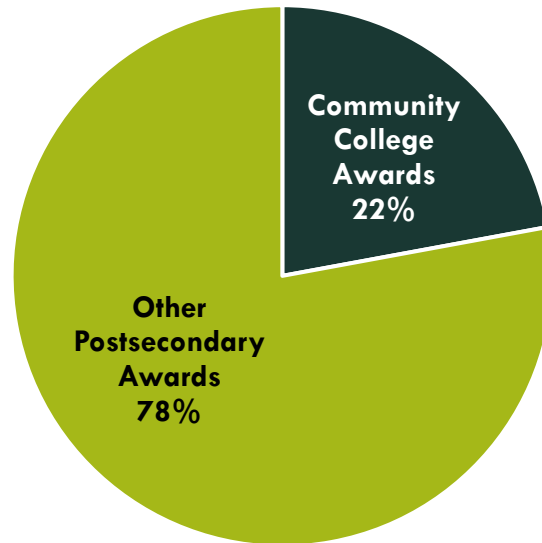
Exhibit 13 shows the breakdown of other postsecondary awards by award type. The majority of awards issued by other postsecondary schools are bachelor’s degrees (63%).

Exhibit 13: Other postsecondary awards by award type, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
Bachelor’s degrees	804	63%
Sub-baccalaureate awards	479	37%
Total	1,283	100%

Exhibit 14 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 14: 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:

- **Disc Jockeys, Except Radio (27-2091)** Play prerecorded music for live audiences at venues or events such as clubs, parties, or wedding receptions. May use techniques such as mixing, cutting, or sampling to manipulate recordings. May also perform as emcee (master of ceremonies).⁹
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⁹ [Announcers and DJs \(bls.gov\)](#)

¹⁰ [Ibid.](#)

¹¹ [Broadcast, Sound, and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

¹² [Ibid.](#)

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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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