



## Labor Market Analysis: 1306.00 – Nutrition, Foods and Culinary Arts 19.0501 – Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies

### Trauma Informed Nutrition – Certificate requiring 16 to < 30 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, April 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Living Wage:</b> (Entry-Level, 25 <sup>th</sup> )	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Education:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Emerging Occupation(s)</b>			
	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 occupation<sup>1</sup> 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 one identified middle-skill occupation 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 lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education level for this target occupation.

**Recommendation:** Due to two of three 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

- 308 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is greater than the three-year average of 205 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

<sup>1</sup> 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**

- \$17.76 is the typical entry-level hourly wage for *dietetic technicians*, which is lower than Los Angeles County’s self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).<sup>2</sup>

### **Educational Attainment**

- An associate degree is the typical entry-level education for *dietetic technicians*, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 35% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

### **Community college supply**

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

### **Other postsecondary supply**

- 1 educational institution in the LA/OC region has conferred sub-baccalaureate awards in programs related to nutrition over the past three years.
- 4 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2022 and 2024.

## **TARGET OCCUPATION**

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to one middle-skill occupation:

- **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.<sup>3</sup>

## **OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND**

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *dietetic technicians*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 5% through 2029. There will be more than 300 job openings per year through 2029 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2024 for these *dietetic technicians* (78%) were located in Los Angeles County.

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

<sup>3</sup> [Dietetic Technicians \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/dietetic-technicians)

### Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties<sup>4</sup>

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	1,836	1,923	87	5%	241
Orange	513	536	24	5%	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>308</b>

### Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation 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 of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements. On average, 81% of workers across all occupations in California are employed full-time.

### Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County<sup>5</sup>

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Dietetic Technicians	1,836	1,923	5%	241	22%	100%

## WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* 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 typical entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* are \$17.76, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$23.66, which is still lower than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 3).

### Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Dietetic Technicians	\$17.76	\$19.51	\$23.66	\$40,600

\*Rounded to the nearest \$100

<sup>4</sup> Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

## Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *dietetic technicians* are \$18.52, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$24.67 which is still lower than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

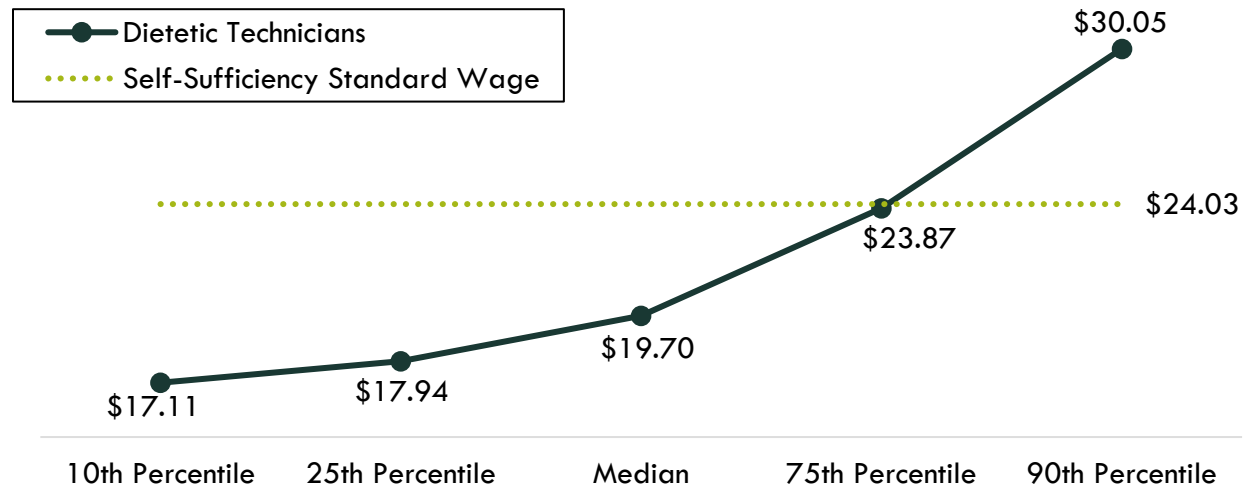
**Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County**

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Dietetic Technicians	\$18.52	\$20.34	\$24.67	\$42,300

\*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$17.94; 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 occupation in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

**Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties**



## JOB POSTINGS

There were 250 online job postings related to *dietetic technicians* listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupation in this report (Exhibit 6).

**Exhibit 6: 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"> <li>• Diet clerks</li> <li>• Nutrition assistants</li> <li>• Nutrition services attendants</li> <li>• Diet technicians</li> <li>• Dietetic technicians</li> <li>• Registered dietetic technicians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food services</li> <li>• Nutrition services</li> <li>• Clinical Nutrition</li> <li>• Sanitation</li> <li>• Dietetics</li> <li>• Patient assistance</li> <li>• Performance improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providence*</li> <li>• Compass Group</li> <li>• Cedars-Sinai</li> <li>• Kaiser Permanente</li> <li>• Volunteers of America</li> <li>• Morrison Healthcare</li> <li>• Newport Mesa Unified School District</li> </ul>

\*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 72% of the target job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 7 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

**Exhibit 7: Education levels requested in job postings for target occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties**

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	42	24%
Associate degree	51	28%
High school diploma or vocational training	86	48%

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists an associate degree as the typical entry-level education for *dietetic technicians* (Exhibit 8). Furthermore, the national-level data indicates 35% 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 level for the occupation in this report:

**Exhibit 8: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics**

Occupation	Education Level
Dietetic Technicians	Associate degree

**EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY**

**Community College Supply**

Exhibit 9 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in programs that have historically trained for the occupation of interest. The colleges with the most completions in the region are Long Beach, Mt. San Antonio, and Orange Coast.

**Exhibit 9: 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
1306.00	Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts	Citrus	2	3	1	2
		East LA	16	15	15	15
		Glendale	8	5	2	5
		LA City	1	6	5	4
		LA Harbor	1	2	3	2
		LA Mission	7	7	16	10
		LA Southwest	4	1	4	3
		LA Trade-Tech	-	-	3	1
		Long Beach	20	22	18	20
		Mt San Antonio	27	19	16	21
		Pasadena	1	6	4	4
		Rio Hondo	1	3	4	3
		Santa Monica	8	9	18	12
		West LA	2	2	8	4
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>105</b>
		Coastline	-	1	1	1
		Cypress	-	2	1	1
		Fullerton	12	8	17	12
		Orange Coast	9	10	4	8
		Saddleback	12	10	14	12
		Santa Ana	1	4	7	4
		Santiago Canyon	4	7	4	5
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>136</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>148</b>
1306.20	Dietetic Services and Management	Glendale	15	3	9	9
		LA City	6	9	12	9
		Long Beach	7	16	29	17
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>
		Fullerton	-	4	2	2
		Orange Coast	6	5	7	6
<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43</b>
1306.60	Dietetic Technology	Long Beach	7	6	7	7
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
		Orange Coast	4	2	4	3
<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>Supply Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>181</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>201</b>

Exhibit 10 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are associate degrees (62%).

**Exhibit 10: Community college awards by award type, 2023-2025**

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.A.-T./A.S./A.S.-T degrees	125	62%
Certificates	70	35%
Noncredit awards	6	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Other Postsecondary Supply**

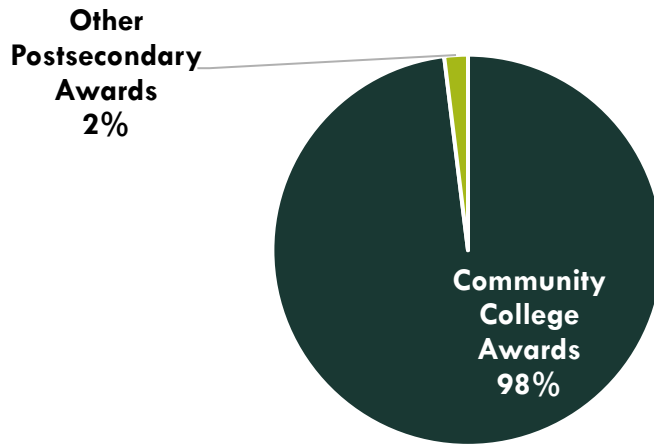
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for nutrition. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by this institution in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2022 to 2024. Between 2022 and 2024, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 4 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 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2022-2024**

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
19.0501	Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General	University of Massachusetts Global	7	2	3	4
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

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 community colleges 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**



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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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