



Labor Market Analysis: 3020.40 – Flight Attendant 49.0106 – Airline Flight Attendant *Flight Attendant Certificate*

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, April 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input 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 occupation¹ 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. Furthermore, entry-level wages exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage Los Angeles County, and more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or some college as their highest level of educational attainment.

Recommendation: Due to all 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

- 1,560 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is greater than the three-year average of 49 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

- \$29.64 is the typical entry-level hourly wage for *flight attendants*, which is higher than Los Angeles County’s self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A high school diploma or equivalent is the typical entry-level education for *flight attendants*, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 46% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 3 community colleges issued awards that train for *flight attendants* in the greater LA/OC region.
- 49 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2023 and 2025.

Other postsecondary supply

- There are no educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs that train for *flight attendants* over the past three years.

TARGET OCCUPATION

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

- **Flight Attendants (53-2031)** Monitor safety of the aircraft cabin. Provide services to airline passengers, explain safety information, serve food and beverages, and respond to emergency incidents. ³

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *flight attendants*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 9% through 2029. There will be nearly 1,600 job openings per year through 2029 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2024 for *flight attendants* (97%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁴

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	9,678	10,548	869	9%	1,519
Orange	276	292	16	6%	41
Total	9,955	10,840	885	9%	1,560

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

³ [Flight Attendants \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)

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

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 County⁵

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Flight Attendants	9,678	10,548	9%	1,519	38%	100%

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *flight attendants* 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 *flight attendants* are \$29.64, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$48.56.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Flight Attendants	\$29.64	\$37.88	\$48.56	\$78,800

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *flight attendants* are \$26.30, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$43.23, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

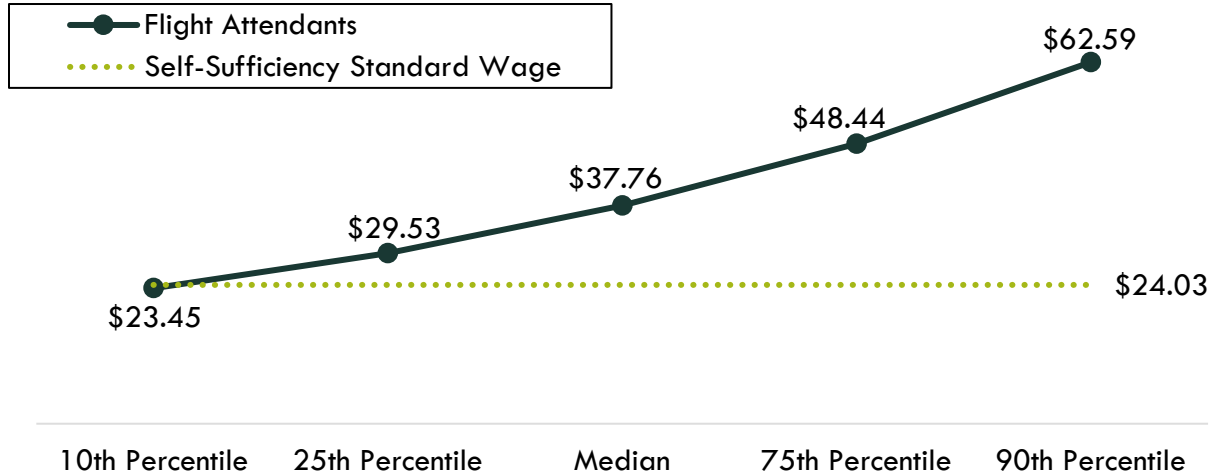
Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Flight Attendants	\$26.30	\$33.68	\$43.23	\$70,100

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

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.

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$29.53; this is above 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 flight attendants, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 79 online job postings related to *flight attendants* 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"> Flight attendants Cabin attendants Inflight supervisors Chief stewards Pursers/flight attendants Dock attendants Passenger service managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations Service standards Loyalty programs Service industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Airlines American Airlines Group United States Department of Homeland Security Alaska Airlines Solaris Aviation Hawaiian Holdings

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 62% 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	13	27%
Associate degree	1	2%
High school diploma or vocational training	35	71%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *flight attendants* (Exhibit 8). However, the national-level data indicates 46% 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
Flight attendants	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 9 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Flight Attendant (3020.40). The college with the most completions in the region is Cypress. There are no other postsecondary institutions in the greater LA/OC region that have conferred awards in the past three years in the related CIP Code: Airline Flight Attendant (49.0106).

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
3020.40	Flight Attendant	Glendale	10	3	12	8
		LA Subtotal	10	3	12	8
		Cypress	29	25	30	28
		Orange Coast	5	10	22	12
		OC Subtotal	34	35	52	40
Supply Total/Average			44	38	64	49

Exhibit 10 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (63%).

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

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	18	37%
Certificates	31	63%
Total	49	100%

Contact information:

Luke Meyer, Director

Los Angeles Center of Excellence

lmeyer7@mtsac.edu

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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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