



Labor Market Analysis: 1230.20 – Licensed Vocational Nursing 51.3901 – Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training *Vocational Nursing – Certificate of Achievement*

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, August 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met ☒	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met ☐	Not Endorsed ☐
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes ☒	No ☐	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th)	Yes ☒	No ☐	
Education:	Yes ☒	No ☐	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
Yes ☐		No ☒	

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 in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary non-degree award as the typical entry-level education level.

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

- 3,298 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2030. This number is greater than the three-year average of 2,682 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

- \$34.68 is the typical entry-level hourly wage for *licensed vocational nurses*, which is higher than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A postsecondary non-degree award is the typical entry-level education for *licensed vocational nurses*, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 73% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

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

Other postsecondary supply

- 35 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to vocational nursing over the past three years.
- 2,420 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:

- **Licensed Vocational Nurses (29-2061)** Care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse. Licensing required.³

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *licensed vocational nurses*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 7% through 2030. There will be nearly 3,300 job openings per year through 2030 due to job growth and replacements. Most jobs in 2025 for *licensed vocational nurses* (77%) were located in Los Angeles County.

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

³ [Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/29-2061)

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

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	26,519	28,326	1,807	7%	2,560
Orange	7,795	8,270	475	6%	739
Total	34,314	36,597	2,283	7%	3,298

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	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Licensed Vocational Nurses	26,519	28,326	7%	2,560	27%	87%

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *licensed vocational nurses* 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 *licensed vocational nurses* are \$34.68, 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 \$43.77 (Exhibit 3).

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*
Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$34.68	\$37.33	\$43.77	\$77,600

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

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.

⁵ Ibid.

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *licensed vocational nurses* are \$37.79, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$47.69 (Exhibit 4).

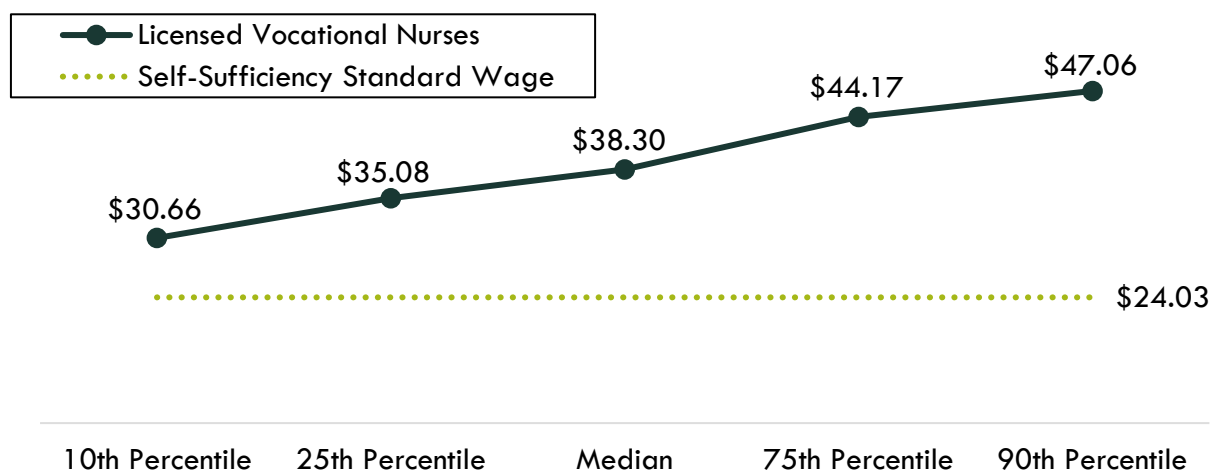
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$37.79	\$40.64	\$47.69	\$84,500

*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 \$35.08; 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 occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 4,095 online job postings related to *licensed vocational nurses* 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).

Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
• Licensed vocational nurses • Licensed practical nurses • Outpatient licensed practical nurses • Home health licensed practical nurses • School licensed practical nurses	• Nursing • Medication administration • Nursing care • Vital signs • Computerized physician order entry • Medical records • Infection control • Treatment planning	• Providence* • Aya Healthcare* • Amergis* • Aveanna Healthcare* • Maxim Healthcare Services* • Altamed Health Services • Kaiser Permanente • Soliant Health* • One Medical

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 56% 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	58	2%
Associate degree	1,951	86%
High school diploma or vocational training	269	12%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary non-degree award as the typical entry-level education for *licensed vocational nurses* (Exhibit 8). Furthermore, the national-level data indicates 73% 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 occupation in this report:

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

Occupation	Education Level
Licensed vocational nurses	Postsecondary non-degree award

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, Citrus, and Fullerton.

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
1230.00	Nursing	Long Beach	52	50	28	43
		LA Subtotal	52	50	28	43
		Fullerton	36	49	50	45
		OC Subtotal	36	49	50	45
Supply Subtotal/Average			88	99	78	88
1230.20	Licensed Vocational Nursing	Citrus	64	66	53	61
		Long Beach	59	79	75	71
		Pasadena	14	27	13	18
		Rio Hondo	15	27	29	24
		LA Subtotal	152	199	170	174
Supply Subtotal/Average			152	199	170	174
Supply Total/Average			240	298	248	262

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 (61%).

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

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	159	61%
Certificates	103	39%
Total	262	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 *licensed vocational nurses*. Exhibit 11 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 2,420 sub-baccalaureate awards. Sub-baccalaureate awards include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and other academic awards that typically take fewer than four years to complete.

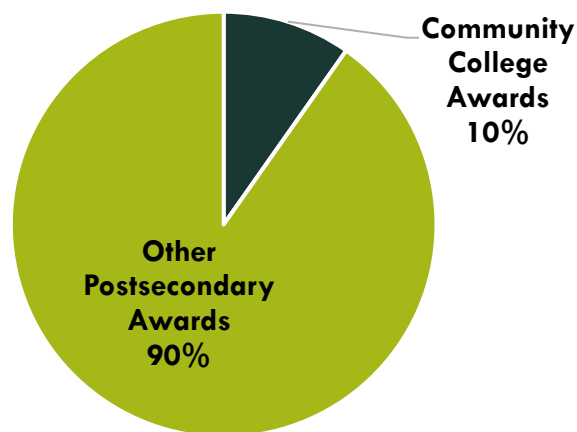
Exhibit 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2022-2024

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
51.3901	Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training	American Career College-Anaheim	219	270	287	259
		American Career College-LA	229	288	270	262
		Angeles College	86	135	135	119
		Angeles Institute	33	42	71	49
		CA Career College	-	-	9	3
		CA Career Institute	80	101	168	116
		Career Development Institute	81	104	110	98
		Career Networks Institute	-	35	20	18
		CES College	33	43	32	36
		Downey Adult School	50	48	14	37
		Glendale Career College	33	39	81	51
		Hacienda La Puente Adult Education	10	16	-	9
		Healthcare Career College	-	17	68	28
		Homestead Schools	71	82	130	94
		Homestead Schools-Costa Mesa	-	-	21	7
		Marian Health Careers Center-LA	53	90	47	63
		Marian Health Careers Center-Van Nuys	36	39	42	39
		Medical Allied Career Center	24	59	35	39
		National Career College	63	55	56	58
		North-West College-Anaheim	8	13	23	15
		North-West College-Long Beach	36	48	59	48
		North-West College-Pomona	52	64	79	65
		North-West College-Van Nuys	37	42	45	41
		North-West College-West Covina	84	86	126	99
		Pacific College	110	98	74	94
		Platt College-LA	21	16	27	21
		Smith Chason College	140	147	131	139
		Sri Sai Krish Institute	18	24	11	18
		Stanbridge Univ.	168	235	258	220
		Westchester College of Nursing & Allied Health	9	-	-	3

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
51.3999	Practical Nursing, Vocational Nursing and Nursing Assistants, Other	Annenberg School of Nursing	19	20	18	19
		Concorde Career College-Garden Grove	79	136	110	108
		Concorde Career College-N. Hollywood	154	132	104	130
		Integrity College of Health	-	16	-	5
		Premiere Career College	23	-	-	8
Supply Total/Average			2,059	2,540	2,661	2,420

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 other institutions 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

POWERED BY



- 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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