



Labor Market Analysis: 1303 – Fashion

19.0906 – Fashion and Fabric Consultant

Fashion

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, September 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met ☒	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met ☐	Not Endorsed ☐
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes ☒ (See below)	No ☐	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	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 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 appears to be a slight supply gap for the three identified middle-skill occupations in the region. While the number of awards conferred is nearly the same as the number of job openings, the talent supply is within the COE's acceptable margin (the number of the number of awards issued is 25% over or under the number of annual openings) and is therefore considered "supply met" rather than a "supply gap." 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 middle-skill fashion occupations. Furthermore, the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, and more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less 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.

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

- 838 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2030. This number is greater than the three-year average of 768 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.
 - Although there are nearly as many awards conferred as 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 **1,947 online job postings related to middle-skill fashion occupations**. The highest number of job postings were for technical designers, fashion designers, seamstresses, apparel designers, and designers/sales associates.

Living Wage

- 66% of annual job openings for these middle-skill fashion occupations have entry-level wages **above** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 54% of the annual job openings typically require a bachelor's degree for middle-skill occupations related to fashion in the LA/OC region.
- 23%-27% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.
 - 33%-83% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less education, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

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

Other postsecondary supply

- 4 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to fashion over the past three years.
- 441 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 three middle-skill occupations. Although *fashion designers* typically require a bachelor's degree, they are considered middle-skill because approximately one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

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

- **Fashion Designers (27-1022)**³
- **Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers (51-6052)**⁴
- **Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers (51-6092)**⁵

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these middle-skill fashion occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to decrease by 12% through 2030. However, there will be more than 800 job openings per year through 2030 due to retirements and workers leaving the field. The majority of jobs in 2025 for these middle-skill fashion occupations (81%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁶

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	6,962	6,096	(866)	(12%)	679
Orange	1,584	1,466	(118)	(7%)	159
Total	8,546	7,562	(984)	(12%)	838

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 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. Occupations with a lower-than-average percentage of full-time workers may have less employment security but may see increased activity in the gig economy.

³ [Fashion Designers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁵ [Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁶ 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 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁷

Occupation	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Fashion Designers	4,447	4,014	(10%)	369	21%	100%
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers	1,810	1,567	(13%)	229	51%	77%
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers	705	515	(27%)	82	38%	Data unavailable
Total	6,962	6,096	(12%)	679	-	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these middle-skill fashion 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, 66%, of annual openings for middle-skill fashion occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$15.92 and \$31.45. (Exhibit 3).

Two occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Fashion designers*, \$31.45
- *Fabric and apparel patternmakers*, \$31.16

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$25.12 and \$58.34, 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*
Fashion Designers	\$31.45	\$43.66	\$58.34	\$90,800
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers	\$15.92	\$19.02	\$25.12	\$39,600
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers	\$31.16	\$42.53	\$47.73	\$88,500

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

⁷ Ibid.

Orange County

The majority, 64%, of annual openings for these middle-skill fashion occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$13.29 and \$32.03 (Exhibit 4).

Two occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Fabric and apparel patternmakers*, \$32.03
- *Fashion designers*, \$29.80

Experienced *tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers* can expect to earn \$24.37, which is lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage. However, experienced *fabric and apparel patternmakers* and *fashion designers* can expect to earn wages between \$49.12 and \$55.43, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

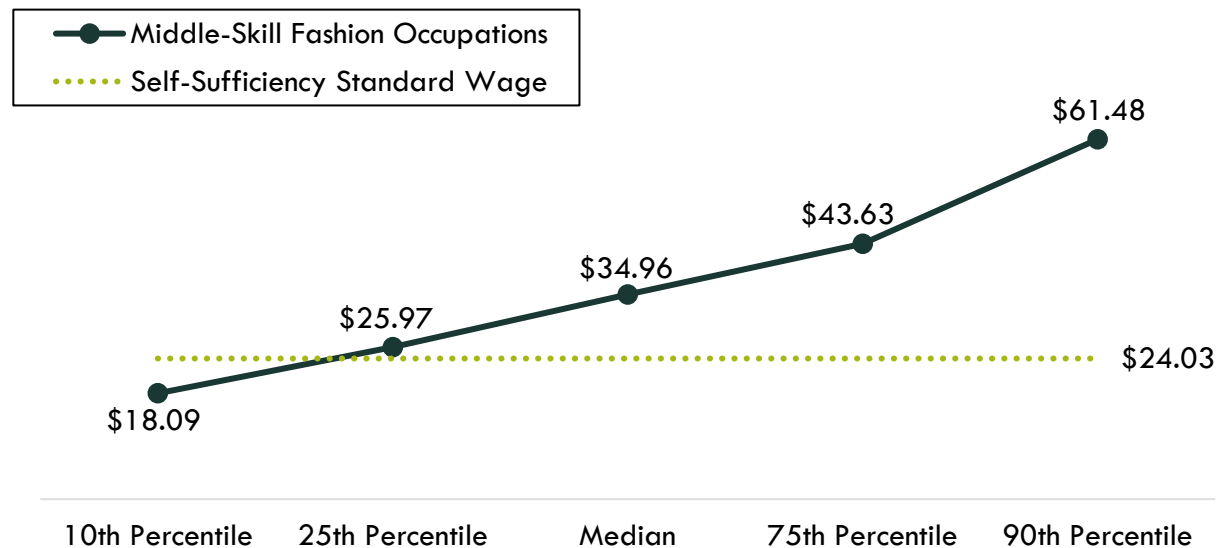
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Fashion Designers	\$29.80	\$41.45	\$55.43	\$86,00
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers	\$13.29	\$18.06	\$24.37	\$38,000
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers	\$32.03	\$43.75	\$49.12	\$91,000

*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 \$25.97; 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 occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

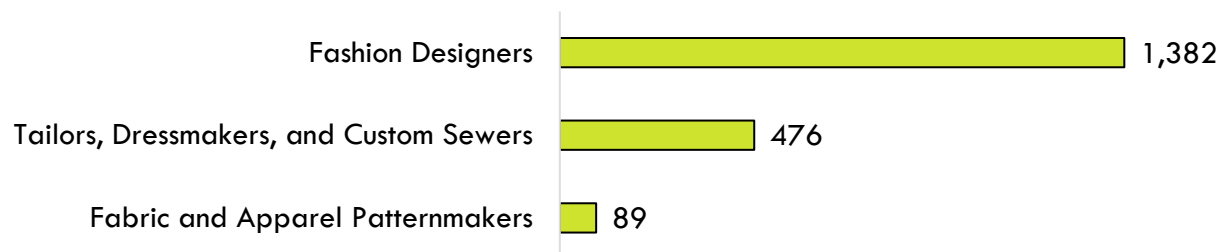
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 1,947 online job postings related to middle-skill fashion 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 (71%) were for *fashion designers*, followed by *tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers* (24%) and *fabric and apparel patternmakers* (5%).

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
- Technical designers - Fashion designers - Seamstresses - Apparel designers - Designers/sales associates - Women's designers - Design assistants - Tailors	- Adobe Illustrator - Textiles - Adobe Photoshop - Fashion design - Garment construction - New product development - Merchandising - Technical design	24 Seven Talent - Nordstrom - AG Jeans - Nike - Kellwood Company - Centric Brands - VF Corporation - Pacific Sunwear of CA

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 36% of the target 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 target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	497	70%
Associate degree	113	16%
High school diploma or vocational training	100	14%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (54%) typically require a bachelor's degree (Exhibit 9). The national-level data indicates between 23% and 27% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment, and 33%-83% have completed an associate degree or less education. 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
Fashion Designers	Bachelor's degree
Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers	High school diploma or equivalent
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers	No formal educational credential

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 Mt. San Antonio, LA Trade-Tech, and Santa Monica.

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
1303.00	Fashion	El Camino	7	1	12	7
		Pasadena	11	29	15	18
		LA Subtotal	18	30	27	25
		Fullerton	3	4	15	7
		Orange Coast	-	1	6	2
		Saddleback	1	-	1	1
		Santa Ana	6	33	16	18
		OC Subtotal	10	38	38	29
Supply Subtotal/Average			28	68	65	54

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	2024-25 Awards	3-Year Average
1303.10	Fashion Design	El Camino	-	-	2	1
		LA Trade-Tech	32	51	49	44
		Long Beach	1	10	6	6
		Mt San Antonio	51	50	20	40
		Santa Monica	13	33	29	25
		LA Subtotal	97	144	106	116
		Fullerton	3	5	-	3
		Orange Coast	15	14	21	17
		Saddleback	9	9	14	11
		Santa Ana	7	8	1	5
		OC Subtotal	34	36	36	35
Supply Subtotal/Average			131	180	142	151
1303.20	Fashion Merchandising	El Camino	6	2	6	5
		LA Trade-Tech	15	13	9	12
		Long Beach	5	8	7	7
		Mt San Antonio	17	33	18	23
		Santa Monica	26	32	35	31
		LA Subtotal	69	88	75	77
		Fullerton	6	4	-	3
		Orange Coast	13	12	27	17
		Saddleback	9	6	8	8
		OC Subtotal	28	22	35	28
		Supply Subtotal/Average			97	110
1303.30	Fashion Production	LA Trade-Tech	5	3	5	4
		Long Beach	-	1	3	1
		LA Subtotal	5	4	8	6
		Orange Coast	13	5	14	11
		OC Subtotal	13	5	14	11
Supply Subtotal/Average			18	9	22	16
Supply Total/Average			274	367	339	327

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	146	45%
Certificates	178	54%
Noncredit awards	3	1%
Total	327	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 middle-skill fashion occupations. 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 post-secondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 441 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
19.0902	Apparel and Textile Manufacture	Beverly Hills Design Institute	2	1	-	1
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merch.	13	13	20	15
19.0905	Apparel and Textile Marketing Management	Fashion Institute of Design & Merch.	29	39	26	31
50.0407	Fashion/Apparel Design	Beverly Hills Design Institute	1	1	-	1
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merch.	166	165	171	167
		Otis College of Art and Design	33	28	37	33
		Woodbury Univ.	13	8	4	8
50.0510	Costume Design	Fashion Institute of Design & Merch.	11	1	14	9
52.1902	Fashion Merchandising	Fashion Institute of Design & Merch.	180	173	161	171
52.1904	Apparel and Accessories Marketing Operations	Woodbury University	4	5	5	5
Supply Total/Average			452	434	438	441

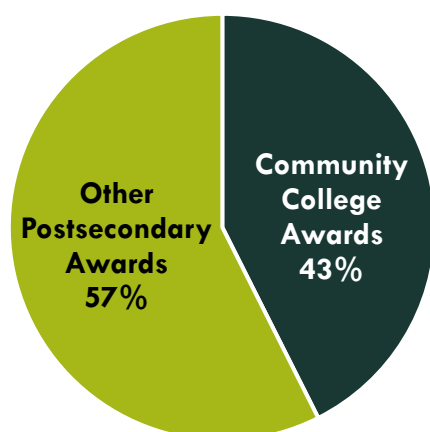
Exhibit 13 shows the breakdown of other postsecondary awards by award type. The majority of awards issued by other postsecondary schools are associate degrees (86%).

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

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
Bachelor's degrees	62	14%
Sub-baccalaureate awards	379	86%
Total	441	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:

- **Fashion Designers (27-1022)** Design clothing and accessories. Create original designs or adapt fashion trends.⁸
- **Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers (51-6052)** Design, make, alter, repair, or fit garments.⁹
- **Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers (51-6092)** Draw, and construct sets of precision master fabric patterns or layouts. May also mark and cut fabrics and apparel.¹⁰

⁸ [Fashion Designers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/fashion-designers)

⁹ [Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/tailors-dressmakers-and-custom-sewers)

¹⁰ [Fabric and Apparel Patternmakers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/fabric-and-apparel-patternmakers)

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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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