



Labor Market Analysis: 1006.00 – Technical Theater Scenic Art for Entertainment—Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, December 2025

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, 25th)	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 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 supply gap for the three identified middle-skill occupations in the region. Furthermore, the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in Los Angeles County, and more than one-third of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less education 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

- 664 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is greater than the three-year average of 102 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

- All three occupations have entry-level wages **above** Los Angeles County’s self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 63% of the annual job openings typically require a high school diploma or equivalent for middle-skill occupations related to technical theater in the LA/OC region.
- 25%-39% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.
 - 38%-88% of these workers have completed an associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment.

Community college supply

- 15 community colleges issued awards related to technical theater in the greater LA/OC region.
- 74 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- 5 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to technical theater over the past three years.
- 28 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2021 and 2023.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to three middle-skill occupations. Although one occupation in this report typically requires a bachelor’s degree, it is considered middle-skill because approximately one-third of workers in the field have completed some college/associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- **Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)**³
- **Lighting Technicians (27-4015)**⁴
- **Riggers (49-9096)**⁵

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these middle-skill technical theater occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to decrease by 2% through 2029. However, there will be nearly 700 job openings per year through 2029 due to retirements and workers leaving the

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

³ [Set and Exhibit Designers \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Broadcast, Sound, and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁵ [Riggers \(bls.gov\)](#)

field. The majority of jobs in 2024 for these middle-skill technical theater occupations (86%) were located in Los Angeles County.

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

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	6,708	6,533	(175)	(3%)	567
Orange	1,065	1,081	16	2%	97
Total	7,772	7,614	(159)	(2%)	664

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.

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

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older
Set and Exhibit Designers	2,825	2,749	(3%)	209	32%
Lighting Technicians	2,349	2,267	(3%)	202	26%
Riggers	1,534	1,517	(1%)	156	28%
Total	6,708	6,533	(3%)	567	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these middle-skill technical theater 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

All three target 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

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.

⁷ Ibid.

between \$25.09 and \$39.71. (Exhibit 3). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$49.90 and \$60.32.

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*
Set and Exhibit Designers	\$28.36	\$44.23	\$60.32	\$92,000
Lighting Technicians	\$25.09	\$40.10	\$50.94	\$83,400
Riggers	\$39.71	\$45.63	\$49.90	\$94,900

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The majority, 64%, of annual openings for these target 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 \$20.96 and \$38.85 (Exhibit 4).

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

- *Riggers*, \$38.85

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$45.22 and \$53.21, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

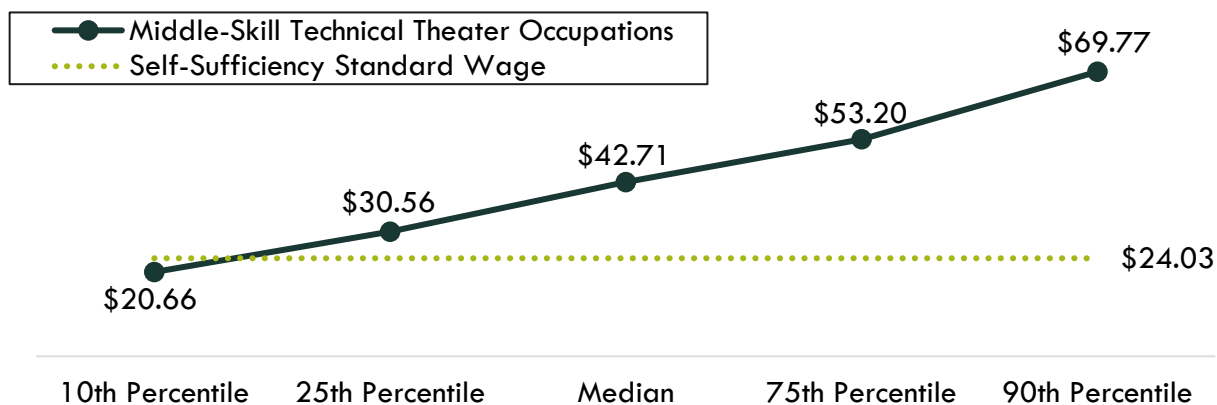
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Set and Exhibit Designers	\$20.96	\$36.59	\$53.21	\$76,100
Lighting Technicians	\$22.32	\$35.56	\$45.22	\$74,000
Riggers	\$38.85	\$44.63	\$48.82	\$92,800

*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 \$30.56; 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.

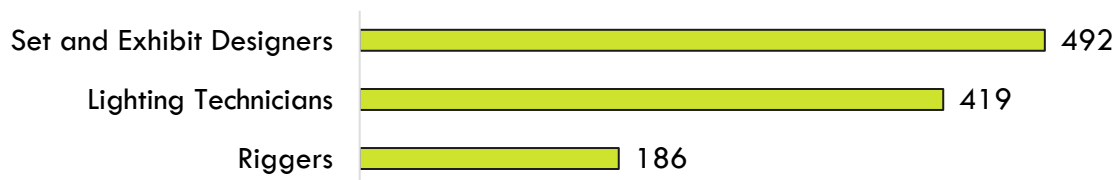
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 1,097 online job postings related to these target 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 (45%) were for *set and exhibit designers*, followed by *lighting technicians* (38%) and *riggers* (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"> Home theater specialists Wire harness engineers Lighting technicians Wire harness assemblers Lighting designers Technical designers Riggers Theater technicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management AutoCAD Autodesk Revit Lighting design Rigging Adobe Photoshop Construction Stagecraft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerotek Best Buy Disney NBC OC Fair & Event Center Universal Studios Hollywood Live Nation 24 Seven Talent*

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 35% of the target occupations 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	229	60%
Associate degree	44	12%
High school diploma or vocational training	106	28%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (63%) typically require a high school diploma or equivalent (Exhibit 9). The national-level data indicates between 25% and 39% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment, and between 38% and 88% have completed an associate degree or less 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
Set and Exhibit Designers	Bachelor's degree
Lighting Technicians	High school diploma or equivalent
Riggers	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 10 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Technical Theater (1006.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are East LA, Santa Monica, Fullerton.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2022-2024

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
1006.00	Technical Theater	Citrus	5	2	2	3
		East LA	32	13	38	28
		Glendale	2	-	1	1

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
		LA City	4	7	7	6
		LA Pierce	3	-	4	2
		LA Valley	1	2	-	1
		Mt San Antonio	-	2	1	1
		Pasadena	1	-	-	0
		Santa Monica	16	8	11	12
		LA Subtotal	64	34	64	54
		Cypress	6	2	6	5
		Fullerton	-	4	26	10
		Golden West	-	-	1	0
		Irvine	3	1	4	3
		Saddleback	3	2	1	2
		Santa Ana	2	-	-	1
		OC Subtotal	14	9	38	20
Supply Total/Average			78	43	102	74

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 (72%).

Exhibit 11: Community college awards by award type, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	11	15%
Certificates	53	72%
Noncredit awards	10	14%
Total	74	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

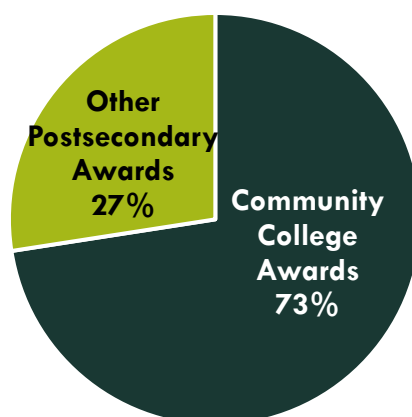
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for technical theater. Exhibit 12 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2021 to 2023. Between 2021 and 2023, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 28 bachelor's degrees.

Exhibit 12: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2021-2023

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
50.0502	Technical Theatre/ Theatre Design and Technology	CA Institute of the Arts	17	15	13	15
		Chapman University	1	-	-	0
		Pepperdine University	3	1	3	2
		USC	10	8	9	9
		Vanguard University of Southern California	1	1	1	1
Supply Total/Average			32	25	26	28

Exhibit 13 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 13: 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:

- **Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)** Design special exhibits and sets for film, video, television, and theater productions. May study scripts, confer with directors, and conduct research to determine appropriate architectural styles.⁸
- **Lighting Technicians (27-4015)** Set up, maintain, and dismantle light fixtures, lighting control devices, and the associated lighting electrical and rigging equipment used for

⁸ [Set and Exhibit Designers \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov)

photography, television, film, video, and live productions. May focus or operate light fixtures, or attach color filters or other lighting accessories.⁹

- **Riggers (49-9096)** Set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards, or for the entertainment industry.¹⁰

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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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⁹ [Broadcast, Sound, and Video Technicians \(bls.gov\)](#)

¹⁰ [Riggers \(bls.gov\)](#)