



Labor Market Analysis: 1230.20 – Licensed Vocational Nursing

Vocational Nursing – Certificate requiring 30 to <60 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, January 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, 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 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

- 3,140 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is substantially greater than the three-year average of 2,131 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

- \$31.68 is the typical entry-level hourly wages 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 licensed vocational nursing in the greater LA/OC region.
- 276 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- 28 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to licensed vocational nursing over the past three years.
- 1,855 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2021 and 2023.

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 6% through 2029. There will be more than 3,100 job openings per year through 2029 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2024 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)

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	25,928	27,577	1,649	6%	2,449
Orange	7,559	7,943	384	5%	691
Total	33,487	35,520	2,033	6%	3,140

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
Licensed Vocational Nurses	25,928	27,577	6%	2,449	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 \$31.68, 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 \$38.86.

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	\$31.68	\$36.07	\$38.86	\$75,000

*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 \$33.92, which is above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$41.60.

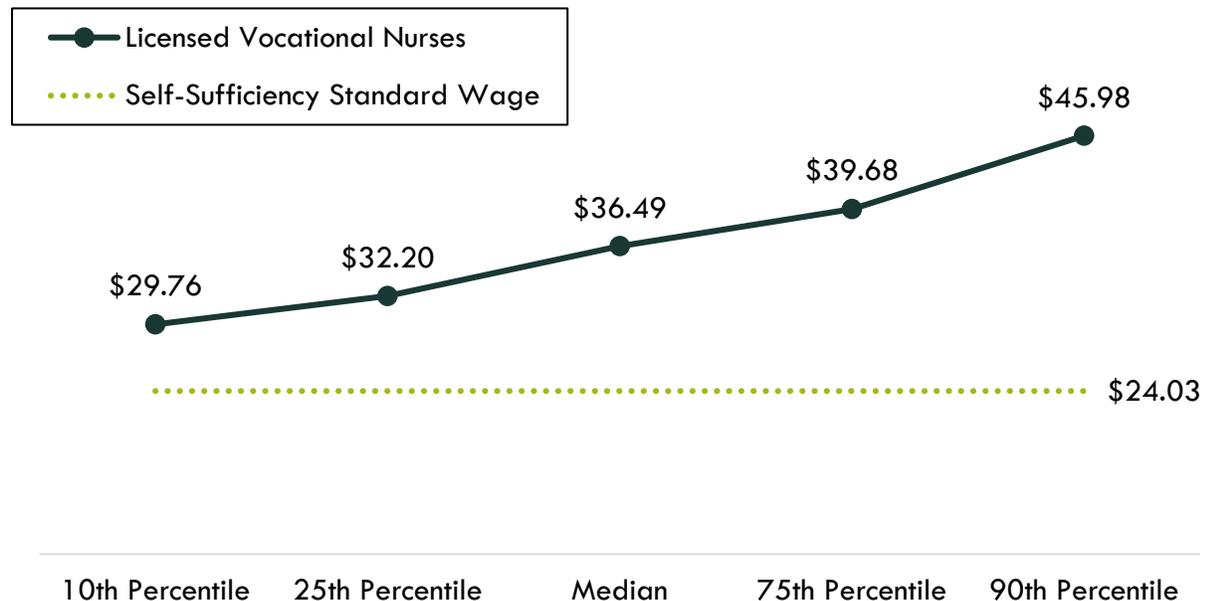
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$33.92	\$38.61	\$41.60	\$80,300

*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 \$32.20; 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 licensed vocational nurses, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 4,364 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).

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"> • Licensed vocational nurses • Licensed practical/licensed vocational nurses • Licensed practical nurses • Outpatient licensed practical nurses • Hospice licensed practical nurses/licensed vocational nurses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing • Medication administration • Nursing care • Vital signs • Medical records • Computerized physician order entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providence* • Aveanna Healthcare • Amergis* • Southern Health Partners • Zenex Partners* • One Medical • PIH Health

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 56% of the *licensed vocational nurse* 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 licensed vocational nurses, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	46	2%
Associate degree	2,095	86%
High school diploma or vocational training	289	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 practical and 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 the related TOP codes: Nursing (1230.00) and Licensed Vocational Nursing (1230.20). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Long Beach, Citrus, and Fullerton.

Exhibit 9: 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
1230.00	Nursing	Long Beach	63	52	50	55
		LA Subtotal	63	52	50	55
		Fullerton	51	41	49	47
		OC Subtotal	51	41	49	47
Supply Subtotal/Average			114	93	99	102
1230.20	Licensed Vocational Nursing	Citrus	50	64	66	60
		Long Beach	79	59	79	72
		Pasadena	18	14	27	20
		Rio Hondo	24	15	27	22
		LA Subtotal	171	152	199	174
Supply Subtotal/Average			171	152	199	174
Supply Total/Average			285	245	298	276

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, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	169	61%
Certificates	107	39%
Total	276	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

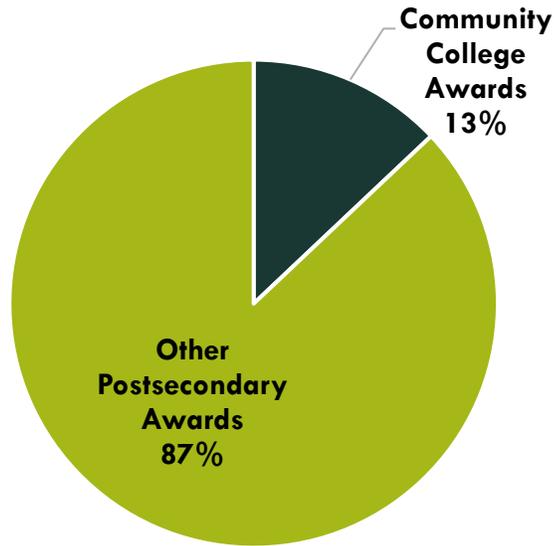
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for *licensed vocational nurses*. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2021 to 2023. Between 2021 and 2023, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 1,855 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, 2021-2023

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
51.3901	Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training	American Career College-Anaheim	155	219	270	215
		American Career College-Los Angeles	197	229	288	238
		Angeles College	87	86	135	103
		Angeles Institute	33	33	42	36
		California Career Institute	52	80	101	78
		Career Development Institute	53	81	104	79
		Career Networks Institute	17	-	35	17
		CES College	31	33	43	36
		Downey Adult School	54	50	48	51
		Glendale Career College	45	33	39	39
		Hacienda La Puente Adult Education	15	10	16	14
		Healthcare Career College	23	-	17	13
		Homestead Schools	131	71	82	95
		Marian Health Careers Center-Los Angeles Campus	76	53	90	73
		Marian Health Careers Center-Van Nuys Campus	61	36	39	45
		Medical Allied Career Center	32	24	59	38
		National Career College	7	63	55	42
		North-West College-Anaheim	-	8	13	7
		North-West College-Long Beach	46	36	48	43
		North-West College-Pomona	49	52	64	55
		North-West College-Van Nuys	29	37	42	36
		North-West College-West Covina	85	84	86	85
		Pacific College	80	110	98	96
		Platt College-Los Angeles	30	21	16	22
		Smith Chason College	-	140	147	96
		Sri Sai Krish Institute	36	18	24	26
		Stanbridge University	121	168	235	175
Westchester College of Nursing & Allied Health	-	9	-	3		
Supply Total/Average			1,545	1,784	2,236	1,855

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

- 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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