Occupational Therapy Assistant

What They Do
Assist occupational therapists in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs, and document the progress of treatments. Generally requires formal training.

Is This For You?
Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Social – involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people.

Realistic – involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

Relationships - Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

Working Conditions – Offer job security and good working conditions.

Achievement – Results oriented occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Abilities reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Expression
- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity
- Written Comprehension

Standard Occupational Code 31-2011.00
Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Reading Comprehension
- Social Perceptiveness
- Time Management
- Writing
- Service Orientation
- Judgement and Decision Making

Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Median Skill Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading for Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locating Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education & Training

Occupational therapy assistants need an associate’s degree in occupational therapy assistant studies or related program. Occupational therapy assistants are required to be certified and licensed by the South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of occupational therapy assistants are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Other Hospitals
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Local Government Educational Services
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners

Employment & Wages*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>47,100</td>
<td>15,100</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>$36,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center  
www.dlr.gov/mic

Career OneStop  
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online  
www.onetcenter.org

mySkills myFuture  
www.myskillsmyfuture.org

provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit www.dlr.sd.gov/mic and choose Career Exploration & Planning from the left-hand menu, then Hot Careers to obtain most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of terms used in the work interests, work values, abilities and skills sections of this occupational profile.

Updated March 2017.