Physical Therapist Assistant

What They Do
Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. 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** – includes practical, hands-on problems and solutions.
- **Investigative** – involves working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking.

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.
- **Support** – offer supportive management that stands behind employees.
- **Working Conditions** – offer job security and good working conditions.

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

- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Clarity
- Written Comprehension
Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Monitoring
- Social Perceptiveness
- Speaking
- Service Orientation
- Coordination
- Critical Thinking
- Reading Comprehension

Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Median Skill Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading for Information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locating Information</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Education & Training

Physical therapy assistants need **at least an associate’s degree from a physical therapy assistant program**. Physical therapy assistants are required to be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

Where They Work

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

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Offices of Physicians
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- Other Hospitals

SD Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Workers</th>
<th>2024 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Median Annual Wage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$35,050</td>
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</table>

Additional References

**Labor Market Information Center**

[www.dlr.careeronestop.org](http://www.dlr.careeronestop.org)

**Career OneStop**

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

**O*Net Online**

[www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)

**mySkills myFuture**

[www.myskillsmyfuture.org](http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org)

Additional References

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

Visit [www.dlr.sd.gov/mic](http://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 the terms used in the work interests, work values, abilities and skills sections of this occupational profile.

Updated March 2017.