

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Physical Therapist

Standard Occupational Code 19-3031.00

## What They Do

Physical Therapists assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.

## 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 (Helpers)** – involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people.

**Investigative (Thinkers)** – involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking.

**Realistic** – involve 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.

**Achievement** – Results oriented, allow use of strongest abilities and provide feeling accomplishment.

**Recognition** – Offer advancement, potential for leadership, and are often considered prestigious.

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

- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity

## Skills You Need

- Reading Comprehension
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Active Listening
- Monitoring

## Education & Training

Physical Therapists must have a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. DPT programs generally last three years following completion of a bachelor's degree program. The bachelor's degree program can vary, but typically includes coursework in anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry and physics. Physical Therapists must also be licensed in South Dakota. For more information, visit the South Dakota Department of Health website at <http://doh.sd.gov>.

## SD Employment & Wages

2014 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
607	706	99	16.3%	26	\$71,476

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

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

### O\*Net Online

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

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

## Preferred Levels\* for the national Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Mathematics	4
Reading for information	6
Locating Information	5
Business Writing	3
Workplace Observation	3
Listening for Understand	4

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of Physical Therapists are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- Offices of Physicians
- Federal Government, Excluding Post Office
- Elementary and Secondary Schools

## Provided By

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

Visit [www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic) and choose Career Exploration & Planning from the left-hand menu, then Hot Careers to obtain the 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 February 2017.