

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Physician Assistant

Standard Occupational Code 29-1071.00

## What They Do

Provide healthcare services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. Conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, and counsel patients. May, in some cases, prescribe medication. Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants.

## 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:

**Investigative** – involves working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking.

**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** – allows employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

**Achievement** – results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

**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:

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

## Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Reading Comprehension
- Speaking
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
- Judgement and Decision Making
- Complex Problem Solving

## Education & Training

Physician assistants need a **master's degree in physician assistant studies**. Physician assistants are required to be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

## SD Employment & Wages

2014 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
510	590	80	17%	20	\$94,950

## Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.gov/mic](http://www.dlr.gov/mic)

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)

## Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	4
Reading for Information	6
Locating Information	4

## Where They Work

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

- Offices of Physicians
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Other Ambulatory Health Care Services

## Provided By

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

Visit [www.dlr.sd/mic](http://www.dlr.sd/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.

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