Recreational Therapist

What They Do

Plan, direct, or coordinate medically-approved recreation programs for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, or other institutions. Activities include sports, trips, dramatics, social activities, and arts and crafts. May assess a patient condition and recommend appropriate recreational activity.

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. Involves helping or providing service to others.

Artistic – involves working with forms, designs and patterns. They often require self-expression and the work can be done without following a clear set of rules.

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 and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Independence – allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

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
- Speech Clarity
Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
- Coordination
- Critical Thinking
- Reading Comprehension
- Complex Problem Solving

Education & Training

Recreational therapists need a bachelor’s degree in recreational therapy or related program.

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>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locating Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of recreational therapists are:

- State Government
- Nursing Care Facilities
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Other Hospitals
- Outpatient Care Centers

US 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>18,600</td>
<td>20,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>$45,890</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.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.

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