

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Respiratory Therapist

Standard Occupational Code 29-1126.00

## What They Do

Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.

## 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.

**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.

**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:

- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Information Ordering

## Skills You Need

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

## Education & Training

Respiratory therapists need **an associate's degree in respiratory therapy.**

## SD Employment & Wages

2014 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
320	360	45	13%	10	\$48,940

## 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	5
Reading for Information	6
Locating Information	5
Business Writing	3
Workplace Observation	3
Listening for Understanding	4

## Where They Work

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

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Consumer Goods Rental
- Local Government
- Federal Government
- Health and Personal Care Stores

## Provided By

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.