



Massage Therapist

STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CODE 31-9011.00

What They Do

Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.

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 – Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping, and curing people. They are good with words.

Realistic – Enjoy work activities that involve 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 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 Comprehension
- Dynamic Strength
- Manual Dexterity
- Oral Expression
- Trunk Strength
- Multilimb Coordination

Skills You Need

- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- Social Perceptiveness – Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- Service Orientation – Actively looking for ways to help people.
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Education & Training

Massage therapists need **vocational training and a post-secondary certificate**. Massage therapists are required to be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy.

Where They Work

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

- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Personal Care Services
- Offices of Physicians
- Civic and Social Organizations

SD Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Demand for Workers	Average Annual Wage
140	180	40	25%	20	\$31,130

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Administer therapy treatments to patients using hands or physical treatment aids.
- Interview patients to gather medical information.
- Maintain medical records.
- Assess physical conditions of patients to aid in diagnosis or treatment.
- Teach medical procedures or medical equipment use to patients.
- Develop patient therapy programs.
- Confer with other professionals to plan patient care.

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

online.onetcenter.org