

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# 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 Annual Demand for Workers	Median 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](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

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