

Target Group:



Occupational Profile

Physical Therapist

Standard Occupational Code 19-3031.00

What They Do

Physical Therapists assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.

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 (Helpers) – involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people.

Investigative (Thinkers) – involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking.

Realistic – involve 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 – 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 accomplishment.

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:

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

Skills You Need

- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively
- 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.
- Monitoring – Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action
- Service Orientation – Actively looking for ways to help people

SD Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
800	960	160	20%	50	\$75,510

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Develop medical treatment plans.
- Record patient medical histories.
- Examine patients to assess general physical condition.
- Analyze patient data to determine patient needs or treatment goals.
- Evaluate patient outcomes to determine effectiveness of treatments.
- Monitor patient progress or responses to treatments.
- Establish treatment goals.
- Enter patient or treatment data into computers.

Education & Training

Physical Therapists must have a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. DPT programs generally last three years following completion of a bachelor’s degree program. The bachelor’s degree program can vary, but typically includes coursework in anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry and physics. Physical Therapists must also be licensed in South Dakota. For more information, visit the South Dakota Department of Health website at <http://doh.sd.gov>.

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of Physical Therapists are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- Offices of Physicians
- Federal Government, Excluding Post Office
- Elementary and Secondary Schools

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetcenter.org