

# Physical Therapist



## What does a Physical Therapist do?

- Physical Therapists treat patients with exercise, light, heat, cold, water, electricity, ultrasound, and massage.
- Physical Therapists help improve patients' strength and mobility, relieve pain, and take a personal and direct approach to meeting an individual's health goals.
- They work closely with the patient and other health care practitioners and develop a continuing program of physical rehabilitation for the patient.

## What kind of education would I need?

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree of two to four years of study and two to three years of professional education
- Many colleges and universities are now in the process of changing their programs from a master's degree level to a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree

## Where would I work?

- Hospitals
- Private physical therapy offices
- Community health centers
- Sports facilities
- Research institutions
- Rehabilitation centers
- Nursing homes
- Home health agencies
- Pediatric centers
- Elementary, High school, Colleges and Universities

## Job Outlook?

Employment of Physical Therapists is expected to increase 39% from 2010 to 2020.

## Site:

<https://apps.sd.gov/ld01dol/Template/Main.aspx?TemplateID=24&OrphanPage=https://apps.sd.gov/LD55CareerInsite/CustomContent/welcome.aspx>

## Salary?

Physical Therapists earn an average of \$68,900 per year!

 South Dakota  
Association of Healthcare Organizations



South Dakota Area Health Education Center  
AHEC

Visit [healthcareers.sd.gov](http://healthcareers.sd.gov) to explore South Dakota Educational Opportunities in this field.