What They Do
Evaluate and advise individuals to assist recovery from or avoid athletic-related injuries or illnesses, or maintain peak physical fitness. May provide first aid or emergency care.

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 – Enjoy working with, communicating with, and teaching people. They like helping or providing service to others.

Realistic – Enjoy work activities that involve practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

Investigative – Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate, and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

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 occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a 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:

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

- **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.
- **Critical Thinking** – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- **Monitoring** – Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements to take corrective action.
- **Speaking** – Talking to others to convey information effectively.

### SD Wages & Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Workers</th>
<th>2024 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$41,960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Activities: what you might do in a day

- Analyze patient data to determine patient needs or treatment goals.
- Operate diagnostic or therapeutic medical instruments or equipment.
- Treat patients using physical therapy techniques.
- Evaluate patient outcomes to determine effectiveness of treatments.
- Inform medical professionals regarding patient conditions and care.
- Prepare reports summarizing patient diagnostic or care activities.
- Perform clerical work in medical settings.
- Maintain medical facility records.
- Apply bandages, dressings, or splints.

Education & Training

Athletic trainers need **at least a bachelor’s degree in athletic training or a related program**. Athletic trainers are required to be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of athletic trainers are:

- State Government Educational Services
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Colleges and Universities
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- Local Government Educational Services

Additional References

- Career OneStop
  - [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- O*Net Online
  - [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)