



What They Do

Counsel with emphasis on prevention. Work with individuals and groups to promote optimum mental and emotional health. May help individuals deal with issues associated with addictions and substance abuse; family, parenting, and marital problems; stress management; self-esteem; and aging.

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:

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

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

Artistic – Interested in self-expression and working with forms and patterns.

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

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.
- **Social Perceptiveness** – Being aware of others' reaction and understanding why they react as they do.
- **Service Orientation** – Actively looking for ways to help people.
- **Speaking** – Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Critical Thinking** – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems

Education & Training

Counselors need a **master's degree in counseling or related program**. Counselors are required to be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage & Family Therapists.

Where They Work

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

- Outpatient Care Centers
- Individual and Family Services
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Emergency and Other Relief Services
- Other Residential Care Facilities

SD Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Demand for Workers	Average Annual Wage
350	390	40	11%	30	\$72,030

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Collect information from people through observation, interviews, or surveys.
- Counsel clients on mental health or personal achievement.
- Record research or operational data.
- Supervise trainees.
- Diagnose mental or psychological disorders.
- Advise others on healthcare matters.
- Advise others on educational matters.
- Administer standardized physical psychological test.
- Design psychological or educational treatment procedures or programs.

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

online.onetcenter.org