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 massage 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Workers</th>
<th>2026 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
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</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>140</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$31,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**O*Net Online**

online.onetcenter.org

Updated July 2019