

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Occupational Therapist

Standard Occupational Code 29-1122.00

## What They Do

Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that help build or restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills, as well as general independence, to persons with disabilities or developmental delays.

## 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.

**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, allow use of strongest abilities and provide feeling of accomplishment.

**Working Conditions** – Offer job security and good working conditions.

**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
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression

## Skills You Need

- 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
- 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
- Judgement and Decision Making – Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

## Education & Training

Occupational therapists need **at least a master’s degree in occupational therapy**. Occupational therapists 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 occupational therapists are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Other Hospitals
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Local Government Educational Services
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners

## SD Employment & Wages

| 2016<br>Workers | 2026<br>Workers | Numeric<br>Change | Percent<br>Change | Average Annual<br>Demand for<br>Workers | Median<br>Annual<br>Wage |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 380             | 450             | 70                | 19%               | 30                                      | \$68,200                 |

## Activities: what you might do in a day

- Analyze test data or images to inform diagnosis or treatment
- Prescribe medications
- Diagnose medical conditions
- Prescribe treatment or therapies
- Treat acute illnesses, infections, or injuries
- Train patients, family members, or caregivers in techniques for managing disabilities or illnesses
- Record patient medical histories
- Order medical diagnostic or clinical tests
- Operate diagnostic imaging equipment
- Provide health and wellness advice to patients program participants, or caregivers

## Additional References

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)