

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Occupational Therapy Assistant

Standard Occupational Code 31-2011.00

## What They Do

Assist occupational therapists in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs, and document the progress of treatments. Generally requires formal training.

## 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.

**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.

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

**Achievement** – Results oriented occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Expression
- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity
- 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
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
- Social Perceptiveness – Being aware of others’ reactions and understanding why they react as they do
- Time Management – Managing one’s own time and the time of others
- Writing – Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience

## Education & Training

Occupational therapy assistants need an **associate’s degree in occupational therapy assistant studies or related program.**

Occupational therapy assistants are required to be certified and licensed by the South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of occupational therapy assistants are:

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

## Employment & Wages\*

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Median Annual Wage
39,300	50,700	11,400	29%	\$38,990

## Activities: what you might do in a day

- Develop patient therapy programs
- Monitor patient progress or responses to treatments
- Encourage patient during therapeutic activities
- Teach basic living or other adaptive skills to patients or caregivers
- Maintain medical records
- Record vital statistics or other health information
- Teach medical procedures or medical equipment use to patients
- Assist patients with daily activities
- Implement therapeutic programs to improve patient functioning

## Additional References

### Career OneStop

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

### O\*Net Online

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