

Target Group:



Occupational Profile

Recreational Therapist

Standard Occupational Code 29-1125.00

What They Do

Plan, direct, or coordinate medically-approved recreation programs for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, or other institutions. Activities include sports, trips, dramatics, social activities, and arts and crafts. May assess a patient condition and recommend appropriate recreational activity.

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.

Artistic – Interested in self-expression and working with forms and patterns. The work can be done without following a clear set of rules.

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 Expression
- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Clarity

Skills You Need

- Services Orientation – Actively looking for ways to help people
- Social Perceptiveness – Being aware of others’ reactions and understanding why they react as they do
- 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
- Coordination – Adjusting actions in relation to others’ actions
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively

Education & Training

Recreational therapists need a **bachelor’s degree in recreational therapy or related program.**

Where They Work

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

- State Government
- Nursing Care Facilities
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Other Hospitals
- Outpatient Care Centers

SD Employment & Wages

| 2016 Workers | 2026 Workers | Numeric Change | Percent Change | Average Annual Demand for Workers | Median Annual Wage |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 50 | 50 | 0 | 0% | 0 | \$46,330 |

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Collect medical information from patients, family members, or other medical professionals
- Gather medical information from patient histories
- Treat patients using psychological therapies
- Record patient medical histories
- Monitor patient progress or responses to treatments
- Develop treatment plans that use non-medical therapies
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals to plan or provide treatment
- Train patients, family members, or caregivers in techniques for managing disabilities or illness
- Encourage patients or clients to develop life skills

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

online.onetcenter.org