

## Target Group:



## Occupational Profile

# Respiratory Therapist

Standard Occupational Code 29-1126.00

## What They Do

Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.

## 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.

**Investigative** - Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate, and enjoy solving problems.

**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.

**Support** - Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Recognition** – Offer advancement, potential for leadership, and may be considered prestigious.

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

- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Information Ordering

## Skills You Need

- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems
- Monitoring – Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively

## Where They Work

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

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Consumer Goods Rental
- Local Government
- Federal Government
- Health and Personal Care Stores

## Education & Training

Respiratory therapists need **an associate's degree in respiratory therapy.**

## SD Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
340	440	100	29%	30	\$49,490

## Activities: what you might do in a day

- Implement advanced life support techniques
- Treat medical emergencies
- Inform medical professionals regarding patient conditions and care
- Monitor patient conditions during treatments, procedures, or activities
- Prepare medical supplies or equipment for use
- Operate diagnostic or therapeutic medical instruments or equipment
- Maintain medical facility records
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals to plan or provide treatment
- Gather medical information from patient

## Additional References

### Career OneStop

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

### O\*Net Online

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