

# Career DESTINATIONS

2011

Where are you headed  
on your career path?

1

## FIRST STEP:

Have you gotten to know yourself?

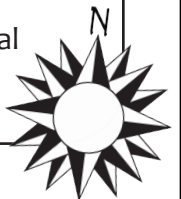
The first step on your career decision-making journey is getting to really know yourself. Before you can leave on a trip, you have to spend some time planning where to go, packing your bags, etc. Similarly, to choose a career you'll enjoy, you need to do some prep work.

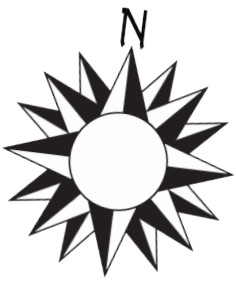
Look at your interests, values, skills, learning style, personality type, aptitudes and other characteristics that make you the unique person you are.

- ⊙ Take interest assessments, such as the one that is part of South Dakota Career InSite ([www.sdjobs.org/careerinsite](http://www.sdjobs.org/careerinsite)), the O\*Net Interest Profiler, or those available at your South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation local office or Career Learning Center.
- ⊙ Take aptitude assessments to help determine the kinds of work your abilities are best suited for.
- ⊙ Find a broad group of related careers that match your general interests and abilities based on what you have learned about yourself.
- ⊙ Learn as much as you can about the general groups of careers that appeal to you.

**dlr** south dakota department of  
**labor and  
regulation**

Your workforce experts.  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)





# EXPLORE Where do you fit?

The most enjoyable and rewarding career choices are those related to a person's personality, values, interests and skills. With hundreds of careers to choose from, it is helpful to start with broader groupings of similar career options. Listed below are 16 commonly used career clusters, along with examples of the many occupations included in each.

**Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources** - Farmworkers • Forest & Conservation Workers • Veterinarians • Pesticide Applicators • Butchers & Meat Cutters • Environmental Engineers • Plant Scientists

**Architecture & Construction** - Cost Estimators • Civil Engineers • Carpenters • Operating Engineers • Electricians • Painters • Plumbers • Cement Masons • Sheet Metal Workers • Highway Maintenance Workers

**Arts, Audio-Visual Technology & Communications** - Graphic Designers • Radio & TV Announcers • Reporters • Musicians • Broadcast Technicians • Desktop Publishers • Telecommunications Line Installers

**Business, Management & Administration** - General Managers • Employment Specialists • Bookkeepers • Public Relations Specialists • Budget Analysts • Secretaries • Office Supervisors • Health Services Managers

**Education & Training** - Education Administrators • Elementary Teachers • Postsecondary Teachers • Librarians

**Finance** - Loan Officers • Insurance Sales Agents • Loan Interviewers • Financial Analysts • Title Examiners

**Government & Public Administration** - Legislators • Compliance Officers • Postal Service Clerks

**Health Science** - Pharmacists • Physicians • Registered Nurses • Respiratory Therapists • Medical Lab Technologists • Radiologic Technologists • Pharmacy Technicians • Medical Record Technicians • Nursing Aides

**Hospitality & Tourism** - Food Service Workers • Janitors & Cleaners • Hotel Desk Clerks • Recreation Workers

**Human Services** - Child Care Workers • Clergy • Social Workers • Cosmetologists • Home Care Aides

**Information Technology** - Computer Support Specialists • Network & Computer Systems Administrators • Computer Programmers • Database Administrators • Network System Analysts • Computer Software Engineers

**Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security** - Correctional Officers • Police Officers • Private Detectives • Paralegals • Security Guards • Lawyers • Probation Officers • Fire Fighters • Bailiffs • Emergency Service Dispatchers

**Manufacturing** - Mechanic Supervisors • General Maintenance Workers • Electronic Assemblers • Team Assemblers • Welders • Packaging Machine Operators • Spraying Machine Operators • Machinists

**Marketing, Sales & Service** - Cashiers • Retail Salespersons • Customer Service Representatives • Real Estate Agents • Wholesale & Retail Buyers • Merchandise Displayers • Sales Representatives, Scientific Products

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics** - Electrical Engineers • Drafters • Chemists • Environmental Scientists • Food Science Technicians • Biological Technicians • Technical Writers • Microbiologists

**Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** - Automotive Service Technicians • Truck Drivers • Bus Drivers • Pilots • Material Movers, Hand • Shipping & Receiving Clerks • Production Dispatchers • Auto Body Repairers

**Internet Sites for Further  
Career Exploration:**

[www.sdjobs.org/careerinsite](http://www.sdjobs.org/careerinsite)

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

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

[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

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



**2**

## SECOND STEP:

### Are you familiar with careers of interest, or are you all over the map?



In the **second step** of your career planning journey, learn as much as you can about the occupations of highest interest to you. This career event is an excellent opportunity to visit with people working in the careers that interest you! Ask them specific questions like those below.

- ⊙ What do workers in your occupation really do on the job?
- ⊙ What are the working conditions — work environment, hours involved, etc.?
- ⊙ What skills and knowledge are needed?
- ⊙ What level and area of education are needed? Is licensing required? If so, what are the prerequisites?
- ⊙ What kind of experience is required?
- ⊙ What's the job outlook for the occupation?
- ⊙ How much does it pay? (Be careful how you word this one; ask in general terms, or look up the wage information elsewhere.) Are benefits like health insurance and retirement normally offered?

Also, check resources like those listed at the bottom of page 2 for more detailed information on career options.

**3**

## THIRD STEP:

### Would you really “take off” in the careers?



In the **third step**, it's time to think about how well the careers you are considering would fit you. With everything you learned about yourself in step 1 and everything you learned about career options in step 2, evaluate how things are going. Should you stay with your original plans and pursue the careers you were initially interested in? Or, is it time to go another direction? Would the careers you looked into be a good fit for you? Ask yourself and others these kinds of questions:

- ⊙ Do they fall in your general interest area or cluster?
- ⊙ Are the careers a good match for your aptitudes?
- ⊙ Do they fit with your values and goals for other parts of your life?
- ⊙ Are the careers a growing field? Do they have favorable job outlook?
- ⊙ Are you willing to pursue the level of education required?
- ⊙ Would the wages provide the type of lifestyle you want?

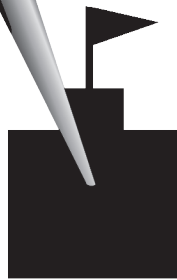
Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. State and federal laws require the Department of Labor and Regulation to provide services to all qualified persons without regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, ancestry, national origin, or disability.



Printed on recycled paper.

# Does it pay to continue your education?

Average Occupational Wages by Level of Education, Training & Work Experience Preferred by Employers through March 2011



Short-term On-the-Job Training (up to 1 month)  
\$22,417

Moderate-term On-the-Job Training (1 month up to 1 year)  
\$30,738

Work Experience  
\$35,984

Postsecondary Education and Work Experience or Long-term On-the-Job Training (More than 1 year, up to 3 years)  
\$39,556

Postsecondary Education at Less than the Associate Level  
\$29,439

Associate Degree  
\$43,384

Bachelor's Degree  
\$47,581

Work Experience and a Bachelor's Degree  
\$85,155

Master's Degree  
\$57,260

Doctoral Degree  
\$67,956

First Professional Degree  
\$126,655

Source: Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

## How career trend savvy are you?

- The average worker in the United States changes **occupations** (not just **jobs**) once every how many years?  
A. 2      B. 7      C. 15      D. 20
- What percent of South Dakota jobs will there be in 2018 that do not exist yet?  
A. 2%      B. 5%      C. 8%      D. 29%
- What percent of South Dakota job openings in 2018 will require some level of formal education beyond high school?  
A. 5%      B. 67%      C. 25%      D. 39%
- How much more can a South Dakotan with an associate degree expect to earn than a South Dakotan with no formal education beyond high school and having only short-term on-the-job training?  
A. 20%      B. 94%      C. 6%      D. 52%
- Which occupational group is projected to grow the fastest in South Dakota through 2018?  
A. Those requiring no education beyond high school  
B. Those requiring a bachelor's degree  
C. Those requiring a professional degree  
D. Those requiring post-high school education but less than a bachelor's degree.