

# More South Dakota Hot Careers

Beyond the  
Top **30**

## High Demand & High Wage Career

### Career Cluster: Human Services



## Substance Abuse & Mental Health Counselors

*Standard Occupational Code 21-1018*

### What They Do

Substance abuse, behavioral disorder and mental health counselors counsel and advise individuals with alcohol, tobacco or drug addiction or other problems, including mental health issues. May counsel individuals, families or groups or engage in prevention programs.

### 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 (Helpers)** — Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping and curing people. They are good with words.

**Artistic (Creators)** — Are artistic and like change. They enjoy using their imagination, creativity, feelings and intuition. They like working in jobs where they are free to set their own schedule.

**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 and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a 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
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Clarity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

## Basic Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Social Perceptiveness
- Monitoring
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Persuasion
- Service Orientation
- Active Learning
- Complex Problem Solving

## Education & Training

Substance abuse and mental health counselor positions generally require the minimum of a bachelor's degree; some may require a master's degree.

## Recommended Levels\* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	3
Workplace Documents	5
Graphic Literacy	4

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of substance abuse and mental health counselor are:

- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Social Assistance
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Hospitals
- Self Employment
- Local Government, excluding Education and Hospitals

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,412	1,595	183	13.0%	156	\$39,068	\$45,412

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

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

### O\*Net Online

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

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see [dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta\\_grant.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx).

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