



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Health Care & Human Services



Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)

Standard Occupational Code 29-2061

What They Do

Care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse, providing direct patient care.

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.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Work Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Sincerity — A tendency to be genuine and sincere in interactions with others at work, without concern for personal gain or self-interest.

Empathy — A tendency to show concern for others and be sensitive to others' needs and feelings at work.

Stress Tolerance — A tendency to cope and function effectively in stressful situations at work.

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

- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Written Comprehension
- Speech Clarity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

Work Activities

- Assisting and Caring for Others
- Documenting/Recording Information
- Getting Information
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work

Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in a licensed practical nursing program is recommended in South Dakota. Prior work experience as a nurse’s aid or similar position is helpful. An apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

LPNs must be licensed by the South Dakota Board of Nursing. For more information, visit <https://www.sdbon.org>.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of licensed practical nurses are:

- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Hospitals
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Federal Government
- Administrative and Support Services

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,115	2,255	140	6.6%	189	\$52,750	\$54,990

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center
www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online
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.

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Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

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