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 Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Speech Clarity
Basic Skills You Need

• Active Listening
• Social Perceptiveness
• Service Orientation
• Speaking
• Critical Thinking
• Reading Comprehension

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
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Social Assistance
- Hospitals
- Self Employment
- Local Government
- State Government

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/

South Dakota Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>1,603</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>$40,687</td>
<td>$42,672</td>
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</tbody>
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Provided By

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

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

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