



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Digital Technology



Software Developers

Standard Occupational Codes 15-1252

What They Do

Research, design, and develop computer and network software or specialized utility programs. Analyze user needs and develop software solutions, applying principles and techniques of computer science, engineering, and mathematical analysis. Update software or enhance existing software capabilities. May work with computer hardware engineers to integrate hardware and software systems.

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:

Investigative (Thinkers) — Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research.

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

Innovation — A tendency to be inventive, to be imaginative, and to adopt new perspectives on ways to accomplish work.

Adaptability — A tendency to be open to and comfortable with change, new experiences, or ideas at work.

Achievement Orientation — A tendency to establish and maintain personally challenging work-related goals, set high work-related standards, and exert high effort toward meeting those goals and standards.

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

- Deductive Reasoning
- Near Vision
- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity

Work Activities

- Working with Computers
- Processing Information
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Thinking Creatively

Education & Training

The minimum of a bachelor’s degree in computer science or similar field is recommended for software developers. Some employers require a master’s degree. Demonstrated, strong software development and testing skills are the most important qualification.

A registered 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.

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 software developers, applications are:

- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Credit Intermediation and Related Activities

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,169	2,582	413	19.0%	156	\$96,310	\$104,790

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/>

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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August
2026