Medical Behavioral Health Professions

Work in the medical profession and specialize in mental health, addiction, or behavioral health! Other professions that are utilized in the behavioral health field include physician assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and more.

Licensures

Average Salary in South Dakota

Psychiatrist (MD)

4 years Postsecondary Education | 4 years Doctoral or Medical Degree | 4 years Residency & Fellowships → $254,000

Psychiatrist Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (DNP)

4 years Postsecondary Education | 4 years Doctoral or Medical Degree → $258,000

Licensed Psychologist (LP)

**Includes minimum 1,800 hours supervised internship and one year pre- and postdoctoral psychology practice*

4 years Postsecondary Education | 4 years Doctoral or Medical Degree | 1 year Internship | 1 year Supervised Experience → $153,000

Nurse/Mental Health

LPN - 1 year; RN - 2-4 years (Associate or Bachelors)

1 year Training | 2-4 years Postsecondary Education → $60,550

Behavioral & Mental Health Technician

2 years Training Course → $44,000

Other Behavioral Health Professions

Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS)

4 years Postsecondary Education | 2,000 hours Supervised Experience → $58,000

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Working in Behavioral Health

South Dakota Behavioral Health CAREERS

What is behavioral health?

Behavioral Health is the state of a person's mental, emotional, and social wellbeing and plays a key role in people's overall health and wellness. Behavioral health professionals can help others achieve a better quality of life, navigate everyday stressors, obtain basic needs, and much more.

The field of behavioral health includes:

- Treatment of mental health and substance use disorders
- Suicide and substance use prevention
- Crisis intervention for people who've experienced an overdose, are in mental or emotional distress, or are having thoughts of suicide
- Recovery support for individuals and their loved ones

About the Work

- Offers a wide range of careers at all levels - entry, paraprofessional, practitioner, and professional
- Help all ages - children, adolescents, adults, and older adults
- Work in a variety of settings such as :
  - Community Mental Health Centers
  - Medical Hospitals and Clinics
  - Outpatient Treatment Agencies
  - Inpatient Treatment Centers
  - Psychiatric Hospitals
  - Residential Treatment Facilities
  - Recovery Support Housing
  - Group Homes
  - Nursing Homes
  - Non-profit Organizations
  - Crisis Stabilization Centers
  - Crisis Hotline
  - Schools
  - Correctional Facilities
  - Government Agencies

Signs This May Be the Career Field for You!

You like to...

- Build relationships
- Collaborate with others
- Help people through hard times
- Solve complex problems
- Listen non-judgmentally
- Resolve conflict

Your skills include...

- Active listening
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Negotiation
- Remaining neutral and non-judgmental
- Setting boundaries
- Taking notes and maintaining records

You have these attributes...

- Creative and innovative
- Empathetic
- Assertive
- Patient
- Professional while personable
- Solution-oriented
- Inquisitive
- Organized

Learn more about behavioral health careers and how to get started at SDBehavioralHealthCareers.sd.gov!

Contact us at: **SD.BehavioralHealthCareers@state.sd.us**

Occupations

Mental Health Counselor

Mental health counselors work with individuals, couples, families, or groups on a range of mental health concerns. They help clients achieve goals, cope with stressors and challenges, build relationships, and improve overall wellbeing. Topics a mental health counselor may address include trauma, grief, anger, anxiety, depression, relationship or familial issues, self-esteem, and a variety of mental health conditions.

Licensures

Average Salary in South Dakota

Licensed Professional Counselor - Mental Health (LPC-MH)
**Must have active LPC license*

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2 years Masters Degree → 2,000 hours Supervised Experience → $75,000

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2 years Masters Degree → 2,000 hours Supervised Experience → $72,800

Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
**Graduate work includes practicum*

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2 years Masters Degree → 1,700 hours Supervised Experience → $84,000

School-Based Behavioral Health Professionals

Students who receive social-emotional, mental health, and behavioral health support in school are far more likely to achieve positive academic outcomes. Schools across South Dakota need professionals such as school counselors, psychologists, and social workers with specialized training to support their student's wellbeing both in and out of the classroom. For aspiring school-based mental health professionals, there are graduate-level education programs specializing in school counseling and school psychology.

Licensures

Average Salary in South Dakota

School Psychologist
**Graduate work (EDS) includes practicum in 2nd year and paid internship in 3rd year*

4 years Postsecondary Education → 3 years Masters Degree → $78,100

Certified School Counselor
**Graduate work includes pre-practicum, practicum, and internship*

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2 years Masters Degree → $54,900

Substance Use Disorder Counselor

Substance use disorder counselors treat individuals with substance use disorders, also known as addiction. They help clients prevent or better cope with triggers, collaborate with the client on motivation and change, provide education on substances and their effects on the body and brain, and provide support to them and their loved ones during their recovery journey. Substance use disorder counselors can provide services both in one-on-one or group settings.

Licensures

Average Salary in South Dakota

Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC)
**Additional 2 years of supervised experience required for private independent practice*

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2,000 hours Supervised Experience → $61,000

Certified Addiction Counselor (CAC)
**Minimum of three semester hours in specialized education courses*

3 semester hours → 8,000 hours Supervised Experience → $45,500

Social Work and Case Management

Social workers and case managers are professionals who help individuals and families cope with challenges and address barriers to wellbeing. This may include coordinating and facilitating access to services, connecting to basic needs, and ensuring client's safety. Some social work licensees are eligible to provide clinical services including diagnosing mental health conditions and providing counseling and therapy services.

Licensures

Average Salary in South Dakota

Certified Social Worker in Private Independent Practice (CSW-PIP)
**Must first be licensed for 2+ years as a CSW*

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2 years Masters Degree → 2 years Supervised Experience → $76,000

Certified Social Worker (CSW)

4 years Postsecondary Education → 2 years Masters Degree → $72,800

Social Worker
**Degree in social work or social welfare program*

4 years Postsecondary Education → $52,000

Social Work Associate/Paraprofessional
**Degree in non-social work field or associate of arts degree in human services*

2 years Training Course → 48 hours per year/ 4 hours a month Supervised Experience → $45,000

Community Health Worker (CHW)
**In a behavioral health setting*

200 hours Training → 40 hours Supervised Experience → $45,000