



CAREER PATH

Health

CAREER CLUSTER

Health Sciences

CAREER PATHWAY

Therapeutic Services



RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

Plan, direct, or coordinate medically-approved recreation programs for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, or other institutions. Activities include sports, trips, dramatics, social activities, and arts and crafts. May assess a patient condition and recommend appropriate recreational activity.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a recreational therapist are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Recreational therapists	14.6%	16.4%	68.9%
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners	3.2%	11.9%	84.9%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	11.6%	30.8%	57.5%

Most Common Educational Level: Bachelor's degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2008		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$14.26	\$18.45	\$23.62
	Yearly	\$29,700	\$38,400	\$49,100
Missouri	Hourly	\$11.67	\$15.05	\$18.69
	Yearly	\$24,300	\$31,300	\$38,900

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Recreational Therapists	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2008	2018		
United States	23,300	26,700	+15%	1,160
Missouri	660	640	-4%	10

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

Hannibal-Lagrange College

Hannibal, MO
(573) 221-3675
www.hlg.edu

Northwest Missouri State University

Maryville, MO
(660) 562-1212
www.nwmissouri.edu



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