SOUTH DAKOTA

Nurse Aide Training

South Dakota regulates the curriculum for the nurse aide training programs. The law requires 75 hours of classroom and clinical instruction in basic nursing skills, personal care skills, mental health and social services, resident’s rights and the care of cognitively impaired patients and residents. Training for cognitively impaired patients or residents must include techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia, communicating with cognitively impaired individuals, understanding the behavior of patients or residents with dementia along with appropriate responses, and methods of reducing the effects of cognitive impairments.

Assisted Living

South Dakota recently adopted regulations regarding assisted living centers and secured units, requiring that any staff assigned to a secured unit have specific training regarding the unique needs of the residents of the unit. The regulations do not specify number of hours of training or curriculum content.

Medicaid Waiver

A broad Medicaid waiver coupled with state funds covers services in assisted living centers.