

CARING AND COMMITMENT ARE ESSENTIAL TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A DOCTOR

Do you have what it takes to be a doctor? Achieving this goal is no easy task, but the results can be very rewarding. Many people dream of becoming a medical doctor, but few have the discipline it takes to complete the heavy coursework in chemistry, biology, physics, physiology, and mathematics required in medical school. There are two types of doctors or physicians: the doctor of medicine (M.D.) and the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.). Most doctors are M.D.s who treat all types of diseases and injuries. D.O.s focus on muscles and bones. Both M.D.s and D.O.s receive the same basic education and training. Whatever your choice, a career as a doctor is a career for life!



THINGS TO CONSIDER IN YOUR DECISION TO PURSUE A CAREER AS A DOCTOR:

- Many doctors work long, irregular hours
- Education and training requirements are extremely demanding
 - 4 years of college
 - 4 years of medical school
 - 3 years working as a resident in a hospital (for some specialties this could be up to 8 years)
- Acceptance into medical school is extremely competitive

DOCTORS WORK IN ONE OR MORE SPECIALTY AREAS:

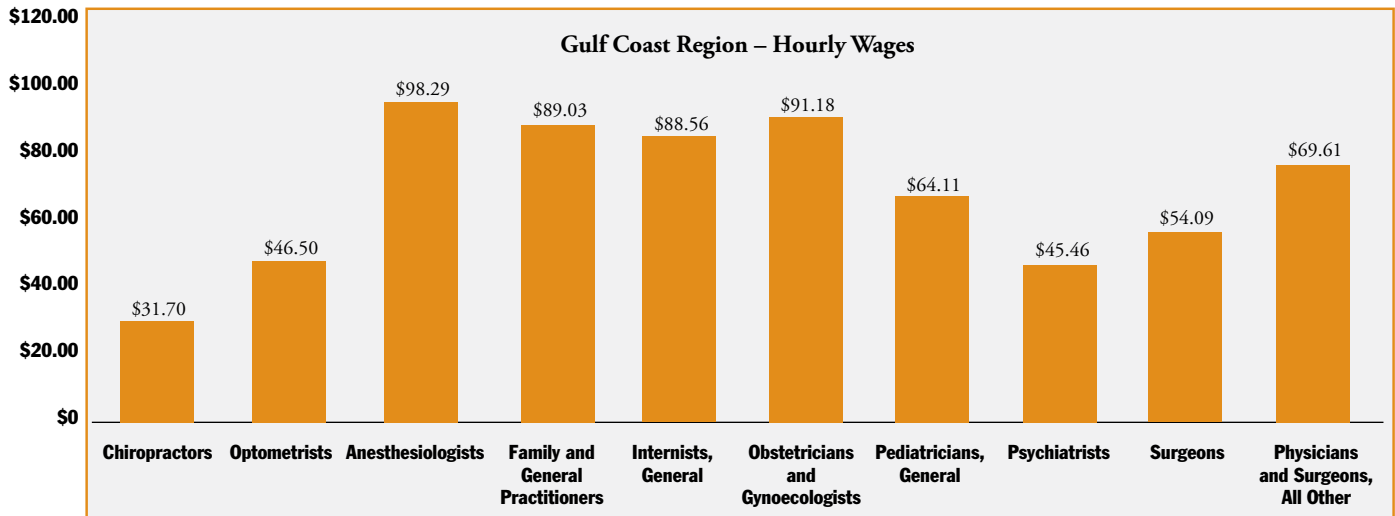
- anesthesiology
- dermatology
- family and general medicine
- general internal medicine
- general pediatrics
- neurology
- obstetrics and gynecology
- pediatrics
- psychiatry
- surgery
- and many more...



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Latest data available. May 2011.

*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

DOCTORS ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST PAID OF ANY OCCUPATION!



PATHWAY TO BECOMING A DOCTOR

1. Medical School Preparation

Becoming a doctor begins with a college program filled with heavy coursework in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and physiology. Prospective medical students may major in any subject area, as long as they successfully complete required courses in math and science. Students may actually apply for medical school after three years of college, although most complete at least a bachelor's degree. Students must have a high grade point average because admission is very competitive and medical schools require exceptional academic performance. In addition to required coursework, prospective medical students must complete the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges, and their scores must be high for acceptance into medical school.

2. Medical School

Medical school involves four years of classroom and clinical study. The first two years are focused on basic medical science. Students learn to perform physical exams, how to recognize symptoms, and how to interview patients. Some of the classes during these years include anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, and law. During the last two years in medical school, students apply the medical knowledge they've learned in the classroom to caring for patients. They are also involved in various medical rotations and specialties, such as emergency, pediatrics, primary care, oncology and surgery.

3. RESIDENCY TRAINING

After medical school, students are required to enroll in an internship and residency program that provides more extensive clinical experience. This program can last from three to eight years after medical school. Residency takes place in a hospital setting and doctors are paid a salary while training. After completing the residency program and passing the specialty board exam, doctors may practice as a board-certified member of that specialty.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

There are three steps of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). The first two steps must be completed and passed during medical school. Step three must be passed during residency training.

- Step 1 – assesses whether a medical school or graduate student understands important basic concepts of the sciences and can apply them to the practice of medicine
- Step 2 – assesses whether a medical school or graduate student can apply medical knowledge, skills and understanding of clinical science essentials to patient care while under supervision.
- Step 3 – assesses whether a medical school graduate can apply medical knowledge and understanding of biomedical and clinical science essentials in the practice of medicine without supervision

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: www.aacom.org

American Board of Medical Specialties: www.abms.org

American Medical Association: www.ama.aan.org

Association of American Medical Colleges: www.aamc.org

Texas Medical Association: www.texmed.org

Texas Osteopathic Medical Association: www.tosteo.org

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE): www.usmle.org

START EARLY AND BE PREPARED!

Gaining admission into medical school is extremely competitive. Students should strive for the highest GPA possible to give themselves the edge needed for acceptance into a medical program. The successful completion of doctorate medical programs requires a strong grasp of chemistry, biology, biochemistry, physics, physiology, and mathematics.

PREPARING FOR A CAREER AS A DOCTOR*

9th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English I	World Geography	Career-Related Electives: Introduction to Health Science Technology AND Medical Terminology
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English II	World History	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology I or Psychology
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Chemistry	Technology Applications	
11th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English III	United States History	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology II or Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems or Precalculus or Languages other than English III
	Algebra II	Professional Communications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English IV	Government/Economics	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology III or Pathophysiology or Medical Microbiology or Pharmacology or Clinical Nutrition or Psychology or Statistics or Languages other than English IV
	AP Calculus	Fine Arts	
	Scientific Research and Design		

*Source: AchieveTexas.org

MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN TEXAS

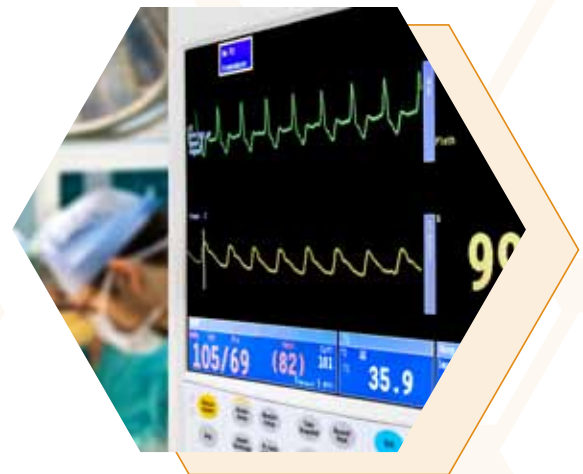
UNIVERSITIES

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Texas A & M University System Health Science Center
- Texas Tech University Health Science Center
- University of North Texas Health Science Center
- University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio
- University of Texas Houston Health Science Center
- University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas



MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- Harris County Hospital District
- HCA Healthcare
- Health Care Partners
- Houston VA Medical Center
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- The Methodist Hospital
- Oak Bend Medical Center
- St. Lukes Episcopal Health System
- Shriners Hospital for Children
- Tenet Health Care
- Texas Childrens Hospital
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- The University of Texas Medical Branch



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