

# Physicians and Surgeons



## What do they do?

Physicians and Surgeons help diagnose and treat patients who are injured or ill. Physicians take medical histories, order medical tests and prescribe medications to treat their patients. Surgeons operate on patients in order to fix their problems, like setting broken bones or removing tumors.

## Where do they work?

Physicians and Surgeons work with a variety of other healthcare staff in hospitals, clinics and private practices.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Physicians and Surgeons can vary from \$220,942 - \$396,233, depending on the type of medical specialty.



## Education:

Physicians and Surgeons require extensive training:

- 4 years of undergraduate college work
- 4 years of medical school
- 3-8 years of internship and/or residency training, depending on the medical specialty.

Medical specialties include almost all areas of healthcare. To find a full list of medical residencies, please follow this link:

[www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/otherpublications/strolling/specialty/residencyprograms.html](http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/otherpublications/strolling/specialty/residencyprograms.html)

## M.D. Schools in Madison:

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health:

[www.med.wisc.edu](http://www.med.wisc.edu)

## Accreditation:

Education programs leading to a MD degree in the U.S. and Canada are accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.



You can find additional schools in Wisconsin and nationwide by going to their website:

[www.lcme.org](http://www.lcme.org)

## Professional Association:

Physicians can become members of the American Medical Association.

[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)



## License:

All states require physicians to be licensed.

Licensure in Wisconsin is handled by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.



You can find more information by going to their website and clicking Licenses/Permits/Registrations then Health Professions:

[www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov)

## United States Medical Licensing Exam:

All Physicians must pass the USMLE before they can practice medicine in the United States. There are three steps to this exam.

To get more information, including descriptions of all three steps and practice materials, go to the dedicated website for the USMLE:

[www.usmle.org](http://www.usmle.org)



## Examples of Physician Specialties:

- Anesthesiologist
- Family and General Physician
- Pediatrician
- Obstetricians and gynecologists (OB/GYN)
- Psychiatrist
- Radiologist
- Allergist
- Cardiologist



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Physicians and Surgeons is expected to grow 18 percent between 2012-2020, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Physicians and Surgeons:  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physicians-and-surgeons.htm>

