

CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 9-12)

SURGEON



WHAT IS A SURGEON?

- A surgeon is a doctor of medicine that specializes in using surgical procedures to treat injuries, diseases, illness or deformities. Surgeons usually specialize in operating on a particular part of the body.

WHAT DO SURGEONS DO?

- Operate to repair broken bones, reconstruct burned or damaged skin, remove and replace organs, repair body systems and other medical procedures on parts of the body
- Manage and oversee the operation room team including nurses, surgical technicians and other medical workers
- Study a patient's medical history
- Order diagnostic tests that help to identify the problem with a patient
- Diagnose a patient's medical needs accurately
- Assess a patient to see if they are healthy enough for surgery
- Monitor a patient's recovery
- Use medical tools to perform surgery

Fun Fact: *The earliest written record that mentions the practice of medicine is Hammurabi's Code from the 18th century BC in Mesopotamia.*

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- A bachelor's degree in any subject. Many surgeons major in pre-medical subjects such as biology, physics, and chemistry
- Take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Attend and complete a medical school program (usually 4 years)
- A 5 year surgical residency

SKILLS

- Communication Skills: must communicate effectively with patients and other medical professionals before, during and after surgery
- Leadership Skills: be able to lead and manage a room full of medical professionals during surgery
- Stress Management: must have good stress management skills/ must be able to handle the pressure of operating on patients, especially in emergency situations
- Detail-Oriented: be able to pay attention to details over a long period of time/ surgeons often spend hours operating on patients
- Problem-Solving Skills: evaluate a patient's symptoms, injuries and needs
- Quick Decision Making: surgeons often encounter issues before, during and after surgery that requires them to assess the situation and make quick decisions about what is best for the patient
- Be Available: surgeons are often on call, even on their days off and their schedules can be demanding/ emergency surgeries can arise and surgeons can be called in at all hours of the night

EXPLORING THIS CAREER

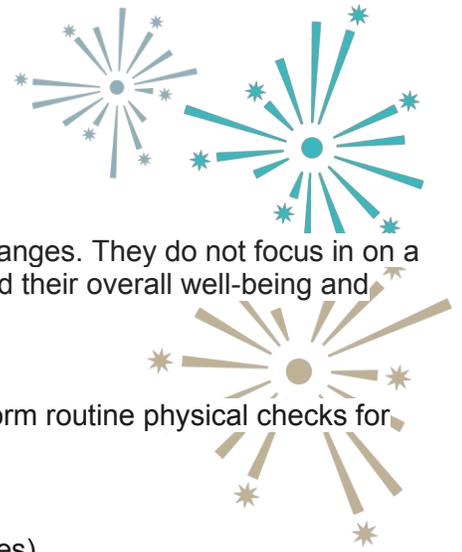
- https://learn.org/articles/Surgeon_Career_and_Salary_FAQs.html
- <https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/surgeon/>
- https://universityhq.org/how-to-become/surgeon-careers/#skills_to_acquire

“Not all heroes wear capes. In the midst of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the real heroes wear scrubs.”
-Anonymous

CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 9-12)

FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTOR



WHAT IS A FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTOR?

- A family medicine doctor specializes in taking care of people of all age ranges. They do not focus in on a particular part of the body, but rather take care of all ages of patients and their overall well-being and health

WHAT DO FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTORS DO?

- Routinely check in with patients to be ensure they are healthy/may perform routine physical checks for patients
- Diagnose and treat illnesses in patients
- Help patients manage chronic (long-term) illnesses
- Provide immunizations (vaccines and shots that protects against diseases)
- Conduct health assessments and tests
- Educate patients about preventative care and maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Write prescriptions for needed medications

Fun Fact: *Nearly half of all medical school graduates are women. This is up 30% from over thirty years ago.*

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- A bachelor's degree in any subject. Many family medicine doctors major in pre-medical subjects such as biology, physics, and chemistry
- Take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Attend and complete a medical school program (usually 4 years)
- Complete an internship and residency (usually 2-4 years)

SKILLS

- Communication Skills: must communicate effectively with patients and other medical professionals
- Critical Thinking: must use logic and reasoning to determine solutions for patient needs
- Problem-Solving Skills: evaluate a patient's symptoms, injuries, needs, and choose the appropriate treatments
- Strong Interpersonal Skills: must have good people skills and build a relationship with their patients/family medicine doctors are often the first people patients reach out to when they need help
- Data and Technology Skills: be able to use data and technology to enhance the care of patients/be able to input patient data and coordinate follow up appointments and procedures
- Social Awareness Skills: be able to understand how a patient's environment and community may impact their health and what they as a doctor can do to help

EXPLORING THIS CAREER

- <https://www.careersinhealthcare.com/family-physician/>
- <https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/family-practitioner/>
- <https://www.jobhero.com/job-description/examples/medical/family-physician>

“A good physician treats the disease, the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.”
- UNKNOWN