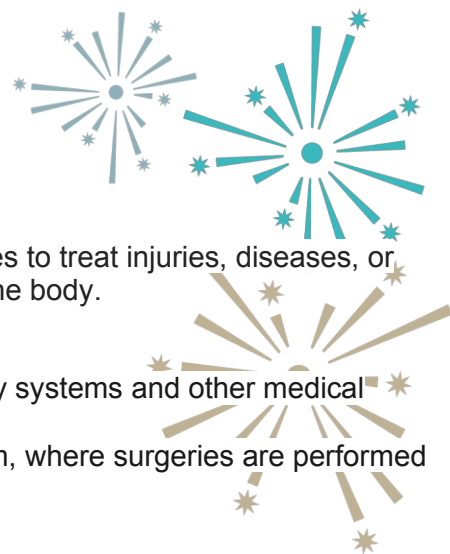


# CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 3-5)  
SURGEON



## WHAT IS A SURGEON?

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

## WHAT DO SURGEONS DO?

- Operate on broken bones, remove and replace body organs, repair body systems and other medical procedures on parts of the body
- They lead the team of medical workers and nurses in the operating room, where surgeries are performed
- Study a patient's medical history
- Order tests that help to identify the problem with a patient
- Figure out a patient's medical needs
- Check out a patient to see if they are healthy enough for surgery
- Monitor a patient and how they are recovering from their surgery
- 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

- Graduate from college with a bachelor's degree in any subject.
- Take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Attend and complete a medical school program (usually 4 years)
- A 5 year surgical residency (work with someone that is already a surgeon and learn from them)

## SKILLS

- Communication Skills: must communicate with patients and other medical professionals before, during and after surgery
- Leadership Skills: be able to lead and manage a room full of medical staff 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: look at a patient's symptoms, injuries and needs to figure out how to help them
- Quick Decision Making: figure out quickly how to deal with any issues or problems that may come up during before, during or after surgery
- Be Available: surgeons are often called to come to the hospital, even on their days off, so their schedules can be demanding

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

# CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 3-5)

## FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTOR



### WHAT IS A FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTOR?

- A family medicine doctor specializes in taking care of people of all age ranges. They meet with people of all ages to make sure they are healthy.

### WHAT DO FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTORS DO?

- Check in with patients to make sure they are healthy
- Figure out why patients are sick and how to help them
- Provide immunizations (vaccines and shots that protects against diseases)
- Educate patients about how they can avoid getting sick and how they can live a healthy lifestyle
- Write prescriptions for medicines patients need

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

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Graduate from college and earn a bachelor's degree in any subject. Many family medicine doctors major in pre-medical subjects such as biology, physics, and chemistry
- Take a special test for doctors called the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Attend and complete a medical school program (usually 4 years)
- Complete an internship and residency, which is when they train with someone who is already a doctor and learn from them (usually 2-4 years)

### SKILLS

- Be able to communicate with patients and other medical professionals
- Use their medical knowledge and experience to help their patients
- Look at a patient's symptoms, injuries, needs, and choose the right treatment
- Build a relationship with their patients because family medicine doctors are often the first people patients reach out to when they need help
- Use their computer skills to put in patient information and look up patient information

**"A good physician treats the disease, the great physician treats the patient who has the disease."**  
- UNKNOWN