

THINKING OF BECOMING A DOCTOR? CONSIDER THIS:

Of this many students who start college with the goal of medical school:



This many will persist:



Of those, this many will be accepted to medical school



THEN...You have to be accepted into a residency for a speciality.

You have to rank your specialties and might have to enter one you

don't particularly want!

Of this many graduates from one of the top-ranked medical schools



This many will be accepted into one of the most competitive residencies
Integrated interventional radiology Orthopedic surgery
Integrated plastic surgery Radiation oncology
Neurological surgery Otolaryngology Thoracic surgery:



Of the same number of graduates from a lesser ranked medical school, this many will be accepted into one of the most competitive residency programs:



...And because the odds don't favor pre-med
[usually Biology or Chemistry] majors proceeding to
med school, there are many of them left over.
The starting salary for a UF graduate with a
Biology major is just \$24,000; Chem \$18,000.

If you want most of the same job functions, what else can you do?

Consider Nurse Practitioner or Physicians Assistant



Increasingly, physicians and dentists work for corporations, which sometimes prioritize profit over patient care.

Many insurance companies won't even negotiate with private practices any longer.

Just like education, healthcare is big business.

Carolyn.Kost8@gmail.com

A Comparison

The path to becoming a doctor

4 years of university
High GPA
MCAT scores
Interview
Recommendations

4 years of medical school
GPA/ Class rank
Licensing exam
Clinical rotations
Recommendations
Interview

3-5 years in residency Board Certification Exam

For sub specialities like pediatric oncology,
1 year Fellowship and
Certification Exam

That's 11-13 years.
The annual cost of attending med school in 2019 ranges from \$30,000 (NYU--fees only, tuition is free) to \$100,000 and increases every year.

The path to becoming a nurse practitioner

4 years of university in Nursing State board exam

2 years master's in Nursing
May earn 1-2 year DNP
500-700 hours clinical
experience
Certification exam

The path to becoming a physicians assistant

4 years of university, preferably in healthcare

1000-4000 hours clinical experience Interview

2-3 years of PA program
National certification
exam

SALARY:

126,440 family and general practitioners
10th percentile: \$73,240
25th percentile: \$138,100
50th percentile (median): \$198,740

SALARY:

166,280 nurse practitioners
109,220 physician assistants
-Equivalent, slightly less for PA10th percentile: \$74,840
25th percentile: \$88,810
50th percentile (median): \$103,880

All of this medical education has a hefty price tag. For some specialties, like orthopedics, the average student loan debt is over \$400,000 and growing every year. The average student loan debt for dental school grads exceeds \$300,000. Veterinary school \$167,000 With an average starting income of \$65K-70K, vets have the highest debt to income ratio of all professions (law, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, etc).

Let's take a closer look at a loan balance of \$418,000.00

Loan Interest Rate: 6.80% Loan Term: 20 years Minimum Payment: \$2,000.00 Monthly Loan Payment: \$3,190.76 Number of Payments: 240

Cumulative Payments: \$765,782.02 Total Interest Paid: \$347,782.02

The job functions are similar for many specialties.

ALL of these, depending on specialty,
diagnose and treat injuries or illnesses, evaluate patients' medical histories,
update records to show current findings and treatments,
order diagnostic tests and examinations for nurses or other healthcare staff to
perform and review results to identify any abnormal findings,
recommend, design, and prescribe plans of treatment,
address concerns and answer questions that patients
have about their health and well-being,
provide guidance to patients about maintaining and improving their health by
discussing proper nutrition, habits, and more.