

Medical Doctors



- OD v. MD
- *HUGE* range of options
- Do not have to have people skills after all...
- It *does* pay to borrow your way through medical school
- Problems: students often say “too long to degree” and “too expensive”

People v. Animals



- MD v. DVM
- 30 vet schools / 179 med schools
- Exact same requirements
- Harder to get into vet school
- Median pay for vet: \$89,000
- Median pay for PCP MD: \$196,000-\$219,000
- More than 80% of vet students are female
- 51% of incoming med students are women

People v. Research



- Clinical Practice v. Medical Research Scientist
- MSTP (Medical Scientist Training Program) and MD/PhD
- MD/PhD does not pay tuition, receives stipend of \approx \$21k/year
- Not a backdoor way into clinical career
- Pay is modest (relatively!): \approx \$90k+

Environmental Health



- Environmental Health Scientist
- Air, water, soil, materials, ...
- Brownfield development
- “Sick” building specialists
- Workplace hygiene
- Environmental racism issues
- Employers: government, developers, consultants

Biomedical Engineer



- Engineering in a medical setting
- Wide-ranging field
- In medical schools *and* industry
- Challenging/interesting work with scientists and medical scientists
- Warning: this degree, at both the MS and PhD level, is becoming the “I am smart” signal

Orthotists, Prosthetists



- Prosthetists fit patients with devices that replace limbs (think artificial arms and legs)
- Orthotists fit patients with devices that enhance limbs (think braces, slings, and canes)
- Master's degree → residency → board certification
- New issues : field involves more and more technology, such as mentally controlled devices

Podiatry



- Podiatrist
- BA/BS + 4-year doctorate
- Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)
- Fast way to medical specialization
- Cf. Orthopedists, which are MD/OD *then* trained specialists
- Cf. Hand Surgeons, another post-MD/OD specialization

Medical Illustrator



- Major/minor in art/life sciences, then
- MA in Medical Illustration
- New: animations, VR, multiple-outcome scenario modeling

- Association of Medical Illustrators

Dentistry



- Dentist, DMD or DDS, a 4-year doctorate with option afterwards for specialized training (e.g., orthodontist, oral surgeon, endodontist)
- Median income \$167,000, specialists much more
- Hygienist usually has an AS degree

Nursing



- *HUGE* range of options
- Problems: Can be very physically demanding, very high rate of injury and disability

Primary Care Providers (PCPs)



- MD and OD, of course, but also:
- NP (Nurse Practitioner)
- PA (Physician Assistant)
- Fastest route to PCP
- also, many specialists, from neurosurgery to OB/GYN
- Problem: some variability in licensing by state

PA



- BA/BS + 2-year master's degree
- Fastest way to PCP
- Interesting job with 6-figure income
- PCP, but can also specialize, e.g., surgery, OB/GYN, emergency medicine, psychiatry
- Over time, it is likely that the DSPAS (Doctor of Science in Physician Assisting Studies) will become the norm in this field

NP



- Nurse Practitioner, a PCP
- BSN → RN → MSN → Board Exam → License and Certification
- Can also specialize

- Over time, the DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) will likely become the norm in this field

Med Techs



- A zillion different techs in healthcare, often with specialized training in the use of equipment, particular medical procedures, specific diagnostic tasks, etc., etc., etc.
- Often specialized training and certification

Med Techs



E.g.:

- Anesthesiology Assistant, Blood Bank Technologist, Cardiovascular Tech, Lab Tech, Cytotechnologist, Diagnostic Sonographer, Electroneurodiagnostic Tech, EKG Tech, Histology Tech, Mammogram Tech, Mental Health Assistant, Nuclear Medicine Tech, Orthoptist, Perfusionist, Phlebotomist (Vampirist), Pulmonary Tech, Radiological Tech, Surgical Tech, Medical Assistant

Pharmacists



2 kinds:

- Pharmacy pharmacists (quick way to a good 6-figure job, reliable hours, minimum gender pay gap)
- Hospital pharmacists (part of a medical team, definitely more intellectual)
- Cf: Pharmacologist, usually MD/PhD
Pharmacology, a research scientist

First Responders



- EMTs ≠ Paramedics
- Both have specialized training and board exam
- Paramedics have more training than EMTs

Also:

- Site Grief Counselors (usually LCSW, MFT, or PhD Clinical Psych)

Speech Pathology



- SLP (Speech Language Pathologists), specialists in speech, hearing, and language pathology

2 foci:

- Developmental
- Recovery from injury, stroke, brain trauma

Cool specialization:

- Accent reduction and dialect coaching (which can be controversial)

Audiology



- Audiologist (helps patients with hearing and balance problems)
- Hearing Specialist (Tech role)

- Again: the preferred degree is becoming the 4-year doctorate, AuD
- Cf: Otolaryngologist or ENT, which is an MD role

Physical Therapy



- PT practitioners help people regain strength and range of motion after injuries or surgery
- Problem: doctorate is becoming the minimum credential

Occupational Therapy



- OT practitioners help people recover or relearn the skills needed for the activities of daily living (ADL) typically after stroke, CNS or brain injury
- E.g., relearning to tie shoes
- Problem: doctorate is becoming the minimum credential

More Therapeutic Approaches



- Art Therapy
 - Music Therapy
 - Dance & Movement Therapy
 - Equine Therapy
 - Horticultural Therapy
-
- Master's degrees and credentialing for each of these

Doula, Midwife



- Used interchangeably, but not same thing at all
- Doula, just a few hours of training
- Midwife, BSN→RN→ACME-accredited MSN→clinical training
- Midwife can deliver babies in a hospital, birthing center, or home setting

Nutritionist, Dietitian



- Nutritionist is result of a degree process (MS is becoming minimum degree for professional employment)
- Registered Dietitian is result of a credentialing process
- Settings: hospitals, LTCF, schools, prisons, food manufacturing, wellness programs, dieting industry

Corporate Wellness



- Not one thing → more of a type of thing
- Involves everything from nutrition to exercise science to stress management to EAP
- Falls out of favor every time the economy contracts (may be on rise due to shift to more jobs than candidates)

Recreation Management



- Think “Parks & Recreation”
- Educational programming (art to yoga to concerts to birding to ...)
- Sports programming
- Partnering with schools
- MA in Recreation Administration
- MA in Sports Administration

Rehab Industry



- Very large industry, not well regulated, huge variability by state, with many, many entry points
- Credentials for entry vary from PhD to nothing
- Preferred credentials: MA in Counseling + specialized credential
- First stop: AA and NA



Rehabilitation Counseling

- Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Helps people after injuries or mental health crises or other vocational crises
- Also part of the employment injury litigation industry
- Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling
- MA Counseling
- Licensed or credentialed in many states

Employability Consultants



- Almost same title as above (Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant) but *very different job*
- Part of the divorce industry
- Case analysis, reporting, and expert witness services
- Robust pay, up to several hundred \$\$ per hour

Chiropractic Medicine



- DC (Doctor of Chiropractic), a 4-year doctorate
- Might specialize in sports injuries, geriatrics, or chronic pain
- Problem: Often need to be entrepreneurial

Optometry



- Optometrist (DO or OD; a standard 4-year doctorate)
- More than vision correction; often first-line medical officer on all aspects of eye health
- Optician (no degree requirement; OJT)

Psychology



- PhD Clinical Psychology v. PsyD Problems:
- PhD problem: horrendous competition (3% and 5% admit rates)
- PsyD problem: very little (close to no) funding
- The Parallel Plan approach
- Must-have guide: *APA's Graduate Study in Psychology*

More Psychology



- Counseling Psychology
- Community Psychology
- School Psychology (MA is entry degree here), with PPS credential (Pupil Personnel Services)

More Mental Therapy Options



- LCSW v. MA Psychology (MFT)
- Master's in Nursing (in some states)
- Ordained Minister (via M.Div. or not, requires congregational authority)

Clergy



- MDiv + ordained in a specific denomination
- Note: Healthcare Chaplaincy, member of Healthcare Chaplaincy Network and certified as an Advanced Practice Board Certified Chaplain (APBCC)

Social Work



- MSW
- LCSW

Many, many options, e.g.:

- Child and Family Social Workers
- Criminal Justice Social Workers
- Medical Social Workers
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers
- School Social Workers

Health Educator



- Community programming or patient-focused
- Common degrees: Nursing, MPH, Social Work
- Advantage to be bilingual
- Large pay range, from \$15 hour to \$95k/annum
- Specialized example: instructors for the newly blind

Medical Administration



- Common MHA degrees:
 - Master of Health Administration
 - Master of Healthcare Administration
 - Master of Hospital Administration
- The real health MBA (more finance than the MPH, and more management and operations science)

Medical Ethics



- Medical ethicist
- No national requirements; some come into this from JD or MD
- Minimum credentials: bachelor's degree in philosophy, theology, or religion, followed by specialized study in ethics and medical ethics
- *Not many young people in this field*
- Some emerging master's programs in medical ethics and bioethics
- Problem: many are called; few are chosen...

Alternative Health



- Acupuncturist (LAc or NCCAOM Diplomate)
- Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Herbalist
- Ayurvedic Practitioner
- Problem: Must be entrepreneurial

Massage Therapist



- Therapeutic Massage Therapist
- Problems: Must be entrepreneurial; licensing almost never transfers across state lines; physically demanding

Genetic Counseling



- Genetic Counselor

Two main functions:

- Pre-marital advising re children's predisposition to genetic disease
- Pre-disease planning based on genetic indicators
- Emerging/burgeoning field
- Problem: likely to be fully automated within 20 years

Patient Advocate



- No credentials, but often RN or LPN
- Case management model (plan and review)
- In-situ, *bedside*, to represent and protect patient interests
- Also battles medical and insurance authorities if needed

Children's Services



- CPS Case Worker (Child Protective Services, common degree MSW)
- Foster Parent (no educational requirements; can be combined with many, many other career endeavors)
- CASA (more in a moment)
- Greatest need: Aging Out Services

CASA



- Court Appointed Special Advocate
- Represents in court the interests of children

Court Guardian



- Court Guardian acts in lieu of the individual in all financial, medical, legal, and personal matters for people who have become a ward of the court (children, elderly, incapacitated)
- Increasing need, but ripe for abuse
- See “The Takeover,” *New Yorker*, Oct. 9, 2017

Elder Services



- Case Management
- Elder Advocate
- Court Guardian
- Administrative services between individuals/families and LTCFs (burgeoning business, e.g., A Place for Mom)

LTCF



- Long Term Care Facility, aka “Assisted Living”
- Areas of responsibility: medical administrators, nurses, gerontologists, recreation directors, sales, public relations, property management

End-of-Life Services



- Hospice (more in a moment)
- Funeral Planning (no academic preparation required)
- Mortician (master's in mortuary science; many in funeral planning also have this degree)

Hospice



- Nurses
- Doctors
- Clergy
- Social Workers
- Medical and Case Administrators

Death Doulas



- aka End-of-Life Doulas, Death Midwives, Palliative Care Doulas
- No degree or credentialing (yet)
- International End of Life Doula Association (INELDA)

Coroner



- Coroner (aka Medical Examiner)
- Problems: licensing varies *widely* from MD to nothing; some positions are elected

Lawyers



- We desperately need lawyers who help poor and disadvantaged people
- Disability Law
- Elder Law
- Immigration
- Criminal Defense
- Family Law
- All those roles of the lawyer as a protector of widows and orphans

Law Enforcement



- CIA, NSA, etc. (intelligence.gov)
- FBI
- DHS
- State Police
- Local Police
- University Police
- School Police
- Hospital Police
- Marine Police

Fire Departments



- Suppression, but also...
- First Responder Medical

- Also consider:
- Search & Rescue
- Ski Patrol

Military



- Every single job listed elsewhere is also in the military:
- Army
- Marines
- Navy
- Air Force
- Coast Guard
- and reserves for all of the above

Also Consider



- Probation Officer
- Youth Probation Officer
- Public Defender's Office (not as attorney but as case manager, e.g., personal recognizance programs)

PI



- Private Investigator
- Retail loss prevention, skip tracing, CPS, family law, insurance defense

Public Health



- MPH degree
- Many, many options; see “100 Awesome Things You Can Do with a Public Health MPH Degree,” www.careersinpublichealth.net
- Considered \approx the “MBA of health”

Sustainability



- CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- Sustainability Officer
- New Field (some master's of sustainability, MPA-Sustainability, or master's in environmental sciences)
- Autonomy, chance to run own show
- Pay tops \$100k

Impact Investing



- Subset of the wealth advisory world
- “Do well by doing good”
- aka Social Investing, Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), Green Investing

- BA/BS + quant skills, MBA-Finance or MBA-Investment Management

Social Impact Careers



- Idealist.org, aka Action without Borders
- Peace Corps
- Save the Children
- International development
- Refugee services / global
- Oxfam
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Nurses without Borders
- Dentists without Borders
- Smile Train

Social Impact Careers



- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Catholic Charities USA
- Jewish Charities (rubric), e.g.,
Jewish Community Centers
- More: see Charity Watch, Charity
Navigator, Guide Star, Chronicle of
Philanthropy, Consumer Reports,
Give Well

Disaster & Crisis Response



- Red Cross
- FEMA

Teaching



- Teacher
- Public, start teaching with minimum credential
- Private, no such thing as “overqualified”
- One of the hardest, most consuming, and most meaningful jobs in the whole world
- Con: low pay
- Pro: June, July, August

Life Coach



- Coaching ≠ Counseling ≠ Therapy
- Not credentialed in any state
- Hang a shingle and go
- Training and credentials are available, e.g., International Coach Federation (ICF)
- Must be entrepreneurial
- Variant: Health Coach (diabetes management, weight control, etc.)

Personal Trainer



- No credentials to start
- Must be entrepreneurial
- Some credentials: National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), the American Council on Exercise (ACE), the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NACA), and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)
- Not often a lifelong career (but no reason it couldn't be)

Gym



- Gym management
- No credential required
- Often more sales than service

- Variant: Boxing Gym

Sports Coaching



- Start as volunteer
- Same credentials as teacher
- Specialized training available *by sport*

Athletic Trainer



- A medical position
- Complete MA/MS at accredited program, Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)
- Pass board exams
- Join National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
- Big new role: concussion protocol

Mediation Services



- Huge range of options, from community mediation (often unpaid) up to professional mediators (paid handsomely)
- Do *not* need to be lawyer
- Training and certification: National Association of Certified Mediators

Politics



- Whatever your political leanings: What could be more rewarding than fighting to make the country a better place?
- First stop: Volunteer for your party and/or candidate
- There are career paths in politics