

# 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

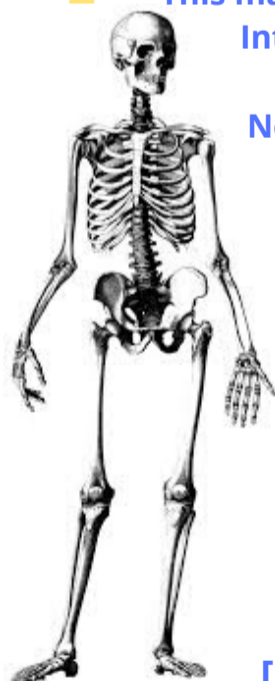


This many will be accepted into one of the most competitive residencies

- 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**

Did you know?

Increasingly, physicians and dentists work for corporations, which often prioritize profit over patient care. Many insurance companies won't even negotiate with private practices any longer. **Just like education, healthcare is big business.**



# 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 specialties 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  
75th percentile: N/A (>\$208,000  
annually)  
90th percentile: N/A (>\$208,000  
annually)

### SALARY:

166,280 nurse practitioners  
109,220 physician assistants  
-Equivalent, slightly less for PA-  
10th percentile: \$74,840  
25th percentile: \$88,810  
50th percentile (median): \$103,880  
75th percentile: \$123,070  
90th percentile: \$145,630

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

## Why take that path when the job functions are so similar?

**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.