



Health Careers In Alaska

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Physician

The physician's role involves final responsibility for the examination, diagnosis, and treatment, when needed, of those in their care. This is done directly or in collaboration with other physicians and healthcare providers.

The physician's tasks include conducting a physical examination of the patient, interviewing the patient and others for an accurate personal health history, performing and ordering diagnostic tests such as lab work and x-rays, prescribing medications and treatments, and referring

patients to specialists for further evaluation and treatment. Besides providing direct patient care, a physician's career may involve other interesting activities such as health systems planning, administration, research, and education.

Physicians may choose to specialize. Examples of specialties include: pediatrics (care of children), cardiology (heart specialist), neurology (care of brain, nerves and spinal cord), internal medicine, surgery, ENT (Ears, Nose, Throat specialist), ophthalmology (eye specialist), and family practice (primary care for patients of all ages).

Physician Facts:

Where do physicians work in Alaska?

Physicians in Alaska work in communities of all sizes and in facilities that vary in level of sophistication.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in math and science.
- Graduation from a four-year college with high grades and prerequisite classes for medical school. In the past, most medical students were biology or chemistry majors but today other degrees are acceptable as long as good grades are earned and medical school science prerequisites are met.
- Graduation from a four-year medical school awarding either a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) or a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree.
- Completion of another three to six years of residency is common and expected in today's complex medical world.
- Further specialization through additional residencies or fellowships is a common option.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$83.03-\$121.51 (Mean \$102.27)

**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

11 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

WWAMI is Alaska's medical school. Twenty Alaska residents are admitted to the program each year. For more information, contact:

WWAMI Biomedical Program

Phone: (907) 786-4789

Email: wwami@uaa.alaska.edu

Web site: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/wwami/index.cfm>

State Contact:

Alaska State Medical Association

Phone: (907) 562-0304

Email: asma@alaska.net

Web site: <http://www.aksma.org/>

National Contact:

American Medical Association

Phone: (800) 621-8335

Web site: <http://www.ama-assn.org>

