

Pathways to Dermatology

Career Guide



What is a dermatologist?

Dermatologists are doctors who treat more than 3,000 disorders and diseases of the skin, hair, and nails, including everything from acne to hives to skin cancer. Dermatologists also perform surgery, give injections, and provide laser treatments to care for and cure various skin conditions and diseases.

Dermatologists use their training to improve a patient's quality of life and even save lives. Check out "**Diseases and Conditions: A to Z**" to learn more about the many ways dermatologists help their patients stay healthy: aad.org/public/diseases/a-z

What are some areas in the field of dermatology?

Dermatologists can work in a variety of areas. For example:

- Pediatric dermatology: work with children
- Mohs surgeons: perform skin cancer surgery
- Dermatopathology: examine biopsy skin samples and pathology reports

Everyone needs skincare. The American Academy of Dermatology Association supports Black, Latino/Hispanic, and Indigenous students with mentoring to diversify the field and support all communities. Find out more at aad.org/member/career/diversity/diversity-pathways-hs-college.

Pathways: Inclusivity in Dermatology



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What does it take to become a dermatologist?

Dermatologists are specialized medical doctors. Training includes:

- Four-year college bachelor's degree
- Four years of medical school
- Year-long internship
- Three-year residency after medical school devoted to treating patients who present with skin issues (Other medical specialties can require up to a 7-year residency after medical school.)

Does this sound like a career you'd be interested in?

If you like helping people and solving problems, if you like science or research, if you like the idea of becoming a surgeon, if you are fascinated by how the largest organ in our bodies works to protect us, dermatology might be a field for you. If you're interested in learning more about the range of opportunities in dermatology, visit aad.org/member/career/diversity/diversity-pathways-hs-college. You could become an expert in skin, hair, and nails!

About the American Academy of Dermatology

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AAD) and its physician members from around the world help communities in many ways, including:

- Organizing and participating in cancer awareness activities
- Providing grants to help communities make sun-safe spaces for children to play
- Providing opportunities for children with serious skin conditions to go to camp
- Providing grants for community-based initiatives to promote safe and healthy skin
- Mentoring and supporting diverse students interested in dermatology

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