

Dermatologist

The skin, hair and nail doctor. Five years of residency, regular hours, and one of the hardest residencies in Canada to get into.

TYPICAL PAY

\$380,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$280k to \$600k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private offices, hospital skin clinics, cosmetic clinics, academic centres

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very high average for a science undergrad.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Any major works. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years
Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Classes, then clinical rotations. Dermatology electives and research are close to required for the match.
- 4 Dermatology residency** 5 years
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Skin clinics, skin surgery, pathology of skin, pediatric skin and hospital consults.
- 5 Certification and licence** End of residency
Pass the Royal College exam to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada), then register with your provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Pros and cons

- + Regular hours and almost no emergencies
- + High income with a mix of public and private pay
- + You can see a problem and often fix it the same visit
- The residency match is a long shot even for top students
- Very high patient volume can feel like a treadmill
- Waitlists to see you can be a year long, and patients are frustrated

Good to know

The most common cancer

Counting all types, skin cancer is the most common cancer in Canada. Most is curable if caught early, which is why dermatologists spend so much time looking at moles.

Fewer than 1,000 in the whole country

CIHI (Canadian Institute for Health Information) counted 772 dermatologists in Canada in 2024, for about 40 million people, and only a few dozen new ones finish training each year. That is why the...

Optional boosts

Mohs surgery. Pediatric dermatology. Dermatopathology. Cosmetic and laser dermatology.

Where these numbers come from

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

CIHI: A profile of physicians in Canada, 2024 (payments)

CIHI: National Physician Database, payments by specialty, 2023 to 2024 (data tables)

CaRMS: the residency match

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/dermatologist>



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