

Gastroenterologist

The gut doctor. Scopes, liver disease and Crohn's, five years of residency, and one of the best-paid branches of internal medicine.

TYPICAL PAY

\$450,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$350k to \$650k

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

Hospitals, endoscopy units, outpatient clinics, academic cent...

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.
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Hospital wards, the ICU (intensive care unit) and clinics. In year 3 you apply to the subspecialty match.
- 5 Gastroenterology residency, then certification** 2 years
Endoscopy, liver clinics, inflammatory bowel disease and hospital consults. Some programs add a third research year. Pass the Royal College exams to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada) and register with your provincial College of Physicians...

Pros and cons

- + Among the best-paid branches of internal medicine
- + You find and remove cancer before it starts
- + A mix of procedures and thinking, not just one
- Thirteen years of training before full practice
- Emergency bleeding call at any hour
- Long waitlists mean patients arrive frustrated

Good to know

Canada is a world capital of Crohn's

About 1 in 140 Canadians lives with Crohn's disease or colitis, and Canada has among the highest rates of these diseases in the world, according to Crohn's and Colitis Canada. Nobody fully knows why.

Fewer than 1,000 in the country

CIHI (Canadian Institute for Health Information) counted 946 gastroenterologists receiving clinical payments in Canada in 2023 to 2024, for about 40 million people. That is one reason the wait for a n...

Optional boosts

Advanced endoscopy. Hepatology. Inflammatory bowel disease. Motility and nutrition.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Gastroenterologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

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

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology

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/gastroenterologist>



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