

Geriatrician

The doctor for older adults. Memory, falls, frailty and too many pills, five years of residency after medical school, and Canada has only a few hundred of them.

TYPICAL PAY

\$290,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$220k to \$380k

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, memory clinics, rehab units, long-term care homes

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 Geriatric medicine residency, then certification** 2 years
Memory clinics, falls and frailty, rehab units, long-term care and hospital consults on older patients. 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 and Surgeons.

Pros and cons

- + Regular hours and light call
- + The most in-demand specialty for an aging country
- + You often make people dramatically better just by stopping pills
- Among the lowest-paid internal medicine subspecialties
- Thirteen years of training
- Dementia does not get better, and families grieve in front of you

Optional boosts

Memory and dementia. Orthogeriatrics. Rehabilitation. Long-term care.

Good to know

Only a few hundred in the whole country

CIHI (Canadian Institute for Health Information) counted just 425 geriatricians in Canada in 2024, about 1 for every 20,000 people aged 65 and older. It is one of the smallest specialties in the country and o...

A quarter of Canada will be seniors

The Public Health Agency of Canada counted 6.6 million seniors in 2019, about 17.5% of the population, and expects close to a quarter of Canadians to be 65 or older by 2040. Every one of them is a potenti...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Geriatrician, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
CIHI: Health workforce, 2024, supply and direct care
Canadian Geriatrics Society

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/geriatrician>



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