

Allergist and Immunologist

Thirteen years of training for one of the calmest schedules in medicine.

TYPICAL PAY

\$265,930

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$69k to \$452k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

13 to 14 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Outpatient clinics, hospital allergy departments, academic medical...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top grades in biology, chemistry and math. You need a strong grade point average to be competitive for medical school later.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Any major, but you must finish the pre-medical science courses. Keep your grades high and take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
Two years of classroom science, two years of clinical rotations. You graduate as a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).
- 4 Residency** 3 years
Internal medicine or pediatrics. This is where you learn to be a doctor rather than a student. Paid, supervised, and long hours.
- 5 Allergy and immunology fellowship** 2 years
A further subspecialty training program, then the certifying exam from the American Board of Allergy and Immunology.

Pros and cons

- + One of the best schedules in medicine, with little overnight call
- + You often make people dramatically better, quickly
- + Long-term relationships with families
- Thirteen years and six figures of debt before you start
- Fellowship spots are few and competitive
- A lot of time fighting insurers over drug approvals

Good to know

It is a small specialty

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology has more than 7,000 members. Compare that with hundreds of thousands of American physicians overall. Nearly everyone in the field ends up kno...

Allergy shots take years

Immunotherapy retrains the immune system by injecting tiny amounts of the thing you react to, increasing slowly. A full course usually runs three to five years, so patients become very familiar faces.

Optional boosts

Food allergy and oral immunotherapy. Primary immunodeficiency. Severe asthma. Drug allergy evaluation.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Allergists and Immunologists (29-1229.01)
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Association of American Medical Colleges

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/allergist-immunologist>



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