

Casino Dealer

Run a table game for eight hours. Weeks of training, a state background check, and most of your pay comes from tips.

TYPICAL PAY

\$34,320

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$24k to \$77k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Casino floors, tribal casinos, riverboats, cruise ships

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Finish it. Also practice mental arithmetic until payouts are automatic, because you will not use a calculator at a table.
- 2 Dealer school or a casino class** 1 to 3 months
Four to twelve weeks per game. Almost everybody starts with blackjack or a carnival game, because they are the quickest to learn.
- 3 Apply for your gaming credential** Weeks to a few months
Every gaming state screens you before you can work: fingerprints, a background check and a registration, permit or license depending on the state.
- 4 Audition** One shift
You deal a live game in front of a pit boss while they watch your hands, your speed and your errors. This is the real interview.
- 5 Break in and add games** 1 to 3 years
Start on the quiet shift on the easy games. Learn craps and roulette next, because that is where the better schedules are.

Pros and cons

- + You can be earning in under three months with no debt
- + The job exists in dozens of states and on every continent
- + Busy nights are genuinely fun and the money is immediate
- Most of your pay depends on strangers and on which shift you get
- Nights, weekends and every holiday, permanently
- Standing still for hours wrecks feet, backs and wrists

Optional boosts

Craps. Roulette. Baccarat and pai gow. Poker.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Gambling Dealers (39-3011.00)
Nevada Gaming Control Board
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
College of Southern Nevada

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/casino-dealer>

Good to know

Tips have their own word

In American casinos a tip to a dealer is a *toke*. At most properties *tokens* go into a pool split across every dealer on shift, so nobody is fighting over a generous player and nobody has a reason to favor one.

The eye in the sky is not a myth

Every table is filmed from above continuously, and the recordings are kept. Dealers are trained to clear their hands and show empty palms when they leave a table so the camera has a clean record.



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