

Endocrinologist

The doctor for hormones: diabetes, thyroid, bones, growth. A long training path for a job that is mostly thinking and talking.

TYPICAL PAY

\$256,560

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$74k to \$475k

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

Hospital clinics, group practices, diabetes centers, academic medi...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology and chemistry above all, with the grades to get into a strong college program.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Any major, as long as you finish the pre-medical science courses and sit the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
Two years of science, two years of hospital rotations. You graduate as a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D...)
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years
Wards, clinics and intensive care. Paid, supervised, and the foundation for everything after.
- 5 Endocrinology fellowship** 2 to 3 years
Endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. Two years for clinical training, three if you add research.
- 6 Board certification** After each stage
Certify in internal medicine first with the American Board of Internal Medicine, then in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism.

Pros and cons

- + Long relationships with patients rather than one-off encounters
- + Intellectually the most detective-like of the medical specialties
- + Clinic hours, very little night work
- Thirteen years and around \$200,000 of debt before you start
- Paid less than specialties that trained for the same length of time
- Much of the work is chronic disease that never fully resolves

Optional boosts

Diabetes. Thyroid disease. Bone and calcium. Pituitary and adrenal disorders.

Good to know

The specialty was built on one discovery

Insulin was first given to a patient in 1922, and a disease that killed children within months became something people live with for decades. Almost everything endocrinology does follows from measur...

Glands talk to each other in loops

The brain tells a gland to release a hormone, the hormone tells the brain to stop asking. Working out which step in a loop has broken, from a handful of blood tests, is the core skill of the job.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: General Internal Medicine Physicians (29-1216.00)
Endocrine Society
United States Medical Licensing Examination
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/endocrinologist>



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