

Gastroenterologist

The doctor for everything between the mouth and the other end. Fourteen years of training, and one of the best paid jobs in medicine.

TYPICAL PAY

\$236,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$66k to \$239k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

13 to 15 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospitals, endoscopy centers, clinics, physician group practices

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Top grades in biology, chemistry, physics and math. You need a strong average to get into a competitive undergraduate program.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Any major is allowed if you finish the science prerequisites. Keep the GPA high, get clinical and research experience, and sit the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
 Four years for either the MD (doctor of medicine) or the DO (doctor of osteopathic medicine). Two years of science, then two years of clinical rotations. Acceptance rates are around 40 percent of applicants overall and far lower at individual schools.
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years
 Matched through the national residency match. Three years of paid hospital training in adult medicine before you can even apply to specialize.
- 5 Gastroenterology fellowship** 3 years
 Three more years, matched separately and highly competitive. This is where you learn endoscopy, liver disease and the procedures the job is built on.

Pros and cons

- + Among the highest earning specialties in medicine
- + A mix of procedures and long-term patient relationships
- + You prevent cancers, not just treat them
- Thirteen to fifteen years and around \$200,000 of debt
- Night and weekend calls for gastrointestinal bleeding
- Repetitive procedure work is hard on your neck, back and shoulders

Optional boosts

Advanced endoscopy. Hepatology. Inflammatory bowel disease. Motility and functional disorders.

Where these numbers come from

O*NET OnLine: Physicians, All Other (29-1229.00)
 American Gastroenterological Association
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 United States Medical Licensing Examination

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/gastroenterologist>

Good to know

Screening now starts at 45

The US Preventive Services Task Force lowered the age to begin colon cancer screening from 50 to 45 in 2021, because the disease kept appearing in younger adults. That single change added millions of pe...

Your gut has its own nervous system

The wall of the digestive tract contains hundreds of millions of nerve cells that can run digestion without any instruction from the brain. Researchers call it the enteric nervous system, and popular writing c...



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