

Geriatrician

A doctor for people in their eighties and nineties, where the hard part is fewer pills, not more.

TYPICAL PAY

\$244,180

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$77k to \$429k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 12 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Clinics, nursing homes, hospitals,
house calls, veterans hospitals**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Biology, chemistry, physics and math, plus any time you can spend around older people. Volunteering in a care home is genuinely useful here.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Any major, as long as you finish the pre-medical science courses and hold a high GPA. Sit the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
 Two years of science, then two years of hospital rotations. You graduate as an MD (Doctor of Medicine) or a DO (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine).
- 4 Residency** 3 years
 Family medicine or internal medicine, three years, matched through the national residency match.
- 5 Geriatric medicine fellowship** 1 to 2 years
 One year in an accredited program, with a second year available for research or academic work. Then sit the added qualification exam.

Pros and cons

- + Long appointments and time to actually listen
- + Demand far outstrips supply, so you choose where you work
- + Some of the most predictable hours in medicine
- An extra year of training that usually does not raise your pay
- Your patients decline and die, and you know them well
- Fighting insurers and care systems on behalf of frail people

Good to know

The country is short of them and getting shorter

The number of doctors training in geriatric medicine has stayed roughly flat for years while the population over 65 keeps growing. Accredited fellowship positions go unfilled every single year, which is...

Medicare pays for almost all of it

Nearly every patient a geriatrician sees is covered by Medicare, the federal health program for people 65 and over. That single payer sets what the visits are worth, which is the main reason the specialty earn...

Optional boosts

Outpatient clinic. Nursing home and post-acute care. Hospital consult service. Home-based primary care.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Family Medicine Physicians (29-1215.00)

American Geriatrics Society: about geriatrics

American Board of Family Medicine: geriatric medicine added qualification

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/geriatrician>



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