

Hematologist

The blood doctor. Leukemia, lymphoma, clots, anemia and transfusions, with a microscope on the desk and thirteen years of training behind you.

TYPICAL PAY

\$236,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$66k to \$239k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

13 to 14 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Cancer centers, hospital wards,
blood banks, infusion clinics, univ...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Top grades in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very strong record to get into a competitive science program.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Any major works if you finish the required science courses. Keep your GPA high, get research and clinical experience, and write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
 Two years of classroom science, then two years of clinical rotations. You take the first two steps of the United States Medical Licensing Examination along the way.
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years
 Matched through the national residency match. Hospital wards, intensive care and clinics. In your second or third year you apply to the fellowship match.
- 5 Hematology fellowship and board certification** 2 to 3 years
 Most programs in the United States train hematology and oncology together. Leukemia and lymphoma wards, clotting and bleeding clinics, the blood bank, and reading bone marrow under a microscope. Then board certification and a state medical license.

Pros and cons

- + Some blood cancers are genuinely curable, and you see those cures
- + A rare mix of laboratory work, microscope diagnosis and long-term patient relationships
- + Salaried hospital and cancer center jobs are common, with real benefits
- Thirteen or fourteen years before you are fully qualified
- Around \$200,000 of debt is normal on the way through
- Patients die, including young ones, and you are the one telling families

Optional boosts

Malignant hematology. Classical hematology. Transfusion medicine. Stem cell transplant.

Where these numbers come from

O*NET OnLine: Physicians, All Other (29-1229.00)

American Society of Hematology

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

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/hematologist>

Good to know

The survey refuses to say

Federal wage data stops publishing once an occupation's top earners pass \$239,200 a year. For this group it simply reports everyone above that as one bucket. It is one of the few careers where the government...

Half the job is not cancer

People hear blood doctor and think leukemia. Hematologists also handle clotting and bleeding disorders, sickle cell disease, hemophilia and stubborn anemias. That side of the specialty, sometimes called c...



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