

Naturopathic Doctor

A four year medical style doctorate in natural medicine. Licensed in about half the states, and unrecognized in the rest.

TYPICAL PAY

\$115,210

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$65k to \$195k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

8 to 9 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private clinics, integrative health centers, group practices, teachin...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Biology, chemistry, physics and math, taken seriously. The prerequisites for the doctorate are real science courses.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Any major, with the science prerequisites: general and organic chemistry, biology, physics and psychology.
- 3 Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine** 4 years
 Four years at an accredited school. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology and diagnosis alongside botanical medicine, nutrition and counseling.
- 4 Clinical training** Included
 Supervised patient care in the school's teaching clinic, built into the final years of the program.
- 5 Licensing exams and a state license** Months
 The NPLEX (Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations), Part 1 in biomedical science and Part 2 in clinical science, then apply to your state board.

Pros and cons

- + Long appointments and time to actually listen to patients
- + A real four year clinical doctorate, not a weekend certificate
- + You run your own practice on your own terms
- About half the states do not license the profession at all
- High private tuition with no public school option
- Federal projections put growth below average

Good to know

Your state line decides your career

A naturopathic doctor with exactly the same degree can be a licensed primary care provider in one state and legally unable to use the title one state over. No other health profession in the country varies this...

There is no public school for it

Every accredited naturopathic medical school in the United States is private. There is no in-state tuition version of this degree, which is the main reason graduates carry heavy debt into a profession with unev...

Optional boosts

Residency. Integrative oncology. Women's health and fertility. Environmental and occupational medicine.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Naturopathic Physicians (29-1299.01)
 Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges
 North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners
 Bastyr University: naturopathic medicine

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/naturopathic-doctor>



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