

Obstetrician-Gynecologist

Delivers babies and treats everything from fertility to cancer of the reproductive organs. Twelve years of training, surgery, clinic, and births at 3am.

TYPICAL PAY

\$292,910

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$95k to \$437k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

12 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Labor and delivery units, operating rooms, hospital clinics, private off...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, chemistry, physics and math, with the grades for a competitive college.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Any major, as long as you finish the pre-medical science courses and sit the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
Two years of science, two years of hospital rotations. You graduate a Doctor of Medicine or a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.
- 4 Residency** 4 years
Four years of obstetrics and gynecology: deliveries, operating room, clinic, emergencies. Paid and supervised throughout.
- 5 Board certification** After residency
The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology requires written and oral examinations, and the oral one comes after you have been in...
- 6 Fellowship, if you want one** 3 years
Maternal-fetal medicine, fertility, gynecologic oncology or urogynecology. Optional, and each adds three years.

Pros and cons

- + Surgery and clinic in one career, so the days are never identical
- + You are present for the best moment in many people's lives
- + Patients you look after for twenty or thirty years
- Twelve years and about \$200,000 of debt before you start
- Nights and weekends are unavoidable while you do obstetrics
- Among the highest malpractice exposure of any specialty

Good to know

The board is nearly a century old

The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology has been certifying physicians for over 99 years and lists more than 38,000 current holders of its certificate.

It is a surgical specialty and a primary care one

Very few doctors both operate regularly and see routine patients for checkups year after year. This is one of the only fields where the same person does both all week.

Optional boosts

Maternal-fetal medicine. Gynecologic oncology. Reproductive endocrinology and infertility. Urogynecology.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Obstetricians and Gynecologists (29-1218.00)
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
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/obstetrician-gynecologist>



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