

Urologist

The surgeon for kidneys, bladders and prostates. Thirteen years of training, then some of the best pay in medicine.

TYPICAL PAY

\$265,930

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$69k to \$452k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

13 to 14 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospital operating rooms, urology clinics, cancer centers, outpatient...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top grades in biology, chemistry, physics and math. You are aiming at a competitive pre-medical undergraduate spot.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Any major, but you must finish the pre-medical science courses. Keep a high GPA, get research and clinical experience, and write the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test).
- 3 Medical school** 4 years
Two years of science, then two years of clinical rotations. Do a urology rotation early: this specialty is decided on relationships and letters.
- 4 Urology residency** 5 years
Five years, starting with a year of general surgery before you move into urology proper. Long hours, heavy call, operating from early on.
- 5 Board certification** 1 to 3 years after residency
The American Board of Urology requires a written qualifying examination, then a certifying examination taken after you have been in practice.

Pros and cons

- + Among the best paid specialties in medicine
- + A mix of clinic work and operating, not one or the other
- + Many conditions you treat can actually be cured
- Thirteen years and six figures of debt before you are done
- Matching into urology is genuinely competitive
- Night and weekend call for your whole career

Good to know

Urology is a surgical specialty that mostly avoids big cuts

Much of the work goes in through natural openings with a scope, or through keyhole ports on a robotic system. Patients often go home the same day from an operation that used to mean a week in hospital.

Kidney stones are getting more common

Roughly one in ten Americans will have a kidney stone in their lifetime, and rates have climbed for decades. Stone work alone keeps urology departments busy.

Optional boosts

Urologic oncology. Pediatric urology. Endourology and stone disease. Urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Urologists (29-1229.03)

American Board of Urology

American Urological Association

Doximity: 2024 physician compensation report

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/urologist>



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