

Medical Specialty Areas

(Information gathered from AAMC.org and ama.org)

Family Medicine

Family medicine is concerned with the total health care of the individual and the family, and is trained to diagnose and treat a wide variety of ailments in patients of all ages. Family medicine physicians receive a broad range of training that includes internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and geriatrics. Although the scope and practice of family medicine is broad, it is a precise discipline, integrating a unique blend of biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences. Family physicians possess unique attitudes, skills, and knowledge that qualify them to provide continuing and comprehensive medical care, health maintenance, and preventive services. These specialists are best qualified to serve as each patient's advocate in all health-related matters. Special emphasis is placed on prevention and the primary care of entire families, utilizing consultations and community resources when appropriate. Family physicians employ a diverse range of cognitive and procedural skills and coordinate care with other specialists when necessary.

Length of Training after Medical School: 3 years

Subspecialties:

- Adolescent Medicine
- Geriatric Medicine, Family Medicine
- Sports Medicine, Family Medicine

Internal Medicine

Internists are personal physicians who provide long-term, comprehensive care in the office and the hospital, managing both common and complex illnesses in adolescents, adults, and the elderly. Internists are trained in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, infections, and diseases affecting the heart, blood, kidneys, joints, and digestive, respiratory and vascular systems. They are also trained in the essentials of primary care internal medicine which incorporates an understanding of disease prevention, wellness, substance abuse, mental health, and effective treatment of common problems of the eyes, ears, skin, nervous system, and reproductive organs. An internal medicine physician's primary responsibilities include health maintenance and disease screening, the diagnosis and care of acute and chronic medical conditions, management of patients with multiple, complex medical problems, and serving as consultants to other disciplines such as surgery, obstetrics, and family medicine. An internist's work is characterized by extensive knowledge and skill in diagnosis and treatment.

Length of training after Medical School: 3 years

Subspecialties:

- Adolescent Medicine
- Advanced Heart Failure & Transplant Cardiology, Internal Medicine
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
- Critical Care Medicine
- Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
- Gastroenterology
- Geriatric Medicine
- Hematology

- Hematology & Oncology
- Infectious Disease
- Interventional Cardiology
- Oncology
- Nephrology
- Pulmonary Disease
- Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
- Pediatric Endocrinology
- Rheumatology
- Sports Medicine
- Transplant Hepatology

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Obstetrics and gynecology is a diversified specialty concerned with the delivery of medical and surgical care to women. This field combines two specialties: obstetrics, which focuses on the care of women before, during, and after childbirth; and gynecology, which involves the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the female reproductive system, breasts, and associated disorders. Relationships with patients are long-term and are often maintained through the postmenopausal stage of a patient's life. Obstetrician-gynecologists (Ob-Gyn) often serve as consultants to other physicians. In many cases, the Ob-Gyn is the primary care physician, with whom female patients have regular contact and obtain medical advice and counseling. The specialty also offers opportunities to practice other skills such as laparoscopic surgery, endocrinology, and preventive medicine.

Length of training after Medical School: 4 Years

Subspecialties:

- Critical Care Medicine
- Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Maternal & Fetal Medicine
- Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Pediatrics

Pediatrics is primarily concerned with the physical, emotional, and social health of children from birth to young adulthood. Concerned with more than just the physical well-being, pediatricians are involved with the prevention, early detection, and management of behavioral, developmental, and functional social problems that affect their patients. Depending on the patient's age, the measurements associated with these parameters can be quite different. A pediatrician deals with biological, social, and environmental influences on the developing child as well as with the impact of disease or dysfunction on development. The pediatrician also interacts with parents or guardians to define the health status of patients and to educate and provide anticipatory guidance about the child's normal health and growth. Pediatricians can be active at the community level by helping to prevent or solve problems in child health care and be a public advocate for children's causes. Pediatricians work to reduce infant and child morbidity and mortality, control infectious disease, foster healthy lifestyles, and the day-to-day difficulties of children and adolescents with acute and/or chronic conditions.

Length of Training after Medical School: 3 Years

Subspecialties:

- Adolescent Medicine
- Child Abuse Pediatrics
- Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
- Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology
- Medical Toxicology
- Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
- Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Pediatric Critical Care
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine

- Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Pediatric Hematology
- Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- Pediatric Nephrology
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Pediatric Rheumatology
- Pediatric Sports Medicine
- Pediatric Transplant Hepatology

Radiation Oncology

Radiation oncology is concerned with the generation, conservation, and dissemination of knowledge concerning the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer with particular emphasis on the role of ionizing radiation.

Radiation oncologists employ a variety of treatment modalities, including external beam radiotherapy (photons, electrons, protons, neutrons), radioactive implantations, hyperthermia, and combined modality therapy such as surgery and radiotherapy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, biological modifiers and radiotherapy. Radiation therapy is employed for both the curative and palliative treatment of cancer. As a medical specialty that is modality- rather than age- or gender-based, radiation oncologists treat both children and adults, woman and men, and tumors at a wide variety of sites. The most commonly treated cancers are lung, breast, head and neck, prostate, cervix and uterus, and colorectal. There are also a limited number of benign conditions treated with radiotherapy.

Length of Training after Medical School: 5 Years

Subspecialties:

- Therapeutic Oncology

Radiation – Diagnostic

Radiology is a medical specialty in which a variety of radiologic methodologies are used to diagnose and treat diseases. Diagnostic radiology encompasses a variety of diagnostic and image guided therapeutic techniques, including all aspects of radiological diagnosis (nuclear radiology, diagnostic ultrasound, magnetic resonance, computed tomography, interventional procedures, and the use of other forms of radiant energy). Physicians studying diagnostic radiology are primarily hospital based and can specialize in a number of areas, including: vascular interventional; neuroimaging and intervention; abdominal imaging and intervention; nuclear medicine; chest and cardiac imaging; pediatric imaging; and mammography. The radiologist's role has grown not only through great improvements in diagnosis, but also through the technological developments that permit numerous interventional radiology procedures. A diagnostic radiologist is the eye of medicine, helping the primary care physician diagnose and treat diseases.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4-5 Years

Subspecialties:

- Abdominal Radiology
- Cardiothoracic Radiology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology
- Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Neuroradiology
- Nuclear Radiology
- Pediatric Radiology
- Vascular & Interventional Radiology

Surgery General

General surgery is a discipline of surgery having a central core of knowledge common to all surgical specialties--anatomy, physiology, metabolism, immunology, nutrition, pathology, wound healing, shock and resuscitation, intensive care, and neoplasia. General surgeons are trained to manage a broad spectrum of diseases and injuries affecting almost any area of the body that requires surgical intervention. These physicians are involved in diagnosis, preoperative, operative and postoperative care of the surgical patient, and they are trained to provide comprehensive management of trauma and complete care of critically ill patients with underlying surgical conditions. The surgeon uses a variety of diagnostic techniques, including endoscopy, for observing internal structures, and may use specialized instruments during operative procedures. Although its scope is broad, general surgery usually involves the abdomen, breasts, peripheral vasculature, skin, and neck. General surgeons rarely perform neurologic, orthopedic, thoracic, or urologic procedures, but they should be familiar with other surgical specialties to know when to refer a patient to another specialist. They should possess excellent manual dexterity and make decisions quickly and decisively.

Length of Training after Medical School: 5 Years

Subspecialties:

- Hand Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery
- Surgical Critical Care
- Vascular Surgery

Orthopedic Surgery

Orthopedic surgeons are trained in the preservation, investigation, and restoration of the form and function of the extremities, spine, and associated structures by medical, surgical, and physical means. An orthopedic surgeon is involved with the care of patients whose musculoskeletal problems include congenital deformities, trauma, infections, tumors, metabolic disturbances of the musculoskeletal system, deformities, injuries, and degenerative diseases of the spine, hands, feet, knee, hip, shoulder, and elbow. The orthopedic surgeon manages special problems, diagnoses the injury or disorder, and establishes the treatment plan using surgery, medication, exercise, and/or physical therapy. They are also concerned with primary and secondary muscular problems and the effects of central or peripheral nervous system lesions of the musculoskeletal system. Orthopedic surgeons treat patients of all ages, mostly on a short-term basis. Since many of their patients have been involved in accidents, orthopedic surgeons also assess disability in legal actions. The field has undergone notable improvements in techniques and equipment, such as microsurgery and joint replacements. Their practice may be broad or limited to an area of special interest, such as hand surgery or sports medicine.

Length of Training After Medical School: 5 years

Subspecialties:

- Adult Reconstructive Orthopedics
- Foot and Ankle Orthopedics
- Hand Surgery
- Musculoskeletal Oncology
- Orthopedic Sports Medicine
- Orthopedic Surgery of the Spine
- Orthopedic Trauma
- Pediatric Orthopedics

Allergy & Immunology

An allergist-immunologist is trained in evaluation, physical and laboratory diagnosis, and management of disorders involving the immune system. Selected examples of such conditions include asthma, anaphylaxis, rhinitis, eczema, and adverse reactions to drugs, foods, and insect stings as well as immune deficiency diseases (both acquired and congenital), defects in host defense, and problems related to autoimmune disease, organ transplantation or malignancies of the immune system. These specialists can track down which substance or allergen is causing the problem, advise about how to eliminate the cause, and start a treatment plan.

Length of Training after Medical School: 5-6 years

Subspecialties:

- Clinical and Laboratory Immunology
- Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology
- Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

Otolaryngology

An otolaryngologist surgeon provides comprehensive medical and surgical care for patients of all ages with diseases and disorders that affect the ears, nose, throat, the respiratory and upper alimentary systems, and related structures of the head and neck. The specialty encompasses cosmetic facial reconstruction, surgery of benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck, and the diagnosis and management of allergic, sinus, laryngeal, thyroid, and esophageal disorders. With the exception of visual and eye-related disorders (the province of ophthalmologists) and lesions of the brain (managed by neurologists and neurosurgeons), otolaryngologists treat diseases and lesions above the shoulders--the ears, the respiratory and upper alimentary systems, and the head and neck. Specialists are trained in otology, rhinology, laryngology, allergy, head and neck surgery, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, and bronchoesophagology. They also have an understanding of the communication sciences (audiology and speech/language pathology), endocrinology, and neurology.

Length of Training after Medical School: 5 years

Subspecialties:

- Otology-Neurotology
- Pediatric Otolaryngology

Neurology

Neurology involves the treatment of disease or impaired function of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, muscles, and autonomic nervous system, as well as the blood vessels that relate to these structures. Neurologists treat patients who have a variety of disorders, including headaches, strokes, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, dystonia, muscular dystrophy, peripheral nerve disease, learning disorders, traumatic injuries to the nervous system, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and Alzheimer's disease. Some neurologists are also engaged in neurological rehabilitation. Many neurological problems are characterized by pain and can be chronic, debilitating, and difficult to treat. A large portion of the practice of neurology is consultative, but the neurologist may also be the primary physician. The specialty has close links with psychiatry, with which it maintains a combined certification board.

Length of Training After medical School: 4 Years

Subspecialties:

- Child Neurology
- Clinical Neurophysiology
- Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology
- Neuromuscular Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Vascular Neurology

Neurological Surgery

A neurological surgeon provides the operative and non-operative management (i.e., prevention, diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, critical care, and rehabilitation) of disorders of the central, peripheral, and autonomic nervous systems, including their supporting structures and vascular supply; the evaluation and treatment of pathological processes which modify function or activity of the nervous system; and the operative and non-operative management of pain. A neurological surgeon treats disorders of the nervous system; disorders of the brain, meninges, skull, and their blood supply, including the extra cranial carotid and vertebral arteries; disorders of the pituitary gland; disorders of the spinal cord, meninges, and vertebral column, including those which may require treatment by spinal fusion or instrumentation; and disorders of the cranial and spinal nerves throughout their distribution. Neurosurgeons diagnose problems through physical examination using tools such as magnetic resonance imaging and cranial taxonomy scans. Some have a special interest in operative and non-operative pain management. Neurosurgery requires manual dexterity and intense concentration when dealing with delicate parts of the nervous system. Not only must neurosurgeons be skilled surgeons, but many of them divide their time between the research lab and operating room.

Length of Training after Medical School: 6 Years

Subspecialties:

- Cerebrovascular & Skull Base Surgery
- Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology
- Functional Neurosurgery
- Neuro-Intensive Care
- Neuro-Oncology
- Neurotrauma

- Pediatric Neurosurgery

- Spine Service

Emergency Medicine

Emergency medicine focuses on the immediate decision making and action necessary to prevent death or any further disability both in the pre-hospital setting by directing emergency medical technicians and in the emergency department. The emergency physician provides immediate recognition, evaluation, care, stabilization, and disposition of a generally diversified population of adult and pediatric patients in response to acute illness and injury. A high-pressure, fast-paced, and diverse specialty, emergency medicine requires a broad base of medical knowledge and a variety of well-honed clinical and technical skills. The practice is primarily hospital emergency department-based, but with extensive pre-hospital responsibilities for emergency medical systems. The care provided by the emergency physician is episodic in nature and involves a full spectrum of physical and behavioral conditions.

Length of Training after Medical School: 3-4 years

Subspecialties:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Medical Toxicology
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine
- Sports Medicine, Emergency Medicine
- Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Physical medicine and rehabilitation, also referred to as rehabilitation medicine, is the medical specialty concerned with diagnosing, evaluating, and treating patients with physical disabilities. These disabilities may arise from conditions affecting the musculoskeletal system such as birth defects, neck and back pain, sports injuries, or other painful conditions affecting the limbs, for example carpal tunnel syndrome. Alternatively, the disabilities may result from neurological trauma or disease such as broken hips, spinal cord injury, head injury, or stroke. A physician certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation is often called a physiatrist. Physiatrists often coordinate the services of an interdisciplinary rehabilitation team that may include neurologists, psychiatrists and orthopedic surgeons as well as allied health care professionals. The physiatrist takes a holistic approach to patient diagnosis by considering the physical and psychological aspects of a patient's condition. A high degree of patient contact and long-term care are common in this field. Physiatrists use medical history, physical examination, x-rays and other imaging techniques, laboratory studies, and other diagnostic tools in patient management. The primary goal of the physiatrist is to achieve maximal restoration of physical, psychological, social, and vocational function through comprehensive rehabilitation. The physiatrist not only treats the person with medications but also treats patients with modalities such as heat, cold, massage, traction, electrical stimulation and biofeedback, as well as selective types of therapeutic exercises. Pain management is often an important part of the physiatrist's role. For diagnosis and evaluation, a physiatrist may include the techniques of electromyography to supplement the standard history, physical, X-ray, and laboratory examinations. The physiatrist has expertise in the appropriate use of therapeutic exercise, prosthetics (artificial limbs), orthotics, and mechanical and electrical devices.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4 Years

Subspecialties:

- Neuromuscular Medicine
- Pain Medicine
- Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
- Spinal Cord Injury Medicine
- Sports Medicine

Nuclear Medicine

A nuclear medicine specialist employs the properties of radioactive atoms and molecules in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, and in research. Radiation detection and imaging instrument systems are used to detect disease as it changes the function and metabolism of normal cells, tissues, and organs. A wide variety of diseases can be found in this way, usually before the structure of the organ involved by the disease can be seen to be abnormal by any other techniques. Early detection of coronary artery disease (including acute heart attack); early cancer detection and evaluation of the effect of tumor treatment; diagnosis of infection and inflammation anywhere in the body; and early detection of blood clot in the lungs are all possible with these techniques. Unique forms of radioactive molecules can attack and kill cancer cells (e.g., lymphoma, thyroid cancer) or can relieve the severe pain of cancer that has spread to bone. The nuclear medicine specialist has special knowledge in the biologic effects of radiation exposure, the fundamentals of the physical sciences and the principles and operation of radiation detection and imaging instrumentation systems.

Length of training after Medical School: 3 Years

Pathology

The discipline of pathology forms the basis of every physician's thinking about the patient. Modern pathology applies the latest advances in the biological sciences to traditional morphological methods of studying disease. A consulting specialist, the pathologist is truly the doctor's doctor, with expertise in one or more fields of anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine. A pathologist deals with the causes and nature of disease and contributes to diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment through knowledge gained by the laboratory application of the biologic, chemical, and physical sciences. A pathologist uses information gathered from the microscopic examination of tissue specimens, cells, and body fluids as well as from clinical laboratory tests on body fluids and secretions for the diagnosis, exclusion, and monitoring of disease. Anatomic pathologists usually work in hospitals, investigating the effects of disease on the human body via autopsies and microscopic examination of tissues, cells, and other specimens. Medical laboratory directors are responsible for the sophisticated laboratory tests on samples of tissues or fluids and the quality and accuracy of the tests. The practice of pathology is most often conducted in community hospitals or in academic medical centers, where patient care, diagnostic services, and research go hand in hand. Creation of new knowledge is the lifeblood of pathology and many academic pathologists devote significant time in their career to research.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4 Years

Subspecialties:

- Anatomic Pathology
- Blood Banking
- Chemical Pathology
- Clinical Pathology
- Cytopathology
- Forensic Pathology
- Hematology
- Immunopathology

- Medical Microbiology
- Neuropathology
- Pediatric Pathology
- Radiosotopic Pathology
- Selective Pathology

Anesthesiology

An anesthesiologist is trained to provide pain relief and maintenance, or restoration, of a stable condition during and immediately following an operation, obstetric, or diagnostic procedure. It is the anesthesiologist's foremost purpose and concern to protect the patient's well-being and safety just prior to, during, and after surgery.

Anesthesiologists have many responsibilities: preoperative evaluation of patients to determine conditions that may complicate surgery; management of pain and emotional stress during surgical, obstetrical, and medical procedures; provision of life support under the stress of anesthesia and surgery; immediate postoperative care of the patient; and knowledge of drugs and their interactions with anesthetic agents. Their functions also include long-standing and cancer pain management; management of problems in cardiac and respiratory resuscitation; application of specific methods of inhalation therapy; and emergency clinical management of various fluid, electrolyte, and metabolic disturbances.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4-5 years

Subspecialties:

- Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology
- Critical Care Medicine, Anesthesiology
- Obstetric Anesthesiology
- Pain Medicine
- Pediatric Anesthesiology

Colon and Rectal Surgery

A colon and rectal surgeon is trained to diagnose and treat various diseases of the intestinal tract, colon, rectum, anal canal, and perianal area by medical and surgical means. The specialty was known as proctology until 1961, when the name was changed to better reflect the specialty's focus. This specialist also deals with other organs and tissues (such as the liver, urinary, and female reproductive system) involved with primary intestinal disease. Colon and rectal surgeons have the expertise to diagnose and often manage anorectal conditions such as hemorrhoids, fissures (painful tears in the anal lining), abscesses, and fistulae (infections located around the anus and rectum) in the office setting. Training also provides the specialist with in-depth knowledge of intestinal and anorectal physiology required for the treatment of problems such as constipation and incontinence. Colon and rectal surgeons also treat problems of the intestine and colon, and perform endoscopic procedures to evaluate and treat problems such as cancer, polyps (precancerous growths), and inflammatory conditions. Practitioners treat all age groups, but most of their patients are middle-aged and elderly. Their work typically involves a mix of techniques such as endoscopy and colonoscopy. New technology has made minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery possible, as well as improving diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, colon cancer, and other patient problems.

Length of Training after Medical School: 6 Years

Sleep Medicine

A physician who specializes in the diagnosis and management of sleep-related clinical conditions, including circadian rhythm disorders. This subspecialty includes the clinical assessment, polysomnographic evaluation and treatment of sleep disorders including insomnias, disorders of excessive sleepiness (e.g. narcolepsy), sleep related breathing disorders (such as obstructive sleep apnea), parasomnias, circadian rhythm disorders, sleep related movement disorders and other conditions pertaining to the sleep-wake cycle.

Specialists in sleep medicine are expected to:

1. participate in an interdisciplinary care of patients of all ages that incorporates aspects of psychiatry, neurology, internal medicine, epidemiology, surgery, pediatrics and basic science;
2. acquire detailed knowledge of the sleep and respiratory control centers, physiology, and neurobiology underlying sleep and wakefulness;
3. diagnose and manage sleep disorder patients in outpatient and inpatient settings.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4 Years

Urology

Urology focuses on the medical and surgical treatment of the male genitourinary system, female urinary tract, and the adrenal gland. Urologists treat patients with kidney, ureter, bladder, prostate, urethra, and male genital structure disorders and injuries. They often coordinate care with nephrologists for patients with kidney disease and may perform kidney transplantations. Urologists may also investigate and treat infertility and male sexual dysfunction. Diagnostic procedures are very important for urologists. They use endoscopic, percutaneous, and open surgery to treat congenital and acquired disorders of the reproductive and urinary systems and related structures. These specialists see male and female patients of all ages and work in both hospital and clinic settings. Excellent surgical skills, manual dexterity, and good hand-eye coordination are important to this specialty.

Length of Training after Medical School: 5 Years

Subspecialties:

- Pediatric Urology

Internal Medicine – Pediatrics

Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med-Peds) training and practice synthesizes the disciplines of both internal medicine and pediatrics. Med-Peds physicians tend to the care of patients throughout their life span. Caring for

multiple generations of the same family requires an understanding of family dynamics, epidemiology and the impact of acute or chronic illness at all ages, all in the context of family systems. Med-Peds physicians draw from the knowledge and skills of pediatricians and internists to bring breadth and flexibility in their approach to clinical medicine. This adaptability provides the versatility to follow many paths throughout their career, including patient care as generalist, hospitalist, emergency room physician or subspecialist; research; administration; public health; and education.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4 years

Dermatology

A dermatologist is trained to diagnose and treat pediatric and adult patients with benign and malignant disorders of the skin, mouth, external genitalia, hair and nails, as well as a number of sexually transmitted diseases. The dermatologist has had additional training and experience in the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancers, melanomas, moles, and other tumors of the skin, the management of contact dermatitis, and other allergic and non-allergic skin disorders, and in the recognition of the skin manifestations of systemic (including internal malignancy) and infectious diseases. Dermatologists have special training in dermatopathology--the diagnosis of skin diseases including infectious, immunologic, degenerative, and neoplastic--and in the surgical techniques used in dermatology. The care of the dermatology patient may entail both topical and systemic medical therapeutics and a variety of surgical and cosmetic procedures, including excisions, sclerotherapy, laser surgery, liposuction, hair transplants and tissue augmentation therapies, anti-aging treatments, injectable and implantable soft tissue fillers, correction of acne scarring, chemical peeling, vein therapy, skin cancer treatment, and reconstructive flaps and grafts. In addition, dermatologists have a role in the care of normal skin, skin cancer prevention, and sun protection

Length of Training after Medical School: 4-5 years

Subspecialties:

- Clinical & Laboratory Dermatological Immunology
- Dermopathology
- Pediatric Dermatology
- Procedural Dermatology

Psychiatry

A psychiatrist specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, behavioral, addictive, and emotional disorders such as schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, substance-related disorders, sexual and gender identity disorders, and adjustment disorders. They understand the biological, psychological, and social components of illness. Most psychiatrists use some form of discussion (individual or group therapy, psychoanalysis, or behavior modification) to evaluate and treat problems, in addition to using pharmacological treatments. Psychiatrists generally use a holistic approach, since every aspect of humans affects their psychology. They work with individuals and families who are coping with stress, crises, or other problems. They need to use their entire base of knowledge and values when assisting and treating their patients.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4 Years

Subspecialties:

- Addiction Psychiatry
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Forensic Psychiatry
- Geriatric Psychiatry
- Pain Medicine
- Psychosomatic Medicine

Ophthalmology

Ophthalmology deals with the structure, function, diagnosis, and treatment of the eye and the visual system. This includes problems affecting the eye and its component structures, the eyelids, the orbit, and the visual pathways. Ophthalmologists are medically trained to provide patients with total eye care using medical, surgical, and rehabilitative services. In so doing, an ophthalmologist prescribes vision services, including glasses and contact lenses.

Length of Training after Medical School: 4 Years

Subspecialties:

- Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Ophthalmic Pathology
- Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Uveitis & Ocular Immunology