

THE EDUCAFE TIMES



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Behind the White Coat: Discovering the Personal Stories of Doctors

"A good physician treats the disease, the great physician treats the patient who has the disease." - Sir William Osler

The field of Medicine is and has been almost every child's childhood dream career. The white doctor's coat and the stethoscope have fascinated every child at some point of time. Medicine is one of the most respected professions across the globe as its basic nature is service orientation to humanity. In the present time of the pandemic, medical and para medical professionals are the ones most trusted, appreciated and respected.

Medicine as a career

This is one of the most popular career choices. In the Indian scenario, for many years now, when a student chooses Science after Std. 10, Engineering and Medicine are seen as the two most sought after careers. Pursuing a career as a doctor is a long and intense journey. This career requires hard work and countless hours and can come across as an arduous task. Work hours can be long and unpredictable. Family and personal life can be at stake. Medicine as a career may not be as financially viable as some other careers. However, it will never go out of vogue. There will always be a need for good doctors and the power to save lives and the respect that you get is well-worth the effort.

Career path

The basic medical degree (MBBS - Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) is an undergraduate course and is just the initial stage in gaining knowledge and competence for a future in medicine. After 5.5 years of training (4.5 years for MBBS + 1 year of Internship), and rural posting if any, some graduates decide to practice medicine, working in one's own clinic or in a hospital setting, while others chose to do their PG.

Message from the Editor

Hello Readers!

We bring to you another edition of The Educafe Times where we talk about the most sought out career opportunity- Medicine. Here we discuss the scope of the career, the challenges and the skills sets required. We hope it clears your doubts about the career. This edition also has a quiz section to check your knowledge about human body.

Have some new ideas for our newsletter? Share them with us at educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com and get a shoutout.

Happy Reading!!

Where and when to start?

- To pursue a career in Medicine, one should take up Science as the specialization, at the +2 level (11th & 12th) with Biology as a compulsory subject.
- At the end of +2, one needs to appear for the NEET (entrance exam). NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) is a national level exam administered by the National Testing Agency. Subjects for these exams would be Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology based on the CBSE syllabus. The age limit to attempt NEET is 17 to 25 years.
- Some private or autonomous colleges/ Universities also conduct their own entrance examinations.
- The scores obtained in +2 exams and entrance exam ranking can influence the options available in terms of colleges.

In the final year of M.B.B.S., in order to practice in India, students would need to appear for the proposed National Exit Test (abbreviated as NEXT) which is a Licentiate Medical Examination. NEXT will also serve the purpose of a Screening Test for students who study Medicine abroad and want to practice in India as well as for admission into postgraduate medical courses. After M.B.B.S., one can also pursue medical research or become a medical scientist.

What does a Doctor do?

Physicians support and manage the health care of people of all ages. Their duties include taking up of medical histories, performing physical examinations, conducting diagnostic tests, recommending and providing treatment and advising patients on their overall health and well-being.

Characteristics of a Doctor



DOCTORS CAN USUALLY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES:

General Physician

The go-to Doctors, when we fall ill. They treat a wide range of illnesses and also enjoy long-term relationships with their patients.

Surgeon

They perform operations to treat diseases and repair injuries. They generally work in a hospital setting.

Specialist

The experts of specific diseases as well as body parts, organs, and systems. Cardiologists, Oncologists, Neurologists, and Obstetricians & Gynecologists are examples of specialists.

NEET exam result is also considered for courses in Dental Science (B.D.S.) and Indian system of Medicine- AYUSH (Ayurveda/Yoga & Naturopathy/Unani/Siddha/Homeopathy).

Challenges

Some of the main challenges in this field are duration of the course and financial requirements. A student who has opted for PG finishes the course much later compared to PG counterparts in other fields. The hefty course fee by itself might pose a huge challenge. Work overload, irregular work timings, working on demand are some of the on-job challenges. However, being a doctor is one of the most satisfying careers. The trust and the relationship between the doctor and the patient acts as a driving force. Restoring good health and promoting the well being is the crux of this career.

Doctors play a very pivotal role to safeguard the society and are also equally involved in the betterment of our future.

Specializations (PG)

- General Surgery
- General Medicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- ENT
- Cardiology
- Orthopedics
- Ophthalmology
- Anesthesiology
- Pathology
- Pediatric
- Psychiatry

Prescribing Success : Srinivas Kodaganur Gopinath

In conversation with Dr. Srinivas Kodaganur Gopinath who did his medicine from Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute and Masters in Surgery from Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Karnataka. He is also attained membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2015.

Q. Why did you choose medicine?

This is probably the most easiest of all the questions. I was enamoured by my father. I choose medicine because of my dad. Nothing else. Studying your whole life.

Q. Is it true that a doctor has to study his whole life?

Yes, it is true. Especially in this era of evidence based medicine. There is a need to keep yourself updated at all times. It is not only restricted to Medicine but also applies to all STEM subjects. All aspiring doctors, scientists and engineers(not the one who become business managers later) need to develop a habit of reading. As Newton once said " I have been able to see further, only because I have stood on the shoulder of giants". So without knowing and understanding prior knowledge, there is very little progress.

Q. What are the pros and cons of becoming a doctor?

This requires a book to explain in detail. It is a very personal thing. And medicine is a heterogeneous field. So many specialties and sub specialties. All with different pattern of working and work hours. If you restrict yourself only to clinical medicine. Then it is likely that your work life balance will be very poor, especially in the initial stages of your career. Pros are, the joy of practicing medicine, of helping people get back to their normal lives, the excitement of dealing with life threatening situation on a daily basis.



Q. Any message for students?

Medicine is not for everyone. Be careful, before you jump. But, once you jump, enjoy the swim.

Dr. Srinivas is a thoracic surgeon and currently doing fellowship in thoracic oncology.

Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle



Q. I have completed my Engineering. I am interested to know about Intellectual Property Rights. Please let me know about the courses (Distance as well as regular) which will sharpen my IP skills.

Dear Student,

The term 'intellectual property' refers to those types of property that result from creations of the human mind, i.e., the intellect. The rights that arise out of this property are called 'Intellectual Property Rights.' Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) itself is a very broad branch of law.

There are five main types of IPRs:

1. Copyright – Protection of literary, artistic and scientific works
2. Patents – Protection of scientific inventions
3. Trademark – Protection of logos or brand names
4. Designs – Protection of Industrial Designs
5. Geographical Indications – Protection of goods referring to a country or to a place as being the country or place of origin of that product.

The courses available depend on whether you want to specialize in a particular type of IPR or whether you just want a broad understanding of the subject. Most national level law universities offer diploma courses. For example, the National Law School of India University offers a P.G Diploma course on Intellectual Property Rights Law. The NALSAR law university in Hyderabad offers a P.G course specifically on Patent law. In addition, the Indira Gandhi National Open University also conducts a course on IPR. Another place you might want to look at is the World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO]. It conducts several courses on IPR, the details of which can be found on their website - <http://www.wipo.int/>. Almost all the options mentioned are correspondence courses. As you have completed your Engineering, you might want to take a look at Patents in particular, as one generally needs both a science degree and a law degree to draft a good patent application.

HOW MUCH YOU KNOW YOUR BODY?

01. What percentage of the human body is water?

- A 50% B 66%
C 75% D 80%

02. A human's thumb is as long as his or her nose.

- A. True B. False

03. Cells related to _____ divide remarkably faster than other cells in the body.

- A. Eyes
B. Hair

04. The smallest bone in the human body is about the size of:

- A. The head of a pin
B. A grain of rice
C. An eyelash
D. A grain of sand

05. The smallest bones in the human body are found in the...

- A. Feet B. Ears
C. Fingers D. Knees

06. Sweat is the main cause of body odor.

- A. True B. False

07. In a single day, one of your feet can sweat the equivalent of half a glass of water.

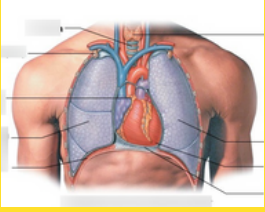
- A. True B. False

08. How many taste buds are on your tongue?

- A. Nine thousand
B. Nine million

Answers.
1.c, 2.a, 3.a, 4.b, 5.b, 6.
b, 7.a, 8.a

Who is a Thoracic Surgeon?



Cardiothoracic surgery is the field of medicine involved in surgical treatment of organs inside the thorax —generally treatment of conditions of the heart and lungs

Q. I am presently studying B.A. Psychology, Economics & Sociology. I want to do a Masters in Criminology & Forensic Science simultaneously take up civil service examination. Can I do both simultaneously?

Dear Student,

The Civil Service Examinations are conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year. There are three stages for selection:

Stage 1 - Civil Services Preliminary Examinations (CSP).

Stage 2 - Civil Services (Main) Examinations. Only those candidates who are selected in the preliminary examination are eligible to sit for these examinations.

Stage 3 - Those who get selected in the main examination are eligible to appear before the Interview Board.

To appear for the preliminary examinations, the UPSC guidelines state that the candidate must “hold a degree of any of the Universities incorporated by an Act of the Central or State Legislature in India or other educational institutions established by an Act of Parliament or declared to be deemed as a University Under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, or possess an equivalent qualification”. You can therefore appear for the Civil Services prelims after you appear for your final UG exam. examinations. The guidelines also state that “candidates who have appeared for an examination, the passing of which would render them educationally qualified for the Commissions examination but have not been informed of the results as also the candidates who intend to appear at such a qualifying examination will also be eligible for admission to the Preliminary Examination.”

You are therefore eligible to apply for the Preliminary Civil Services exam once you have finished your UG. You can also concurrently do your Masters in Criminology and Forensic Sciences. However, the Civil Service examinations are one of the most prestigious examinations and also one of the toughest. The success rate is said to be just 0.1%. Therefore, a lot of hard work and preparation will have to be put in to do well in these examinations. So while technically you can do both, it will require dedication and commitment to do well in both.



Confused about your career?

CONTACT US NOW

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In our next Edition



We will talk about this career. Can you guess?

Comment your answer below!

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