

Biomedical Illustrator

■ Job Description

Biomedical illustrators create visual material to facilitate the recording and disseminating of medical and biological knowledge. Illustrators employ various techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpting, layout, design, typography, computer graphics, and electronic imaging. An illustrator creates surgical and anatomical drawings, visuals for educational films, and artwork for brochures and posters. The illustrator may be expected to create models of body parts. Biomedical illustrators sometimes work with biomedical photographers.

■ Job Settings

Larger hospitals, universities and health science schools (such as schools of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine), pharmaceutical companies, medical publishers, research institutes, and advertising agencies, as well as free-lance studios

■ Projected Need

As the medical field grows, so will the need for skilled illustrators to depict new procedures, techniques and discoveries. Because there are only a few graduate programs in medical illustration, and small graduation classes, medical illustrators will find great demand for their skills.

■ Salaries

Entry-level salaries for graduates of medical illustration schools range from \$27,000 to \$35,000 per year. The average pay for an experienced medical illustrator ranges from \$35,000 to \$60,000 per year, depending on their location and level of experience. At the high end, they can earn between \$90,000 and \$120,000 per year.

■ Related Careers

Biomedical design, graphic arts, biomedical communications, and computer graphics

■ Differences in Training

Five schools in the country offer accredited master's programs in biomedical illustration: Medical College of Georgia, Augusta; University of Illinois, Chicago; Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland; University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor,

Michigan; and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas. Generally, four years of undergraduate study are necessary to gain the required foundation; preparation for graduate-level study should include a balance of art, premedical biology, and the humanities.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/login.asp>

[Medical Illustration](#)

■ Credentials

Eligibility for certification includes graduation from an accredited program in medical and biological illustration or five years experience as a medical illustrator and proof of successful completion of a dissection course in human gross anatomy. Applicants for certification must successfully complete a national certification exam administered by the Medical Illustrators Board of Certification.

■ Resources

Association of Medical Illustrators
5475 Mark Dabling Blvd., Suite 108
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Phone: 719.598.8622
E-mail: hq@ami.org
<http://www.ami.org>
Click on "About AMI" then on "MI as a Career."