

Ophthalmologist

■ Job Description

Ophthalmology is that branch of medicine dealing with the eye—its anatomy, physiology, and pathology. An ophthalmologist is a physician who specializes in the diagnosis and the medical and surgical treatment of diseases and defects of the eye and related structures.

■ Projected Need

Employment of physicians in Illinois and nationwide is expected to grow at an average rate through 2010.

Growth in this occupation will be due in part to technological advances that allow more medical problems to be treated. In addition, the number of older people is expected to increase rapidly. Older people are more likely to need medical care. As the population grows, demand for physicians will increase.

Demand will be strong for general and family doctors. The number of physicians in private practice will drop as more doctors join group practices. Physicians who are willing to move to rural and low-income areas should have little trouble finding a job.

■ Differences in Training

Four years of pre-medicine resulting in a bachelor's degree, four years of medical school (either allopathic or osteopathic), and four years of residency to become a specialist in ophthalmology.

See the Medicine Section.