Pathology 101

A specialty review made by residents for medical students

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What is Pathology?
A medical specialty that involves the laboratory examination of body tissue for diagnostic or forensic purposes.
Pathology

Anatomic Pathology

Clinical Pathology
Timeline for Pathology Training

- Pathology does not require an intern year.
- Most fellowships are 1 year long, rare fellowships are 2 years long.
- 3 year AP-only or CP-only residency tracks are also available.
Anatomic Pathology
Specialties

Breast Pathology
Bone & Soft Tissue Pathology
Cardiovascular Pathology
Cytopathology
Dermatopathology
Forensic Pathology
Gastrointestinal Pathology
Genitourinary Pathology
Gynecologic Pathology
Head, Neck, and Endocrine Pathology
Hematopathology
Liver pathology
Molecular Pathology
Neuropathology
Ophthalmic Pathology
Pulmonary & Thoracic Pathology
Pediatric Pathology
Transplant Pathology

Clinical Pathology
Specialties

Blood Banking
Clinical Chemistry
Clinical Informatics
Molecular Genetics
Medical Microbiology
Toxicology
Sample 4-Year AP/CP Residency Schedule

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How Much Do Pathologists Earn?

Plastic Surgery $501K
Orthopedics $497K
Cardiology $423K
Gastroenterology $408K
Radiology $401K
Dermatology $392K
Anesthesiology $386K
Otolaryngology $383K
Urology $373K
Oncology $363K
Ophthalmology $357K
Critical Care $354K
Emergency Medicine $350K
Surgery, General $322K
Pulmonary Medicine $321K
Ob/Gyn $300K
Nephrology $294K
Pathology $286K
Psychiatry $273K
Allergy & Immunology $272K
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation $269K
Rheumatology $257K
Neurology $244K
Infectious Diseases $231K
Internal Medicine $230K
Family Medicine $219K
Diabetes & Endocrinology $212K
Pediatrics $212K
Public Health & Preventive Medicine $199K
Do Pathologists Feel Fairly Compensated?

![Bar Chart]

- Emergency Medicine: 74%
- Pulmonary Medicine: 70%
- Dermatology: 70%
- Public Health & Preventive Medicine: 69%
- Psychiatry: 68%
- Pathology: 67%
- Oncology: 66%
- Radiology: 65%
- Cardiology: 65%
- Anesthesiology: 65%
- Infectious Diseases: 65%
- Rheumatology: 63%
- Otolaryngology: 62%
- Family Medicine: 61%
- Neurology: 60%
- Nephrology: 59%
- Ob/Gyn: 58%
- Gastroenterology: 57%
- Critical Care: 56%
- Ophthalmology: 54%
- Surgery, General: 54%
- Pediatrics: 53%
- Orthopedics: 51%
- Internal Medicine: 51%
- Urology: 51%
- Plastic Surgery: 50%
- Allergy & Immunology: 47%
- Diabetes & Endocrinology: 47%
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: 46%
Would Pathologists Choose the Same Specialty?
Why Choose a Career in Pathology?

- Pathology is central to patient care. Nearly 70% of hospital decisions are based on pathology.
- Pathology participate in direct patient care through Fine Needle Aspirations, Therapeutic Apheresis, and Pathology Review.
- Pathologists are at the forefront of medical research and discovery, and are specialists in molecular studies, cytogenetics, and personalized medicine.
- A career in pathology allows a healthy work-life balance, with ample post-work time for family, friends, and hobbies
- Pathology is a cerebral and challenging specialty that is constantly evolving
- Pathology is a specialty that supports research and education.
Work-Life Balance in Pathology

A recent AMA survey demonstrated that:

- 92% of physicians aged 35 or young felt that work-life balance is important Second level
- The average work week for a practicing pathologist was ~49.2 hours/week.
- Pathologists reported the lowest rates of burnout at 23%.
- Pathology was one of the top 4 specialties for workplace happiness.
Rotations and Medical Student Requirements

- Most pathology programs are ACGME accredited and participate in the National Residency Match Program (NRMP).

- Most candidates do at least 1 rotation in pathology, as it is essential to understand the profession and its responsibilities.

- Many medical students also choose to do rotations in specialties that frequently interact with pathology, such as: surgery, radiology, hematology/oncology, infectious disease, and others.
Rotations and Medical Student Requirements

Medical student rotations vary depending on program, but typically share the following components:

- **Grossing** surgical specimens
- **Signing out cases** in a general or sub-specialty model
- Participation in **clinical laboratory tasks and management**
- **Autopsy** with clinicopathologic follow-up
- **Fine Needle aspirations** with cytologic interpretation
- **Bone marrow aspirations and biopsies**
How do I apply?

- Almost all programs participate in the **NRMP**.
- Applications are accepted through the **Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)**.
- US graduates are expected to submit a **curriculum vitae (CV)**, personal statement, and at least 3 letters of recommendation.
Join the CAP Medical Student Forum: https://www.cap.org/member-resources/residents/cap-for-medical-students/medical-student-forum.

For more information on pathology as a specialty, please contact: medicalstudent@cap.org.