



Career Guide for a Doctor

A Complete Roadmap from NEET to Specialization

For Students & Career Counselling Sessions | 2026-27 edition



What is a Doctor?

The Medical Profession

A doctor is a licensed medical professional who diagnoses, treats, and helps prevent diseases and injuries in patients.

Doctors work in hospitals, clinics, research labs, and community health centres. They may specialise in areas like cardiology, neurology, surgery, pediatrics, and many more.

Medicine is one of the most respected and rewarding professions, combining science, empathy, and lifelong learning.

Key Facts

- ✓ **Duration:** 5.5 years (MBBS) + specialization
- ✓ **Governing Body:** National Medical Commission (NMC)
- ✓ **Entrance Exam:** NEET-UG (for MBBS)
- ✓ **PG Entrance:** NEET-PG / INI-CET
- ✓ **Min. Qualification:** MBBS + Internship



Eligibility Criteria for NEET-UG

Criteria	Details
Nationality	Indian citizen, NRI, OCI, PIO, or foreign national
Age (Minimum)	17 years as of 31 December of the year of admission
Age (Upper Limit)	No upper age limit (as per Supreme Court ruling)
Educational Qualification	10+2 passed with Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology & English
Minimum Marks (General)	50% aggregate in PCB (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)
Minimum Marks (Reserved)	40% (SC/ST/OBC) 45% (PwD)
Appearing Candidates	Class 12 appearing students can also apply (must produce marks later)

Note: Students from PCM stream can also appear for NEET after completing Biology as an additional subject from a recognized board.



NEET-UG: The Gateway Exam

Feature	Details
Conducting Body	National Testing Agency (NTA)
Mode	Offline (Pen & Paper / OMR based)
Duration	3 hours 20 minutes (200 minutes)
Total Questions	200 (attempt 180)
Total Marks	720
Marking Scheme	+4 for correct, -1 for incorrect
Languages	13 languages including English & Hindi

Syllabus: Based on NCERT Class 11 & 12 (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

Physics

50 Qs

Chemistry

50 Qs

Biology (Botany)

50 Qs

Biology (Zoology)

50 Qs

MBBS: The Foundation (5.5 Years)



After MBBS, you must register with the State Medical Council / NMC to practise medicine in India.



Postgraduate & Super-Specialization

MD / MS (3 Years)

- MD - General Medicine
- MD - Pediatrics
- MD - Dermatology
- MD - Radiology
- MD - Anaesthesiology
- MD - Psychiatry
- MS - General Surgery
- MS - Orthopaedics
- MS - Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- MS - ENT

Diploma Courses (2 Yrs)

- DA - Anaesthesia
- DCP - Clinical Pathology
- DCH - Child Health
- DGO - Obstetrics & Gyn.
- DO - Ophthalmology
- DLO - ENT
- DOrth - Orthopaedics
- DRM - Radio Diagnosis

Super-Specialty (DM/MCh)

- DM - Cardiology
- DM - Neurology
- DM - Gastroenterology
- DM - Nephrology
- DM - Endocrinology
- MCh - Neurosurgery
- MCh - Urology
- MCh - Plastic Surgery
- MCh - Cardiothoracic Surgery

Entrance: NEET-PG (for MD/MS/Diploma) | NEET-SS (for DM/MCh) | INI-CET (for AIIMS & other INIs)

Top Medical Colleges in India

Rank	College	Location	Type
1	AIIMS, New Delhi	New Delhi	Govt (INI)
2	JIPMER, Puducherry	Puducherry	Govt (INI)
3	CMC, Vellore	Vellore, TN	Private
4	AFMC, Pune	Pune, MH	Govt (Armed Forces)
5	MAMC, Delhi	New Delhi	Govt
6	Grant Medical College, Mumbai	Mumbai, MH	Govt
7	KGMU, Lucknow	Lucknow, UP	Govt
8	Seth GS Medical College, Mumbai	Mumbai, MH	Govt
9	Bangalore Medical College	Bengaluru, KA	Govt
10	IMS, BHU, Varanasi	Varanasi, UP	Govt (Central Univ.)

Rankings based on NIRF 2024 (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India). Rankings may vary by year.

Career Paths After MBBS/PG

Clinical Practice

Work in hospitals or open a private clinic.
Treat patients directly.

Government Service

Join as Medical Officer via UPSC/state PSC. Serve in PHCs, district hospitals.

Academics & Research

Teach at medical colleges. Conduct clinical research and publish papers.

Armed Forces (AFMS)

Serve as a doctor in Army, Navy, or Air Force Medical Services.

Public Health

Work with WHO, UNICEF, NHM, or NGOs on health policy and programs.

Healthcare Industry

Pharma, biotech, health-tech, medical devices, or health consulting.

Salary & Career Growth

Stage	Approx. Annual Salary	Setting
Intern (MBBS)	₹3 - 5 LPA	Government / Private Hospitals
Junior Resident (MBBS)	₹6 - 10 LPA	Govt. Hospitals (AIIMS, etc.)
MD/MS Resident	₹8 - 14 LPA	Govt. / Private Medical Colleges
Specialist (MD/MS)	₹12 - 30 LPA	Corporate Hospitals / Private
Senior Consultant	₹30 - 80+ LPA	Corporate / Private Practice
Super-Specialist (DM/MCh)	₹50 - 1 Cr+	Tertiary Care / Private Practice





Challenges & Rewards

Challenges

- Long & irregular working hours
- High stress and emotional demands
- Years of study before earning
- Heavy competition for PG seats
- Risk of infections & health hazards
- Work-life balance difficulties
- Continuous need to update skills

Rewards

- Save lives and improve health
- High social respect & trust
- Financially rewarding career
- Diverse specialization options
- Opportunities worldwide
- Job security (always in demand)
- Intellectual stimulation & growth



Success Tips for Aspiring Doctors

01

Start Early

Begin NEET preparation from Class 11. Build strong NCERT fundamentals.

02

Practice Mock Tests

Take regular mock tests and solve previous years' papers for time management.

03

Focus on Biology

Biology carries 50% weightage in NEET. Master NCERT Biology thoroughly.

04

Stay Consistent

Daily study of 6-8 hours with short breaks is better than last-minute cramming.

05

Join a Coaching Program

Structured coaching helps with strategy, doubt-solving, and peer learning.

06

Health & Well-being

Maintain physical and mental health. A tired mind cannot retain information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I become a doctor without NEET?

No. NEET-UG is mandatory for admission to all MBBS colleges in India, including AIIMS, JIPMER, and private colleges.

Q: What if I don't get a government MBBS seat?

You can opt for private colleges, consider studying MBBS abroad (must clear FMGE/NExT on return), or take a drop year to reattempt NEET.

Q: Is there an upper age limit for NEET?

No. The Supreme Court removed the upper age limit. Minimum age is 17 years as of 31 December of the admission year.

Q: What is NExT (National Exit Test)?

NExT is a proposed unified exam that will replace NEET-PG and serve as the final-year MBBS exam + PG entrance. Expected to be implemented soon.

Q: Can I do MBBS abroad and practice in India?

Yes, but you must clear the FMGE (Foreign Medical Graduate Examination) or NExT to get registered with NMC/State Medical Council.



Recommended Books & Resources

Subject	Book / Resource	Author / Source
Physics	Concepts of Physics (Vol 1 & 2)	H.C. Verma
Physics	Objective Physics for NEET	D.C. Pandey
Chemistry	Physical Chemistry	O.P. Tandon
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry	Morrison & Boyd
Biology	Biology Class 11 & 12 (NCERT)	NCERT (Must-read)
Biology	Trueman's Elementary Biology	Trueman
NEET Prep	MTG NEET Explorer (Mock Tests)	MTG Learning Media
NEET Prep	Previous Year Papers (10 yrs)	Various Publishers

Online Resources:

NTA Abhyas App | NEETprep | Aakash BYJU'S | Allen Digital | Unacademy | Khan Academy



References & Sources

1. National Testing Agency (NTA) - NEET-UG Information Bulletin (nta.ac.in)
2. National Medical Commission (NMC) - MBBS Regulations (nmc.org.in)
3. Ministry of Education, Govt. of India - NIRF Rankings 2024 (nirfindia.org)
4. NCERT - Class 11 & 12 Biology, Physics, Chemistry Textbooks
5. Medical Council of India (MCI) - Earlier Regulations (archived)
6. UPSC / State PSC Notifications for Medical Officer Recruitment
7. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (mohfw.gov.in)
8. World Health Organization (WHO) - Health Workforce Reports

Disclaimer: Information is based on data available as of 2025. Always verify latest updates from official sources.



Your Journey to Becoming a Doctor Starts Today

"The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease." — William Osler

Best of Luck on Your Medical Journey!