

Show me the MONEY

For many HOSA members, financial compensation is one of the numerous reasons they give for considering a specific career. Often career goals change as we get into college, experience different classes, and determine what type of profession will make us happy.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov> provides a wealth of information about career opportunities, wages, and much more.

According to the 2001 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the top 10 highest-paying professions in the US are:

Profession	Annual Salary
1. Surgeons	\$137,050/yr
2. Obstetricians and gynecologists	\$133,430/yr
3. Anesthesiologists	\$131,680/yr
4. Internists, general	\$126,940/yr
5. Pediatricians, general	\$116,550/yr
6. Psychiatrists	\$113,570/yr
7. Family and general practitioners	\$110,020/yr
8. Dentists	\$110,820/yr
9. Chief Executives	\$107,670/yr
10. Airline pilots, copilots and flight engineers	\$ 99,400/yr

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Other health professions offer promising salaries as well. As a future health care professional you will not only want to consider the current hourly wage, but also wage trends. Looking at the five year wage increase can give you insights into the kind of salary you can expect when you complete your postsecondary educational program.

Be aware that the salaries listed are averages. Actual salaries vary greatly, depending on many factors, such as the state, setting (rural or urban), and place of employment.

Health Profession	Average Hourly Wage in 2002	5 Year Wage Increase
Physician	\$51.66	33%
Medical Science Teacher, Postsecondary	\$48.27	22%
Optometrist	\$46.54	21%
Pharmacist	\$37.01	41%
Dentist	\$35.51	*
Managers, Medicine and Health	\$33.79	19%
Physicians' Assistant	\$31.50	36%
Dental Hygienists	\$28.65	42%
Speech Therapist	\$28.51	25%
Psychologist	\$28.38	24%
Physical Therapist	\$27.05	13%
Medical Scientists	\$25.44	19%
Registered Nurse	\$24.57	22%
Occupational Therapist	\$24.53	13%
Radiologic Technologists	\$22.29	37%
Respiratory Therapist	\$20.28	20%
Dietician	\$19.59	19%
Clinical Lab Technologists and Technicians	\$17.35	16%
Licensed Practical Nurses	\$15.65	25%
Health Technologists and Technicians	\$15.01	16%
Health Record Technologists and Technicians	\$13.17	13%

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the average hourly wage for Dentists has fluctuated over the past five years.

Dentists

1997	\$37.45
1998	\$34.36
1999	\$40.34
2000	\$34.81
2001	\$38.43
2002	\$35.51

For more information on career wages, visit <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/home.htm> on the web.

