

HOSA Clinical Specialty

Surgeon

Piper Slinka-Petka



Chapter # - 36062
Secondary
Preston High School
WV, USA



Running
Subcutaneous
Suture

Surgeon Career Summary

Job Description: What is a Surgeon?

A surgeon is a medical professional that specializes in the diagnosis, and repair of conditions that permit physical alterations to the body. Surgeons are trained to treat disease, injury, and deformities through operation. Every area and system of the body can possess illness only surgery can repair. Many different surgical specialties are designed to acquire specialized doctors. Surgeons are crucial versatile medical professionals that serve patients in both a clinical and operating setting. Their job duties are copious, with the most notable including diagnosing conditions, creating surgical plans, operating on patients, and pursuing post operative care. The surgeon career position is key in the web of healthcare professions. Their career emphasizes a wide spectrum of patient care, from diagnosis to physical repair.

Job Duties, Specialties, and Opportunities:

- Clinical Setting: Surgeons, in a healthcare provider office or hospital can examine patients, discuss preoperative plans, refer patients to other professionals, and treat illnesses and injuries. All Surgeons are physicians, therefore they can operate as a primary care doctor.
- Operating Setting: Surgeons are expected to organize surgical plans, view diagnostic reports (blood tests, x-rays, pathology reports, etc.), and perform surgeries.
- The American Board of Surgeons officially recognize 14 surgical specialties, these include: neurological surgery, ophthalmic surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, colon and rectal surgery, general surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, gynecologic oncology orthopedic surgery, otorhinolaryngology, pediatric surgery, plastic and maxillofacial surgery, urology, and vascular surgery.

Employment Characteristics:

Surgeons are hired in hospitals, government establishments, and for charitable non-profit organizations. The employment of Surgeons has a projected growth of 3% within the next 10 years. This is to be expected, as the profession is highly selective. Becoming a Surgeon is highly competitive, hence why the career is considered prestigious. The education and training required to pursue a career in Surgery is extremely selective, as admission into medical school is heavily dependent on obtaining a Bachelors Degree and sufficient scores on the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test). Followed by Residency programs with low acceptance rates. Then, an aspiring surgeon must apply for a job position. Which, in rural areas, is much less competitive than in urban areas.

When employers are seeking to hire certified Surgeons, they look for a professional that exemplifies intelligence, professionalism, responsibility, and respect for their craft. All while reviewing their residency program and performance. It is also vital for an employer to see that a Surgeon possesses resilience and dedication to their work. The career environment of a Surgeon is demanding, and frequently permits unpredictable hours. Employers attempt to find medical professionals that demonstrate the care they advertise. Sought after surgeons are friendly, approachable, and prioritize deeply the care of their patients. However, what is most important to employers is a Surgeons ability to perform in a way that expresses their extensive medical training. Good outcomes and a highly respected residency program are what is most important when many Surgeons are competing for a specific job position.

Education, Training, and Credentialing:

An aspiring surgeon must complete four years of undergraduate education. Most medical schools require a Bachelor's Degree, but some require an advanced degree. The prerequisites required to apply for medical school are usually found in majors such as Biology or Chemistry. However, undergraduate students can pursue any major of their choosing as long as they obtain the prerequisites. At the end of their undergraduate education, medical school applicants will take the MCAT. The additional requirements for medical schools vary, but all require the prerequisite course work, and MCAT scores. Others may additionally require job shadowing, independent research, and references of recommendation.

After acceptance to medical school, which is dependent on the applicant's skillset and school applied to, prospective surgeons must complete 4 years of medical schooling. The first two years are based in the classroom and lab studying basic medical science. After these, medical students will complete the first step of the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) examination process. After this, the remaining two are in clinical rotations supervised by a certified physician. At the end of medical school, students complete the second step of the USMLE and begin their application for specialized surgical residency programs. Typically, residency programs last 3-7 years, depending on their surgical specialty. This is where aspiring surgeons will practice medicine and surgery with the help of surgical attendings.

Finally, after the completion of residency, residents will take the final step of the USMLE. This is where they will attempt to become board certified. If desired, after board certification, surgeons may further their education by applying for a surgical fellowship.

Fellowships can allow surgeons to subspecialize. Pursuing a fellowship is optional, but surgeons must apply for jobs in an attending position. This is when they will be able to practice as a surgeon.

Recognized Professional Associations:

- American College of Surgeons (ACS)
- American Board of Surgeons (ABS)

Career-Related Data and Statistics:

The projected growth for surgeons is 3% through the next decade. In 2020, there was an employment of 727,000, and there is 751,800 projected jobs in 2030. (U.S Bureau Of Labor Statistics, 2022) Despite the small growth, surgeons have many jobs available to them due to their extensive training. Surgeons can choose to only be a physician, therefore granting them more job opportunities.

- Annually, the average Surgeon Salary is 294,520. However, this is heavily dependent on area, demographic, facility, and surgical specialty.
 - o The lowest 10% of surgeon income is 264,228 annually, while the highest ten percent is 444,728.
 - The average Surgeon works 50-60 hours a week. Certain Surgical Specialties can require unpredictable work times when surgeons are expected to be “on-call”. The work of a surgeon is not limited to set work hours, many working night shifts, weekends, and holidays.
- Surgeon is ranked #2 in best paying jobs and ranked #27 in Best Health Care Jobs.

HOSA CLINICAL SPECIALTY: Work-based Learning Form

Competitor Name Piper Slinka-Petka School: Preston High School

HOSA Advisor Name: _____ Contact Info: _____

Date(s) of Experience	Time Checked-In:	Time Checked-Out:	Total Hours:	Host Signature:
4/14/22	7:45	2:15	6.5	
4/18/22	1:00	3:00	2.0	

Thank you for taking this time to host a HOSA-Future Health Professionals Competitor! Please help them improve by providing the following feedback. HOSA members are responsible for this form as part of their event requirements, so please return it to them at the end of their learning experience. Thank you!

Objectives to Evaluate	Exceeds Expectation	Met Expectation	Needs Improvement
Competitor effectively explained HOSA to host	✓		
Competitor communicated professionally and effectively to set up experience (email, phone, in person, etc...)	✓		
Competitor demonstrated punctuality	✓		
Competitor was professionally/appropriately attired for experience(s)	✓		
Competitor conducted themselves professionally (positive attitude, engagement, prepared with strong questions, not on phone, etc...)	✓		
Additional Information (optional advice for this future health professional)	Very impressive, mature young woman. I believe she will do very well at whatever she decides to do.		

Host Name: Steven G. McLaughlin MD Title: STAFF ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Host Signature: Company Name: PRESTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Professional Interview Summary

Dr. Steven McLaughlin is a board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon (MD) who practices at Preston Memorial Hospital, Kingwood WV. He attended West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he studied engineering while also acquiring the Pre-Medicine prerequisites. While at WVU, Dr. McLaughlin conducted research in an orthopedic medicine lab. He then received his medical education at the West Virginia School of Medicine. Dr. McLaughlin completed his Orthopedic Surgery Residency in Nashville, Tennessee. Following that, he received his board certification from the American College of Surgeons, a certification he must uphold by completing a recertification test every decade. Currently, he practices at Preston Memorial Hospital where he diagnoses conditions, performs surgery, and operates in a clinical setting.

The interview I conducted with Dr. McLaughlin provided an essential assessment of his career experience. He offered paramount information on his path of education, job tasks, benefits of a surgical career, and motivations for pursuing Orthopedic Surgery. He began detailing his career path and how he was motivated to pursue Orthopedics due to a childhood of breaking numerous bones and a piqued interest in medicine. He described feeling unintimidated by medical training and welcomed it with open arms. Furthermore, Dr. McLaughlin expressed the necessity for aspiring medical students to uphold standards of discipline and confidence when entering medical school. He detailed his typical job duties of consulting patients, performing operations, and outpatient services. On a typical day, he performs numerous surgeries from hand surgeries to joint replacements. In addition, part of Dr. McLaughlin's job description is to

provide clinical care to patients by diagnosing and creating a plan of treatment. He can see patients individually or refer them to specialists or other therapeutic services. Many surgical patients he treats both pre-and-post-operation. As the head of Orthopedics, Dr. McLaughlin also oversees other medical professionals' treatment of Preston Memorial's orthopedic patients.

Dr. McLaughlin presents an overall enjoyment of his job, even divulging that his favorite part is watching patients recover and regain movement. He appreciates the challenging, fluctuating nature of surgery. Dr. McLaughlin feels the reason he has been able to remain satisfied with working long hours is the feeling of something new every day that comes with being a surgeon. When asked about maintaining the boundaries modern medicine challenges constantly, he mentions that his career is ever moving and anything but stagnant. Therefore his job requires him to stay up to date with new procedures, suturing techniques, and therapeutic services to ensure his patients receive excellent quality care.

Dr. McLaughlin identified the qualities that aspiring surgeons such as myself should aim to possess. Skills such as being detail oriented, perseverant, compassionate, communicative, and possessing sufficient physical dexterity. He mentions that the best surgeons that he has worked with show a commendable respect for learning and constant improvement. Dr. McLaughlin suggested that I should continue to pursue endeavors that serve the community. And he stressed the importance of patient care and bedside manner as a surgeon.

The interview I conducted with Dr. McLaughlin was informational and enlightening; It provided a positive insight into the world of surgery that otherwise would be unknown to me.

Learning Outcomes Summary

On April 14th, and April 18th, I shadowed Dr. McLaughlin at Preston Memorial Hospital located in Kingwood, WV. There, I followed him while he consulted patients and performed surgeries. On April 14th, I shadowed Dr. McLaughlin for approximately 6.5 hours while he performed four surgeries while I was present. He performed three Carpal Tunnel surgeries, and one hip pinning. All for which I was able to observe closely. In addition, I observed the consultation of patients and families. On April 18 Dr. McLaughlin guided me through 2 hours of a typical day of clinical treatment. He serviced numerous patients, by referring them to specialists, scheduling therapeutic services, and even administering shots.

The opportunity to observe Dr. McLaughlin offered valuable insight to the job title of Surgeon. While shadowing him, he worked performing every step of the surgical process from diagnosing patients, to consulting the family, prepping them for surgery, performing procedures, and overseeing post operative care. In the Clinic, I had the ability to observe patient-doctor communication and bedside manner. Dr. McLaughlin initiated friendly conversation with patients and their families and spoke with a reassuring tone. In the operating room, Dr. McLaughlin and the surgical team regarded each other with mutual respect, and the awareness of their duty to their patients.

Within this experience, I am grateful to have had the chance to observe a surgeon's job so closely; the opportunity to watch surgery and see physician duties. Dr. McLaughlin served as an excellent standard of how a surgeon should behave, learn, and operate. This experience only reaffirmed my interest in a career in surgery.

Clinical Specialty: Surgeon

Running Subcutaneous Suture Skill Checklist

Competitor # _____ Judges Signature _____

Running Subcutaneous Suture	JUDGE USE ONLY: Comments
1. Place Gloves on Hands	
2. Choose Suture type, Open Suture	
3. Load Needle Holder	
4. Pass needle from deep to superficial at apex of wound, pass needle through.	
5. Create a Surgeons knot. (Looping around twice)	
6. Pass Needle vertically through superficial then through skin edge.	
7. Pass needle back through skin edge and horizontally into superficial to hide the suture.	
8. Horizontally pass needle through superficial tissue	
9. Mirror horizontal passes, pulling skin taunt.	
10. Push needle horizontally through end apex. (Securing the Stitch)	

11. Pull Thread taunt, closing the wound.	
--	--

References

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2022, April 18). *Physicians and surgeons* : *Occupational outlook handbook*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved May 15, 2022, **[from https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physicians-and-surgeons.htm](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physicians-and-surgeons.htm)**
- *Surgeon - Career Rankings, Salary, Reviews and Advice | US News Best Jobs*. **<https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/surgeon>**.
- Tom. "A Brief Synopsis of Medical School - From First Year to Residency." *Peterson's*, Peterson's, 27 Feb. 2020, **<https://www.petersons.com/blog/a-brief-synopsis-of-medical-school-medical-school-requirements/>**.