Event Name: Health Career Display
Team Member Names: Emilie Holmes, Hannah Deen
HOSA Division: Secondary
HOSA Chapter #: 15329
School Name: Belleview High School
Chartered Association: Florida HOSA
Chosen Profession: Cardiothoracic Surgeon

References


Career Overview

A cardiothoracic surgeon is a physician who performs surgical procedures in the thorax (chest) region. Many procedures involve work with the heart, lungs, esophagus, and other chest areas. Although the path to becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon is lengthy, the career is very profitable. This includes monetarily and through their contribution to society.

Challenges

- Extensive Schooling
- Physically Demanding
- Emotional Burnout
- Possible Medical Error Lawsuits
- The Expensive Process to become a Cardiothoracic Surgeon
- Keeping Up with Technology

Benefits

- Health/Disability Insurance
- Dental Benefits
- Paid Vacation Time
- Great Salary
- Job Growth Opportunities
- High Job Satisfaction
- Helping people
Education Requirements

In chronological order:

1. Gain a bachelor’s degree in science, biology and chemistry are common majors among pre-med students.
2. Pass the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test).
3. Complete four years of medical school.
4. Obtain state licensure to practice medicine.
5. Along with a cardiothoracic surgery residency, which takes five to seven years.
6. Then, you must pass a variety of tests and certifications administered by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS).
7. Finally, apply to attend a fellowship for specific training in the cardiothoracic surgery field. This takes 2 to 3 years.
Job Responsibilities

A cardiothoracic surgeon’s job responsibilities include:

- **The Ability to Conduct Medical Management** - On the patient level, this refers to a cardiothoracic surgeon informing the patient about their condition and providing the best possible treatment. On the organizational level, this term alludes to ensuring that medical treatment is delivered to meet the needs of all patients.
- **Formulating Accurate Diagnoses** – This is important in verifying that the patient gets the appropriate medical attention.
- **Determining the Method to take when Performing a Surgical Procedure** - The surgical approach taken can determine whether the surgery is successful or not.
- **Considering Patient History to Determine Treatment** - This is essential in knowing what genetic diseases to look for and to avoid potential errors, especially with prescriptions.
- **Conforming to Laws and Regulations** – Obtaining and renewing proper licensure and certifications is vital to continue being a cardiothoracic surgeon.
- **Conducting Follow-up Visits** - These follow-up visits can help to ensure correct incision site healing, provide any additional needed care, and to answer any questions the patient may have.

Salary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Entry Level Salary</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Global</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hourly</td>
<td>$68/hour</td>
<td>$70/hour</td>
<td>$50/hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>$21,903/month</td>
<td>$22,589/month</td>
<td>$16,079/month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>$262,842/year</td>
<td>$271,075/year</td>
<td>$192,954/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are opportunities for advancement and increased pay as a cardiothoracic surgeon progresses through their career. These changes in salary can be correlated with skill level, practicing location, subspecialties, and years of experience. As a senior cardiothoracic surgeon, the earnings are considerably higher than from an entry level point. A senior cardiothoracic surgeon would make $689,626 locally, $711,228 nationally, and $613,700 globally.
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**Additional Information**

**Work Schedule:**
Cardiothoracic surgeons also have a long, demanding work schedule:
- Work more than 60 hours a week
- Younger Cardiothoracic Surgeons may work up to 84 hours a week
- Office hours: 8am-5pm a couple of times a week
- On-call for a 24-hour shift
- Night shifts
- Back-to-back shifts

**Personal Characteristics:**
Cardiothoracic Surgeons tend to be:
- Investigative
- Realistic
- Empathetic
- Resilient

**Technological Growth:**
Advanced technology and techniques in Cardiothoracic surgery include:
- Coronary revascularization
- Mechanical circulatory support devices
- Ventricular replacement devices
- Ventricular assist devices (VADs)
- Valvular surgery changing into robotic and minimally invasive surgery

**Helpful Skills:**
- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Ability to Remain Calm in Stressful Situations
- Attention to Detail
- Leadership and Management
- Physical Stamina

**Career Environment:**
Cardiothoracic surgeons typically work in:
- Hospitals
- Private Clinics
- Medical Schools
- Government Funded Facilities