New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge › Skill › Opportunity

*Careers in the Licensed Professions*

# Medical Physicist

***Medical physicists*** apply the principles of physics in the use of radiation for medical purposes. They protect people from unsafe and unnecessary exposure to radiation; ensure the availability of high-quality medical images; and direct and deliver proper doses of radiation. Examples of activities:

- calculate safe and effective dosages of radiation
- inspect, test, and calibrate medical devices that use or measure radiation
- oversee proper disposal of radioactive waste
- design the shielding needed around radiation sources

***Medical physicists are licensed in one or more specialties:***

- diagnostic radiological physics
- medical health physics
- medical nuclear physics
- therapeutic radiological physics

## Education

Complete a master's or doctoral degree in a Department-registered medical physics licensure program. A program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs (CAMPEP) is acceptable.

## Experience

At least 2 years of full-time work experience in the specialty for which you seek licensure. A CAMPEP accredited residency is acceptable.

## Examination

Examinations vary by specialty area of licensure.

## Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: $161,547
- Salary range: $106,000-$230,000
- Projected growth: moderate, for all Physicists

## Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals and cancer centers
- Industry and government
- Consulting
- Academia and Research

## Your Interests and Abilities

- Physics and other sciences
- Mathematics
- Technology use and development

## Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Curiosity

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