



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai

Career Planning Services Newsletter

February 2017

Spotlight on: Plastic Surgery

Overview

From [AAMC Careers in Medicine](#) >choose your specialty> Plastic Surgery

A plastic surgeon deals with the repair, reconstruction, or replacement of physical defects of form or function involving the skin, musculoskeletal system, craniomaxillofacial structures, hand, extremities, breast and trunk, and external genitalia or cosmetic enhancement of these areas of the body. The plastic surgeon uses cosmetic surgical principles to both improve overall appearances and to optimize the outcome of reconstructive procedures as well. Special knowledge and skill in the design and surgery of grafts, flaps, and free tissue transfer and replantation is necessary. Competence in the management of complex wounds, the use of implantable materials, and in tumor surgery is required. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and other basic sciences are fundamental to the specialty. Competency in plastic surgery implies an amalgam of basic medical and surgical knowledge, operative judgment, technical expertise, ethical behavior, and interpersonal skills to achieve problem resolution and patient satisfaction. Plastic surgeons also need to hone their ability to think in three dimensions, as well as have good aesthetic sense, creativity, and appreciation for detail. Subspecialty certifications include craniofacial surgery and surgery of the hand.



Why I Chose Plastic Surgery

By Peter Taub, MD, Professor, Surgery, Pediatrics, Neurosurgery and Dentistry

I chose Plastic Surgery because it is the most varied and the most creative of all the specialties. No other medical or surgical specialty deals with the entire patient from the top of the head to the bottom of the feet, and no other specialty needs to have as much knowledge of anatomy and physiology throughout the body. Plastic surgeons deal with skin and fat and tendon and ligament and muscle and bone and cartilage and hair and nails. We

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Information about Surgery from AAMC Careers in Medicine

Subspecialties

- Craniofacial Surgery, Plastic Surgery
- Hand Surgery, Plastic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery-Integrated

Setting

58% of physicians in this specialty practice in an urban setting at:

- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

2% of physicians in this specialty practice in a rural setting at:

- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

Patient Profile

5 most frequently encountered conditions

1. Cosmetic (all types)
2. Skin cancer
3. Breast reconstruction
4. Breast reduction surgery
5. Hand surgery

Length of training

6 Years

Median Salary

\$ 496,243

Average Hours Worked Per Week

52

Careers in
Medicine



Want more information about Plastic Surgery?

Specialty advisor: Peter J. Taub, MD

Chief of Plastic Surgery: Lester Silver, MD

Check out the Specialty Information page on the CPS App!

<http://cps.careteamapp.com/home>

Societies, Boards, and Other Organizations

[Aesthetic Surgery Education and Research Foundation](#)
[American Academy of Facial and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery](#)
[American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery](#)
[American Board of Plastic Surgery](#)
[American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery](#)
[American Society for Dermatologic Surgery](#)
[American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons](#)
[American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery](#)
[American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#)
[Foundation for Reconstructive Plastic Surgery](#)
[Plastic Surgery Research Council](#)
[Society of Plastic Surgical Skin Care Specialists](#)

Publications

[Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery](#)
[Aesthetic Surgery Journal](#)
[Annals of Plastic Surgery](#)
[Journal of Burns and Surgical Wound Care](#)
[Aesthetic Plastic Surgery](#)
[Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery](#)

Office of Student Affairs

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<http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical/student-affairs>