



# How to Become a Dermatologist in India: Eligibility, Fees, Exams & Career Path

If you've ever wondered how doctors specialise in skin, hair, and nail health — or why Dermatology is one of the most sought-after medical branches in India — this guide will walk you through the entire journey in a simple, human-friendly way. Becoming a dermatologist takes commitment, long hours of study, and a genuine interest in understanding how the skin works, but the rewards... both intellectually and financially... are truly worth it.



Whether you're a student preparing for NEET, a parent trying to understand medical career paths, or someone curious about MD Dermatology in India, this guide has everything you need.

## What Does a Dermatologist Do?

A dermatologist diagnoses and treats conditions related to skin, hair, nails, and cosmetic concerns. From acne, pigmentation, allergies, and infections to advanced procedures like lasers, fillers, and minor surgeries — dermatologists handle a wide range of medical and aesthetic issues.

The field has grown rapidly in India due to rising demand for skin care, cosmetic dermatology, and personalised treatments.

## **1. Eligibility to Become a Dermatologist in India**

To enter [Dermatology](#), you must follow a step-by-step education pathway:

### **Step 1: Complete Class 12 (PCB)**

Subjects required: Physics, Chemistry, Biology

Minimum marks: 50% (varies for reserved categories)

### **Step 2: Clear NEET-UG**

[NEET-UG](#) is compulsory to enter MBBS. Higher your rank, better the college.

Step 3: Complete [MBBS](#) (5.5 years)

Includes:

4.5 years academic study

1 year of rotational internship

### **Step 4: Crack NEET-PG / NExT (Future)**

This entrance exam decides your specialization. Dermatology (MD Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy) requires very high rank, as seats are limited.

## **Step 5: MD Dermatology (3 years)**

Includes:

Dermatopathology

Clinical Dermatology

Cosmetology

Venereology

Leprosy

Laser medicine

## **Step 6: Optional Fellowships**

After MD, students often choose short-term or long-term fellowships:

Cosmetic Dermatology

Dermatosurgery

Anti-aging

Trichology (Hair)

Laser Aesthetic Medicine

## **2. Entrance Exams Required**

Below are the important exams you must clear:

**Stage**

**Exam**

**Description**

Enter [MBBS](#)

[NEET-UG](#)

National exam to get MBBS  
seats

Enter MD Dermatology

[NEET-PG/NEXT](#)

Mandatory exam for  
dermatology specialization

Abroad options

[USMLE/PLAB](#)

Optional if studying or  
practicing outside India

### **3. Course Duration**

#### **Course**

Duration

MBBS

5.5 years

MD Dermatology

3 years

Fellowship (optional)

6-12 months

Total Time

8-9 years

### **4. Fees for Dermatology in India**

Dermatologist course fees vary depending on institution type.

#### **MBBS Fees**

- Government colleges: ₹1,00,000 – ₹5,00,000 (entire course)
- Private colleges: ₹50,00,000 – ₹1.2 crore

## **MD Dermatology Fees**

Government colleges: ₹1,00,000 – ₹5,00,000

Private colleges: ₹40,00,000 – ₹1 crore

Dermatology is expensive in private institutions due to limited seats and high demand.

## **5. Types of Dermatologists**

Dermatology is not just one field. It has several branches:

### **Type of Dermatologist**

#### **What They Do**

##### **Clinical Dermatologist**

Treats acne, eczema, psoriasis, allergies, fungal infections

##### [Cosmetic Dermatologist](#)

Deals with lasers, Botox, fillers, anti-aging, pigmentation

##### **Dermatosurgeon**

Performs surgeries like mole removal, scar revision, hair transplant

##### [Pediatric Dermatologist](#)

Treats infants' & children's skin disorders

##### **Dermatopathologist**

Diagnoses skin diseases at microscopic level

## Why is This Important?

Once you complete MD Dermatology, you can choose any subspecialty depending on your interest. Cosmetic Dermatology and Dermatotomy are currently the fastest-growing fields in India.

## 6. Dermatologist Salary in India

Dermatology is among the highest-paying medical specialisations.

### Average Salary Range

Experience Level

Monthly Salary

Annual Salary

Fresh MD Dermatologist

₹1,00,000 – ₹2,50,000

₹12–30 LPA

3–5 years experience

₹2,00,000 – ₹4,00,000

₹24–48 LPA

Senior Dermatologist

₹4,00,000 – ₹8,00,000+

₹60 LPA+

Own Clinic (Cosmetic)

₹3,00,000 – ₹10,00,00

₹50 LPA – ₹1 crore+

## FAQs

**Q1.** Why do toppers in NEET-PG choose Dermatology?

**Ans.** Because it offers excellent work-life balance, high income, low emergencies, and growing demand for cosmetic dermatology.

**Q2.** What can I do if I want to become a dermatologist?

**Ans.** Start by focusing on Biology in 12th, clear NEET-UG, complete MBBS, then aim for a high rank in NEET-PG to secure an MD Dermatology seat.

**Q3.** Is Dermatology a high-paying field?

**Ans.** Yes. With cosmetic dermatology booming in India, dermatologists earn among the highest in the medical field.

**Q4.** Can I open my own clinic after MD Dermatology?

**Ans.** Absolutely. Most dermatologists open a skin or cosmetic clinic within 1–2 years of completing MD.

**Q5.** Do dermatologists only treat skin problems?

**Ans.** No. They treat hair, nails, cosmetic issues, allergies, infections, scars, pigmentation, burns, aging, and more.

## **Conclusion**

Dermatology is one of the most rewarding and balanced medical careers today. If you enjoy a mix of medical knowledge, patient interaction, and creativity, this field might be the perfect fit for you. It does take years of dedication—from clearing NEET to finishing your MD—but the long-term stability and satisfaction make it worth it.

If you're confused between medical specialisations or want clarity about whether Dermatology actually suits you, you can explore Infigon Futures for personalised career guidance or try their [Psychometric Test](#) to understand your strengths better.

These tools help you make decisions confidently instead of feeling lost in the crowd of options.

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