

EDUCATION MATTERS: COMPARISON OF PROVIDER TRAINING

Compare the education and training of physicians and nonphysician providers to see why physicians are the most trusted and qualified to lead health care teams and why nonphysicians are not a replacement for a physician.



Physician Training (M.D./D.O.)

	UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	POST-GRADUATE SCHOOLING	YEARS OF RESIDENCY/ FELLOWSHIP TRAINING	TOTAL PATIENT CARE HOURS	TOTAL TIME FOR COMPLETION
Physician (M.D. or D.O.)	Standard 4-year BA/BS	4-year doctoral program	3-7 Years	10,000-16,000 hours	12-14 years

Allied Health Care Training

	UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	POST-GRADUATE SCHOOLING	YEARS OF RESIDENCY/ FELLOWSHIP TRAINING	TOTAL PATIENT CARE HOURS	TOTAL TIME FOR COMPLETION
Pharmacist	2-3 years of undergraduate prerequisites only, BA/BS not required	4-year doctoral pharmacy program	Optional	1,740 hours	6-7 years
Naturopath	Standard 4-year BA/BS	4-year naturopathic doctoral program	Not Required	720-1,200 hours	8 years
Nurse Practitioner	4-year BA/BS	2-4 year master's or doctorate program	Not required	500-720 hours	6-8 years
Physician Assistant (PA or PA-C)	Standard 4-year BA/BS (not uniformly required)	2-2.5-year master's program (some award a bachelor's certificate of completion or associate)	Optional	2,000 hours	6-6.5 years