

# Education and Training

## MATTERS

*It is within the framework of education and clinical training that health care professionals are prepared to deliver safe, quality care. The rigorous education and supervised training physicians receive ensures that they are well-equipped to independently provide complex differential diagnosis, develop a treatment plan that addresses multiple organ systems, and order and interpret tests within the context of a patient's overall health condition.*

*In contrast, certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs) are trained to provide preventative care and to recognize and treat routine health problems, such as strep throat, ear infections, or conjunctivitis. CRNPs lack the comprehensive medical training necessary to recognize when a patient*

*has multiple symptoms that may or may not be related, a condition that affects several organ systems, or a condition that requires a number of medical interventions or medications.*

*In collaboration with physicians, CRNPs provide indispensable care to patients and can greatly help in meeting our growing health care needs. However, because CRNPs' education and training fails to provide an adequate clinical foundation for independent practice, the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) strongly opposes legislation that would fragment the health care team and deem them independent practitioners.*

### PHYSICIAN EDUCATION

vs.

### CRNP EDUCATION

Primary Care Physician

#### Undergraduate Education

4 YEARS BA/BS

Rigorous prerequisites during undergraduate study—such as organic and inorganic chemistry, physics, biology, biochemistry and English—are necessary for medical school acceptance, as well as successful passage of the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

#### Advanced Education & Training

7 YEARS MEDICAL SCHOOL & RESIDENCY

After 4 years of medical education, medical school graduates must complete a period of supervised clinical training, commonly referred to as residency. A minimum of 3 years in residency is required of primary care physicians.

CRNP

\*4 YEARS BA/BS

\*While a standard 4-year degree, preferably a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), is recommended, alternate pathways exist for an RN without a bachelor's degree to enter some master's programs.

1.5-3 YEARS GRADUATE SCHOOL

A master's degree in nursing (MSN) is the minimum requirement to become a CRNP; however, there is wide variation in the education standards of MSN programs. Many schools offer options such as "accelerated" degrees, part-time study, or programs that can be completed almost entirely online.

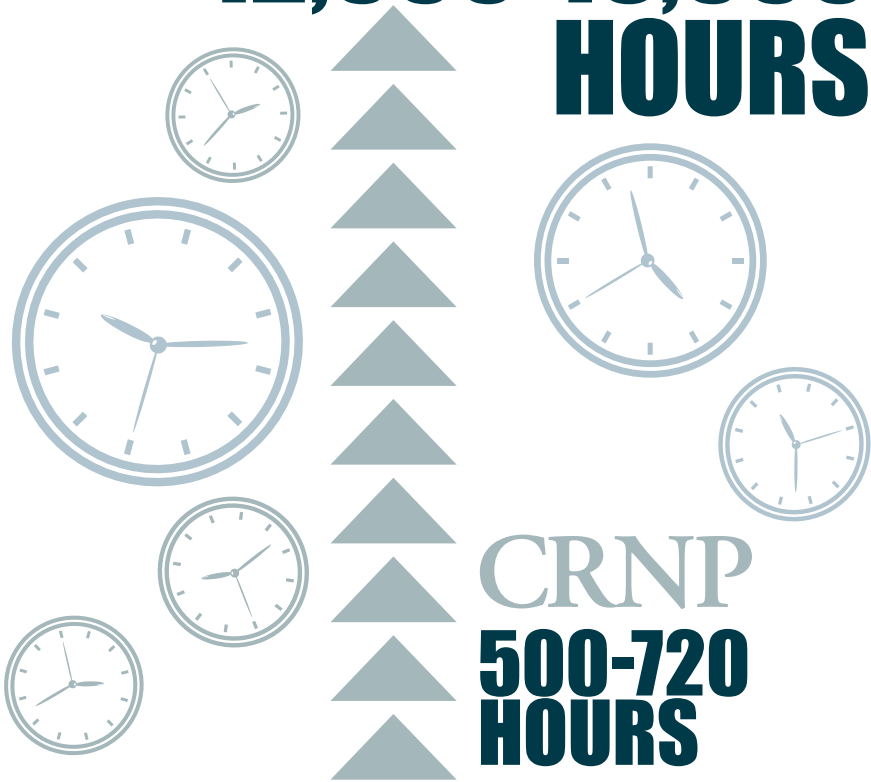


Pennsylvania  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. NAVIGATE.

# PHYSICIAN

## 12,000-16,000 HOURS



CRNP  
500-720 HOURS

## DIFFERENCES IN CLINICAL TRAINING & SUPERVISED PATIENT CARE

## A CLOSER LOOK AT PHYSICIAN EDUCATION

### YEAR 1

**Normal structure and function of body tissues:**  
Biochemistry, cell biology, medical genetics, gross anatomy, structure and function of human organ systems, neuroscience, immunology.

### YEAR 2

**Abnormal structure and function:**  
Infectious diseases, pharmacology, pathology, psychiatry, clinical diagnoses and therapeutics, health law.

### YEARS 3 & 4

(Year-Round  
Instruction)

**Required and elective clinical rotations in primary care and specialty medicine:**  
Family medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, psychiatry, internal medicine, neurology, subspecialty segment (anesthesia, dermatology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology), continuity of care segment (sub internships, emergency room and intensive care experiences), and electives.

Source: Association of American Medical Colleges

*During their education, medical students must take the USMLE/COMLEX, a test administered at the end of years 2 and 4 of medical school and during the first year of residency training. Passage of the 3-step exam demonstrates that potential physicians have mastered basic medical principles, clinical diagnosis and disease development, and clinical management. (USMLE—United States Medical Licensing Examination; COMLEX—Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination)*