



MEDICAL CAREERS

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between medical careers? There are multiple routes one can take, each with their best fit for the career and lifestyle you want to have. We break down 3 common paths, their similarities, differences, and more.

NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR

Naturopathic medicine is a distinct health care profession that combines the wisdom of nature with the rigors of modern science. Naturopathic doctors (ND) are trained as primary care providers who diagnose, treat and manage patients with acute and chronic conditions, while addressing disease and dysfunction at the level of body, mind and spirit.

MEDICAL/OSTEOPATHIC DOCTOR

Medical doctors (MD/DO) are a physician, specialist or surgeon who takes a biological approach to healing. Their education is disease specific. They utilize various techniques and tests to diagnose a patient's symptoms and develop a treatment plan to address the disease.

NURSE PRACTITIONER

Nurse Practitioners (NP) are advanced practice nurses. As clinicians they blend clinical expertise in diagnosing and treating health conditions with an added emphasis on disease prevention and health management. NPs bring a comprehensive perspective and personal touch to health care.



ND, MD/DO, NP: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



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REQUIREMENTS/ COURSEWORK

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	ND	MD/ DO	NP
Years of Undergraduate Medical Education	4	4	4
Two Years of Classroom Instruction	✓	✓	✓
Average Credits First Two Years	191	91	136 ¹
Minimum Hours of Clinical training/Clerkship (before residency)	1200 ²	1760	1000 ³ 1364
Department of Education Accreditation Recognition	✓	✓	✓
Biomedical sciences (anatomy, biochemistry, neuroanatomy, embryology, histology, pharmacology)	✓	✓	✓
Pharmaceutical Training	✓	✓	✓
Clinical Judgment/ Problem-Solving Skills	✓	✓	✓
Cultural Competence and Health Care Disparities/Societal Problems	✓	✓	✓
Medical Ethics	✓	✓	✓
Communication and Interprofessional Collaboration	✓	✓	✓
Scientific Method/ Clinical Research	✓	✓	✓
Years in Residency Training	1-3 Optional	3	None ⁴
Lifestyle Counseling	✓		
Botanical Medicine	✓		
Physical Medicine and Hydrotherapy	✓	★ ⁵	
Nutrition	100-220 Hours	0-70 ⁶ Hours	10-19 ⁷ Hours

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