Careers in Clinical Research: How can I transition?

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Learning Objectives

- Overview of clinical research career & education
- Advantages and Disadvantages
- Challenges in Transitioning into the field
- Career Paths
- Resources & training
Clinical Research - Is it a good career?

...is perfect for bright and talented science graduates to start their career especially if you have a degree in science, bio-medicine, nursing or pharmacy. ~Google Search, 2019.
Clinical Research - Career

- Entry-Level
- Experienced
- Expert
Clinical Research - Career Elements

- Knowledge
- Exposure
- Networking
- Passion
Clinical Research Career - My Journey

High School
- Small town
- Military family
- Textile Jobs
- Family hx of Nurses

College
- Same state; ~250 miles
- Studied Nursing
  - Psych rotation
- Graduated Psychology -BA
- Work-study jobs
  - Medicine
  - Sponsored programs
  - IRB

Post-Graduate
- 1st Career Job as CRC
- Mayo Clinic
- MBA
- Specialty
  - Radiology
  - Cardiology
- Centralized CR Support Team

2nd Post-Graduate
- Hired experience
- Join professional organizations
- PhD
- Mentorship
- Educate
Clinical Research Career - Knowledge

How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research for?

- **Entry level positions:** Intern, In-House CRA, Clinical Trial Assistant, Research Interviewer, Clinical Trial Project Coordinator
  - Minimal contact with participants/patients
  - HS diploma with hospital/administrative experience (3 years); OR Bachelor’s degree with hospital/administrative experience (1-2 years)

**Advantage:** Good start for someone out of college.  **Disadvantage:** Someone giving you a chance.

$30K - $40K per year
Clinical Research Career - Knowledge

How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research?

- **Experienced positions**: CRA+, Senior/CRC+, CRN+, Fellow
  - More than minimal contact with participants/patients, if applicable
  - Bachelor’s degree with clinical research experience (1-5 years); OR
    Master’s degree preferred with certification

**Advantage**: Setting career goals & moving up.  **Disadvantage**: Can take long to advance up.

$50K - $70K per year
Clinical Research Career - Knowledge

How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research?

- **Expert positions:** Investigator, Leadership Roles (Manager, Director)
  - Contact with participants/patients, if applicable
  - Master’s degree with clinical research experience (5+ years); OR Doctoral degree preferred/must with certification

**Advantage:** Feel accomplished & knowledgeable. **Disadvantage:** Career pigeon hole.

$80 – or higher per year
Clinical Research Career - Knowledge

How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research?

- **Other Specialty Positions:** IRB Specialist/Analyst, Proposal/Grant Analyst, Financial Manager, Biostatistician, Data Manager, Quality Management, Educator, Phlebotomist, Auditor
  - Minimal contact with participants/patients
  - Bachelors degree, but Master’s preferred
  - May not require clinical research experience (5+ years); certifications do help (i.e. Project Management)
Clinical Research Career - Exposure
Clinical Research Career - Networking

Communication
Allow your passion to become your purpose, and it will one day become your profession.

—Gabrielle Bernstein
The Solution:

“You don’t hire for skills, you hire for attitude. You can always teach skills.”

– Herb Kelleher
Clinical Research Career - Resources & Training

- Find what interests you 1st – Administrative, Clinical, or Regulatory.

**Don’t know your interest?**
Volunteer or Observe a course in clinical research

- **Do you have the education?**
  (i.e. Degrees and certifications)

- **Do you know someone in the field?**
  (i.e. LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook – who do you know and who knows you?)

- **What professional organizations have you joined?**
  (i.e. PMI, ACRP, SOCRA, RAPS, HCCA)

- **Do you love it? If yes, learn everything you can!**
  (i.e. Clinical Research Fastrack, Pharma training, CITI, NIH, etc.)
Thank you!

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