



There is NO comparison between physicians and nurses.

Who would you rather have care for you and your family?

DEGREES REQUIRED AND TIME TO COMPLETION COMPARISON

	<i>Undergraduate Degree</i>	<i>Entrance Exam</i>	<i>Post-Graduate Schooling</i>	<i>Residency and Duration</i>	<i>Total Time for Completion</i>
Family Physician (M.D. or D.O.)	Standard 4-year BA or BS degree	Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)	4 years of a doctoral program (M.D. or D.O.)	REQUIRED, 3 years minimum	11 years
Nurse Practitioner (NP, ARNP, etc.)	Standard 4-year BA or BS degree*	For MSN programs, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)	1.5 to 3 years, master's degree program (MSN)	NONE	5.5 – 7 years

MEDICAL/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL & RESIDENCY/POST-GRADUATE HOURS FOR COMPLETION

	<i>Lecture Hours (Pre-Clinical Years)</i>	<i>Study Hours (Pre-Clinical Years)</i>	<i>Combined Hours (Clinical Years)</i>	<i>Residency Hours</i>	<i>TOTAL HOURS</i>
Family Physician	2,700	3,000**	6,000	9,000 – 10,000	20,700 – 21,700
Doctor of Nursing Practice	800 – 1,600	1,500 – 2,250**	500 – 1,500***	0	2,800 – 5,350
Difference Between Family Physician and NP Hours of Professional Training	1,100 – 1,900 hours more for Family Physicians	750 – 1,500 hours more for Family Physicians	5,500 – 5,000 hours more for Family Physicians	9,000 – 10,000 hours more for Family Physicians	16,350 – 17,900 hours more for Family Physicians

*While a standard 4-year degree, preferably a BSN, is recommended, alternate pathways exist for an RN without a bachelor's degree to enter some master's programs

**Estimate based on 750 hours of study dedicated by a student per year

***Information from the American Academy of Family Physicians.



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