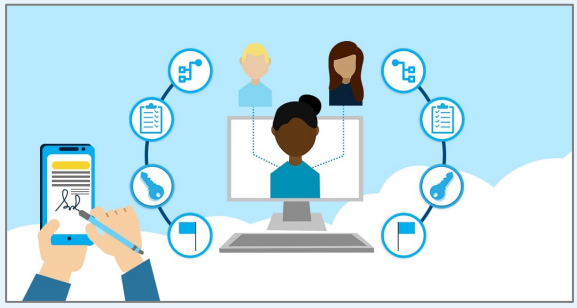
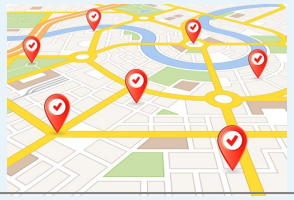
A Complete Guide on Becoming a Clinical Research Associate (CRA)

WHO IS A CRA?

A Clinical Research Associate is a person who helps to test new products. They work with the research sponsor or clinical research organisation (CRO), and the clinics or hospitals where the product is being tested. The CRO may be a large company, a University, or a small research firm contracted to test the product in clinical trials on human participants

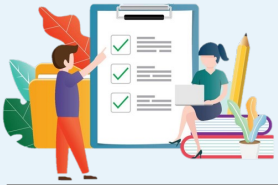


THE ROLE OF A CRA



choosing and setting up locations for trials

developing and documenting protocols



creating forms and surveys for data collection

training staff to follow the protocol, and monitoring ongoing research

QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES OF A CRA

CRAs need a degree in medical or life sciences to be able do their job well. It is also recommended that CRAs know subjects like anatomy, biology, biochemistry chemistry immunology pharmacology physiology toxicology so they can manage data and work with electronic data capture tools while also reporting important trends from start-to finish!

Besides, the ideal CRA has the ability to identify and correct compliance violations at a study site. They should be able not only bring such instances before site staff, but also induce them into taking corrective action as well reporting it when necessary

Competency of a CRA (Clinical Research Associate)	Contribution to Professional Success
Medical Knowhow	(i) Understand disease presentation/medical condition
	(ii) Articulate clinical research objectives, method and challenges
Life Sciences Knowledge	(i) Comprehend investigational product or IP (drug/device) characteristics
	(ii) Forecast possible effects and risks of IP to biology of patients (human participants)
Data Management Skill	(i) Oversee data input and formatting
	(ii) Identify inaccuracies and missing data
	(iii) Detect trends and patterns in data
	(iv) Visualize and report data in intuitive, easy-to-understand format
Emotional Intelligence	(i) Optimize strategies for participant recruitment and retention
	(ii) Manage social and cultural diversity with sensitivity and tact
Interpersonal Adeptness	(i) Motivate team members to perform at peak effectiveness
	(ii) Deliver constructive feedback at all levels of hierarchy

CRA CERTIFICATION FOR A NON-CRA

With the right training, you can be recruited directly to a Clinical Research Associate position even without experience in clinical research.

Training To Be A CRA Through The Advanced Clinical Research Associate Certification (ACRAC) Program

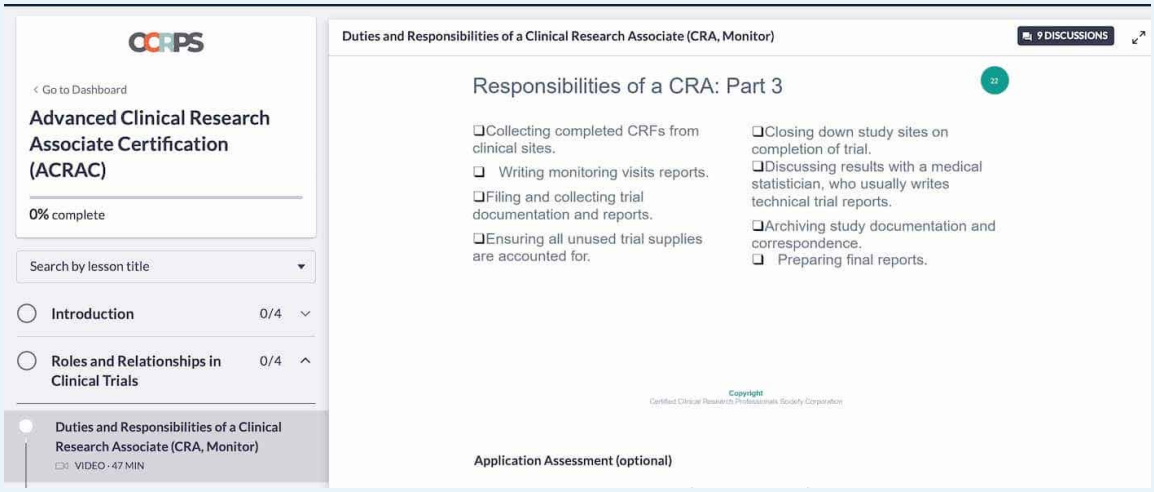
The ACRAC program is a comprehensive 250-hour training course that can be completed at your own pace or, for those who are able to dedicate the whole day of study, in as little two weeks

The curriculum covers all important knowledge domains and skill sets required by CRA's including; GCP principles & terminology related specifically towards clinical research plus ICH&GPA regulations

Students will learn on how to design Clinical Trial Protocols, steps involved in getting IRB/IEC approvals and how to prepare required documents. Students also become aware of pharmacovigilance and new drug testing regulatory processes.

Students will also receive on-the-job training includes different types of visits to sites, like preliminary visits (to check if the site is qualified), preparatory visits (to get ready for the trial) and progress monitoring visits (to make sure things are going well).

The ACRAC also covers important paperwork, like the Case Report Form and Trial Master File. Plus, it covers electronic data capture (EDC) and remote monitoring systems



CLICK HERE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ACRAC SYLLABUS

INTERESTED TO BECOME A CRA? ENROLL HERE