

Training the next generation of Clinical Research Coordinators



UC DAVIS is a top tier academic research institution dedicated to advancing human health. With highly rated medical, nursing, and veterinary medical schools, the University has a high demand for staff to support clinical research. The UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) recently launched a new training program to address the **persistent shortage of staff** to support clinical trials, **increase diversity of the clinical research workforce** and provide a **re-training opportunity to under resourced communities**. This unique program combines classroom learning with workplace exposure to clinical research to train the next generation of Clinical Research Coordinators (CRCs).



Clinical trials to support discovery of new therapeutics

Clinical trials are essential in generating new knowledge about diseases to enable development of medicines. Successful clinical trials require a robust and reliable talent pool of CRCs. The CTSC programs include training, recruiting, and retaining qualified individuals.

Clinical research is a complex enterprise bringing together multiple areas of scientific and operational expertise with a high degree of complexity that continues to evolve. CRCs play a key role and require a wide array of skills to navigate the ever expanding therapeutic, regulatory, and logistical complexity. Traditional on-the-job training requires experienced staff to spend an inordinate amount of time attending to entry-level CRCs and a distraction from their responsibilities to support active clinical trials.

Currently, there are no professional schools anywhere in the country to develop CRC staff with a comprehensive and methodological approach.

“*...demand has been increasing with average compound annual growth in monthly job postings activity of 9.3% across all clinical research positions. This 9.3% is substantial and is behind the average year-over year growth in clinical trials activities of 12.2% over the 2016-2019 period, suggesting that the clinical research workforce may not be keeping pace with current clinical trials workload needs.*”

– From “An Assessment of the Adequacy of the Clinical Research Workforce,” Association for Clinical Research Professionals, Special Report, 2020

CRC training for community college students

The CTSC piloted an *innovative CRC training program* to support the discovery of new medical therapies while providing a meaningful career opportunity for local community college students. In partnership with Cosumnes River College, the CTSC selected the first ethnically and socio-economically diverse cohort of students. This is the novel example of the University creating a systematic workforce development approach to the highly sought, in demand CRC profession, for which there is currently no other training options.

This innovative 16-week Clinical Research Foundations program is a collaborative approach that consists of:

- Didactic training with eLearning, live presentations, and case studies, using a blend of ACRP-derived materials and local information. Based on JTF Core Competencies.
- Field trips and shadowing opportunities with UC Davis Health clinical research staff. Observing first hand the role of a CRC in research.
- Exam to demonstrate acquired knowledge and skills.

At the end of the course, participants will receive letters of recommendation from their trainers and introductions to hiring managers to assist with future job applications.

We are Making a Difference:

- Expanding the pool of qualified staff to support an increasing capacity for clinical trials
- Supporting the human infrastructure required to develop new cures across therapeutic areas
- Training a diverse workforce of community members from the Anchor Institution catchment area; provide the necessary skills to prepare them for career positions
- Building a program to model this approach across the country

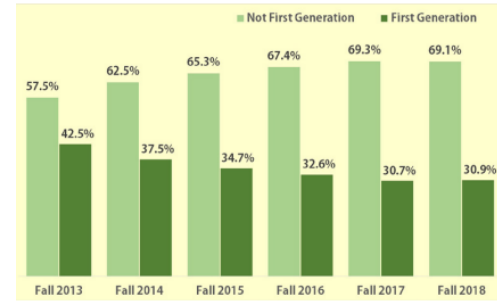
“The lack of many industry-wide standards beyond minimum education and experience, both of which are ill-defined, means that career paths in clinical research are not visible or accessible to the broader workforce.”

– “An Assessment of the Adequacy of the Clinical Research Workforce,” Association for Clinical Research Professionals, Special Report, 2020

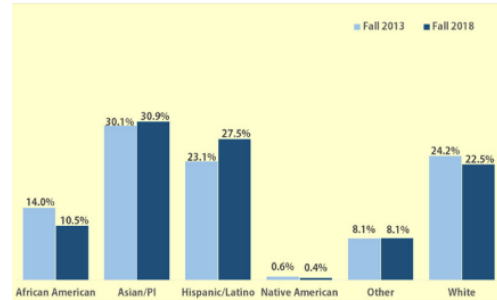
Find out more at: [HTTPS://HEALTH.UCDAVIS.EDU/CTSC/AREA/JOIN-THE-TEAM/INDEX.HTML](https://health.ucdavis.edu/ctsc/area/join-the-team/index.html)

Cosumnes River College Student Profile:

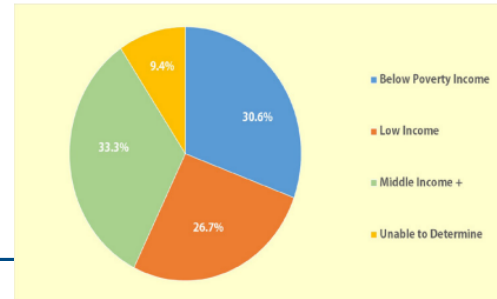
STUDENT PROFILE | COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE “FIRST GENERATION” STUDENTS



STUDENT PROFILE | COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE ETHNICITY



STUDENT PROFILE | COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE STUDENTS BY INCOME LEVEL



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