

Oncology University

When monitoring oncology trials, CRAs must be prepared to face intense and unique challenges, such as complex datasets, treatment toxicities, and dynamic operational approaches. This high-risk environment has contributed to the current shortage of veteran CRAs qualified in oncology clinical research.

PRA Health Sciences has responded to the industry's urgent need to find the right CRAs for oncology research with our new Oncology University. This comprehensive online and classroom-based program trains and prepares CRAs to monitor oncology studies, providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet each trial's unique demands.

Throughout the training program, PRA instructors and leaders closely evaluate each course to ensure our highly motivated CRAs receive a comprehensive and didactic training experience.

Top-Tier Candidates

Oncology University candidates are CRAs who possess the right combination of monitoring experience, professional skill sets, and tenacity to succeed in a tough environment. They must have an excellent work history, supply management recommendations, and pass an objective skills assessment through an outside vendor.

Top-Tier Candidate Criteria



Proven excellent performance history



Management recommendations



Pass an objective skills assessment through an outside vendor

Intensive Online Courses

Accepted CRAs launch their training with a rigorous schedule in the latest online coursework. They must complete more than 60 hours of both academic and PRA-designed oncology courses that equip CRAs with the basic educational and therapeutic framework necessary to effectively monitor these trials.

The Web-based courses include:

- Understanding Oncology
- Monitoring Oncology Trials
- Introduction to Oncology Development (Pt 1)
- Introduction to Oncology Clinical Development (Pt 2)
- Understanding Chemotherapy
- RECIST (Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumor) Guidelines Version 1.1





Real-World Classroom Instruction

During the next phase of our University program, participants attend a challenging, three-and-a-half day, classroom-based oncology workshop. We combine what the CRAs learned in the online component with real-world monitoring experience and instructor-led sessions tailored to the specific requirements and nuances of oncology studies. In each session, PRA instructors employ the practical application of techniques and calculations common to the oncology space.



Oncology overview and standards of care



Tumor staging and associated assessments



Monitoring logistics



Drug dosing



Diagnosis and eligibility



National Cancer Institute AE/SAE criteria



Standard tumor response criteria (eg, RECIST 1.0 and 1.1, CHESON)

Cumulative Assessment

At the end of the program, CRAs must pass an application-based assessment that evaluates their ability to apply the information learned and practiced through the online courses and instructor-led sessions. This exam is a culminating experience to ensure CRAs will employ the knowledge and skills learned throughout the program in a real-world setting.

Continued Mentoring & Support

After CRAs complete Oncology University, they participate in field-training, co-monitoring, and a mentorship program that allows them to solidify their classroom knowledge and skills under the guidance of veteran oncology CRAs.

Oncology University graduates begin monitoring independently only after they demonstrate their monitoring proficiency to their mentors. Like all CRAs at PRA, they will continually undergo performance reviews and quality checks to confirm they either meet or exceed our quality standards.

Next Steps

For additional information, please contact us at prahealthsciences@prahs.com.