



Do Your Homework. Know Your Provider.

While many health care providers offer dermatologic care and cosmetic procedures, the results depend on the provider's skill and experience.

The American Academy of Dermatology supports physician-led care teams, and recognizes the important roles that physician assistants and nurse practitioners play when caring for patients under the direction of a board-certified dermatologist. We recommend that you do your homework; know the qualifications of the provider you are considering.

		Board-Certified Dermatologist	Physician Assistant	Nurse Practitioner
REQUIRED EDUCATION AND TRAINING	College			
	Schooling after College	 4 years Medical Degree (MD or DO)	 2-3 years Master's Degree	 2-4 years Master's or Doctoral Degree
	Internship	 1 year		
	Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited dermatology residency	 3 years (minimum)		
	Patient care hours	 12,000-16,000 hours required	 2,000 hours required	 500-720 hours required
	Board certification through the American Board of Dermatology, the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada			

Dermatologists also may receive additional education and training if they specialize in areas such as Mohs surgery, dermatopathology, or pediatric dermatology.

To find a dermatologist who has met these educational requirements, look for FAAD after your dermatologist's name. FAAD stands for Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.

A board-certified dermatologist has the training and expertise to provide the best possible skin, hair, and nail outcomes for patients while taking steps to ensure their health and safety. Visit aad.org/findaderm to find a board-certified dermatologist who can provide you with high-quality care.