**Choosing Your Path: Masters vs. Doctorate — A Quick Checklist**

**Ask yourself:**

* What are my long-term career goals?
  + Specialize or collaborate closely with Western medical providers?
  + Build a private practice focused on direct patient care and word-of-mouth growth?
* Do I want to expand my clinical skills with advanced diagnostics and integrative medicine?
* How important is the title “Doctor” to my professional goals and networking?
* Am I ready to invest additional time, money, and energy into a doctoral program?
* Do I want to start practicing sooner rather than later?

**Next Steps After Graduation**

1. **Get Licensed & Start Practicing:**  
   Begin building your clinical skills and patient base as soon as you’re licensed.
2. **Build Your Business:**  
   Develop your marketing, referral network, and patient retention strategies.
3. **Consider Specialization or Advanced Education:**  
   If you want to deepen your expertise or expand your referral network, look into doctoral programs or specialty certifications.
4. **Continue Learning:**  
   Attend workshops, seminars, and networking events to stay current and grow professionally.
5. **Leverage Your Network:**  
   Connect with other healthcare providers and community resources to build referral partnerships.