

## 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?
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### 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.