

## BACKGROUND

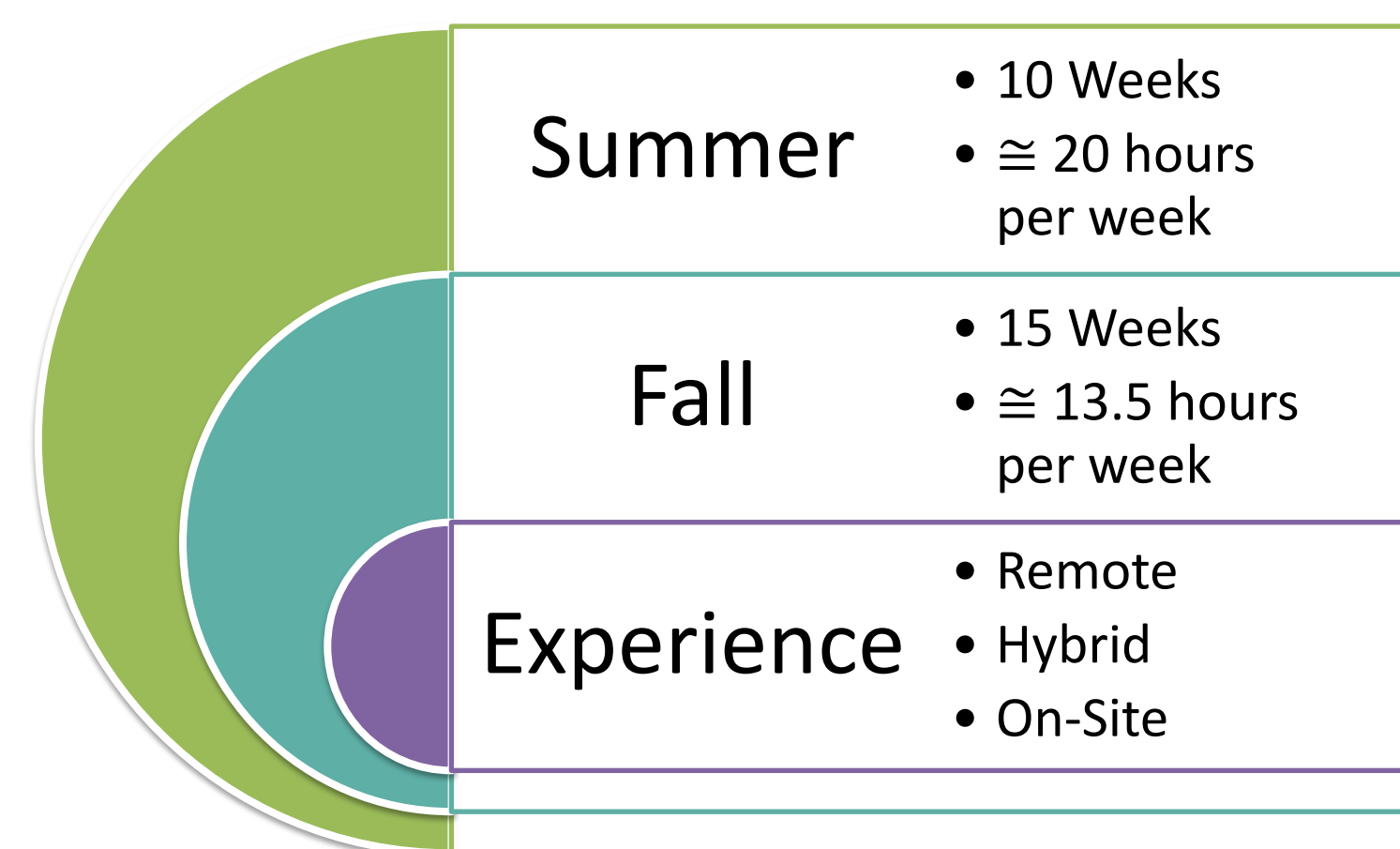
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (RCINJ) faces challenges in finding clinical research professionals for increasingly complex oncology trials. To address the issue, RCINJ implemented practices recommended by AACI-CRI's CTO Staff Retention Task Force:

- Offering remote work
  - Restructuring roles
  - Expanding training opportunities
- RCINJ also explored long-term solutions such as:
- Clinical trial internships
  - Collaborative partnerships

In 2023, a partnership with Rutgers MS Clinical Research Management (RMSCRM) program, supported by NIH Grants #UL1TR003017, was established to offset clinical research staff support. Students develop competencies and skills in clinical research operations through a structured academic master's program and onsite preceptorship.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To collaborate with an academic program to precept clinical research professional students through onsite clinical research educational experiences, providing students with mentored hands-on training in conducting a clinical trial with supervision and feedback.



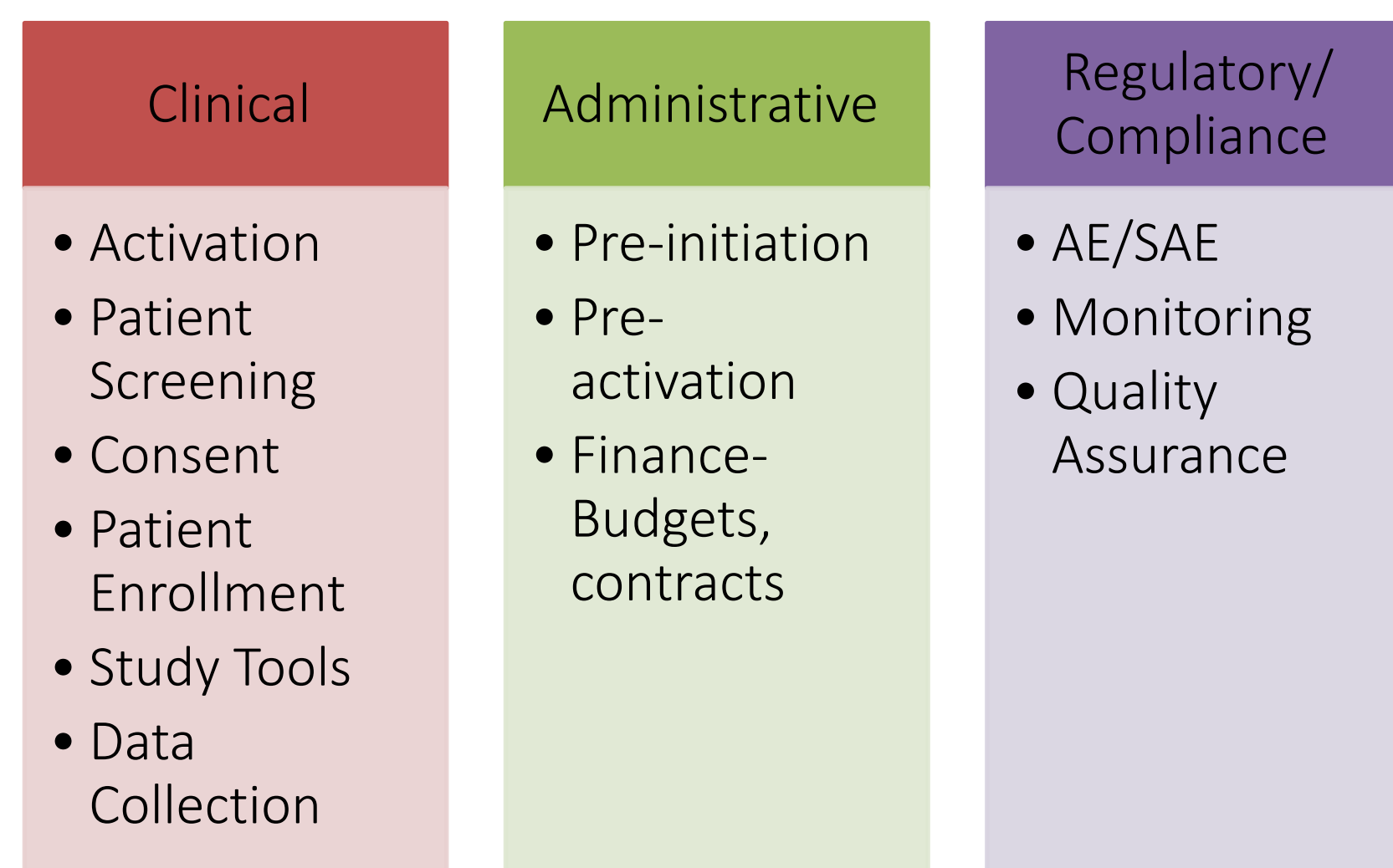
## METHODS

- 16-month full-time hybrid master's program through RMSCRM.
- Over 500 hours of onsite supervised clinical research educational experiences
- Coursework/clinical experience is based on the *Leveled Core Competency Framework for the Clinical Research Professional Version 3.1*.



MRCT (2004)

- Students are placed at clinical research sites based on backgrounds/ preferences.
- Placements offer experiences in one of the operational pillars

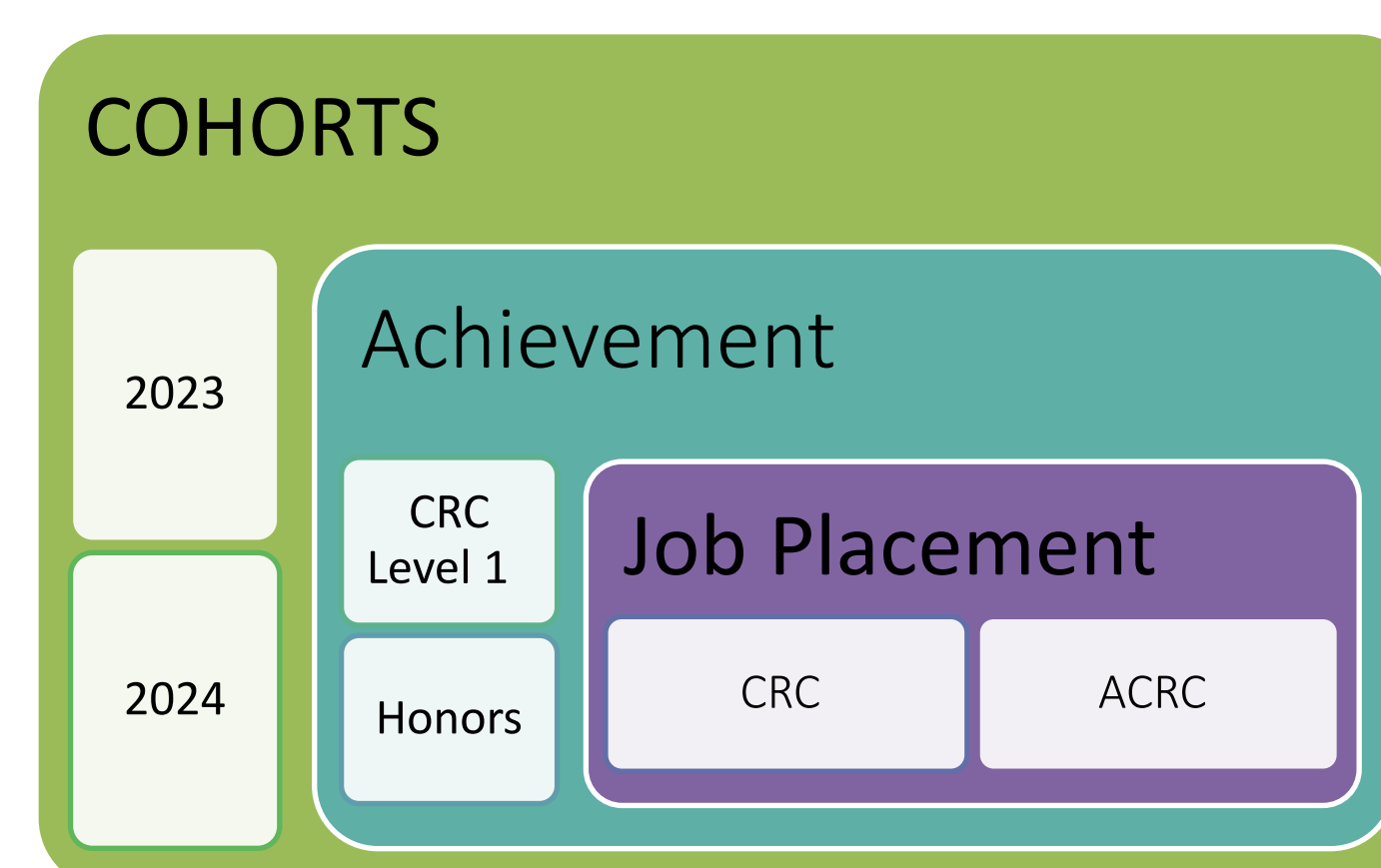


≈ 500 Hours: On-site clinical research educational experience, gives students hands-on training in conducting a clinical trial with supervision and feedback.

## OUTCOME

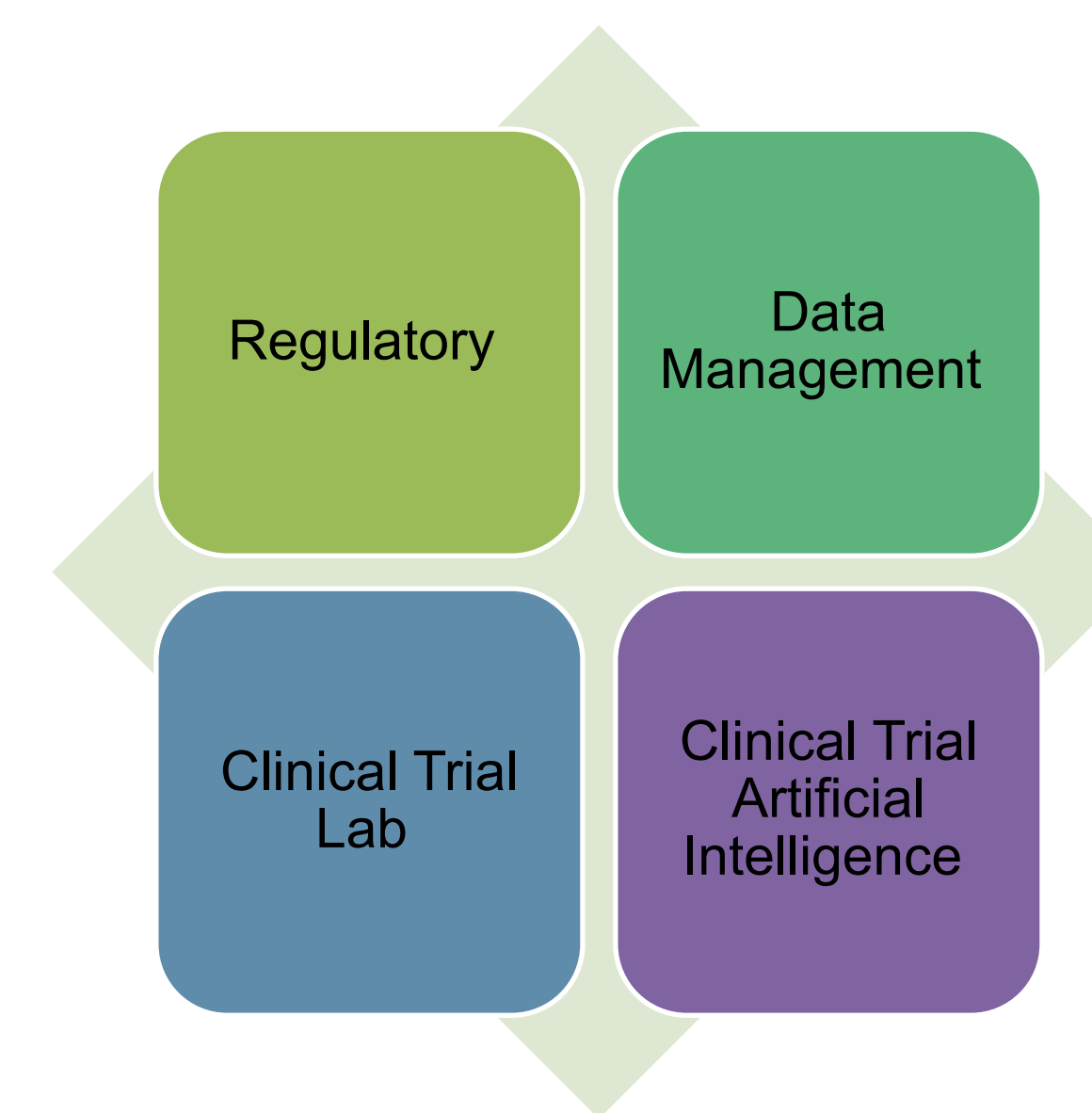
The partnership between RCINJ and RMSCRM has demonstrated positive interactions between students and clinical sites.

- Site Preceptors enjoyed helping students working in an NCI-designated cancer center
- Students enjoyed the fast-paced oncology clinical trial setting, which led to opportunities to identify potential candidates for clinical trial area positions.
  - First-year students have achieved
    - CRC Badging Level 1
    - Honor grades
    - Job Placement



## LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Successful clinical research site placement occurred with collaboration between the student, school, and clinical site.
  - Onsite onboarding/orientation with each student assigned an Educator who works with them throughout the clinical experience.
- Weekly meetings between the school program and the clinical site helped to develop risk mitigation strategies.
- Monthly site director meetings between RMSCRM and CINJ leadership
- Future clinical focus areas include:
  - Regulatory
  - Data Management
  - Clinical Trial Lab
  - Clinical Trial Artificial Intelligence for recruitment (e.g., Deep6)



## Reference

MRCT (2024). JTF Core Competency Framework for Clinical Research Professionals. <https://mrctcenter.org/clinical-trial-competency/>