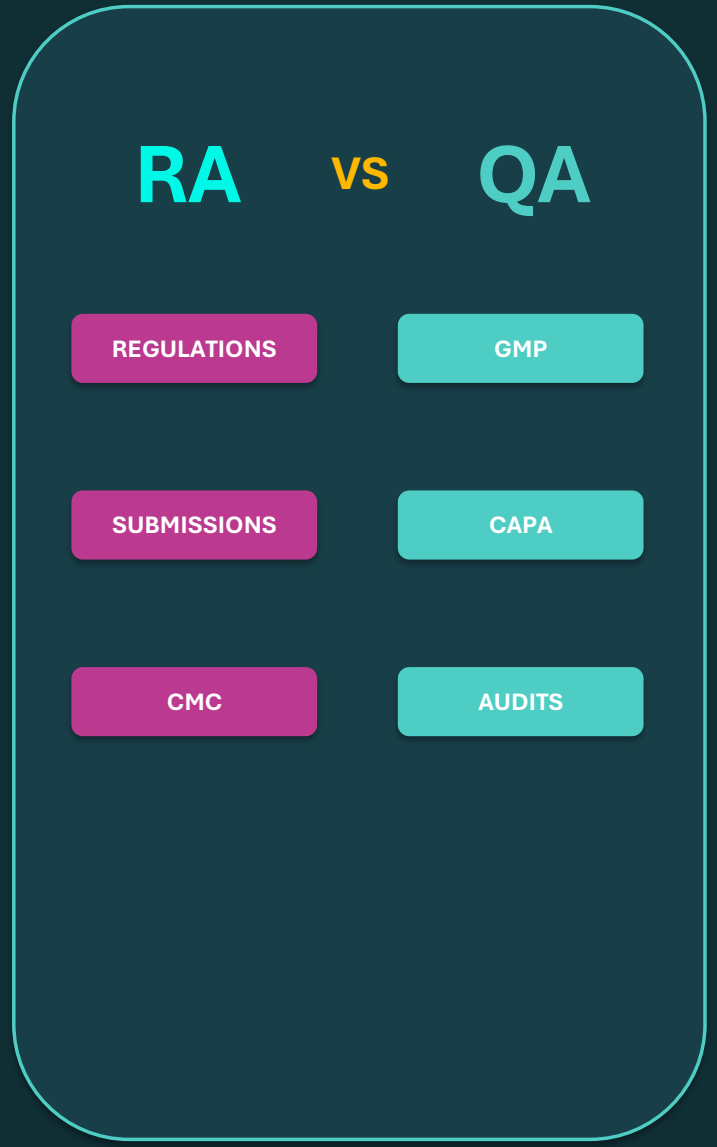
Career Decision Guide

Regulatory Affairs vs Quality Assurance

Compare the work, skills, career fit, and first 90 days.

2026 EDITION

Designed for pharma students, graduates, and career switchers.



PHARMUNI

Build skills. Prove readiness. Choose your path.

RA and QA protect the same product differently

Both support compliance—but from different positions in the product lifecycle.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS

External + strategic

- Interprets health-authority requirements
- Builds and maintains submissions
- Coordinates CMC, labeling, and lifecycle changes
- Supports authority questions and approvals

MARKET ACCESS

Rx

SAFE, COMPLIAN PRODUCT

PRODUCT QUALITY

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Internal + system-focused

- Maintains the pharmaceutical quality system
- Oversees deviations, CAPA, and change control
- Supports audits and inspection readiness
- Verifies GMP processes stay in control

Regulatory Affairs: fit, work, and growth

Best for professionals who like interpretation, writing, coordination, and product strategy.

YOUR WORKDAY

01 Regulatory intelligence

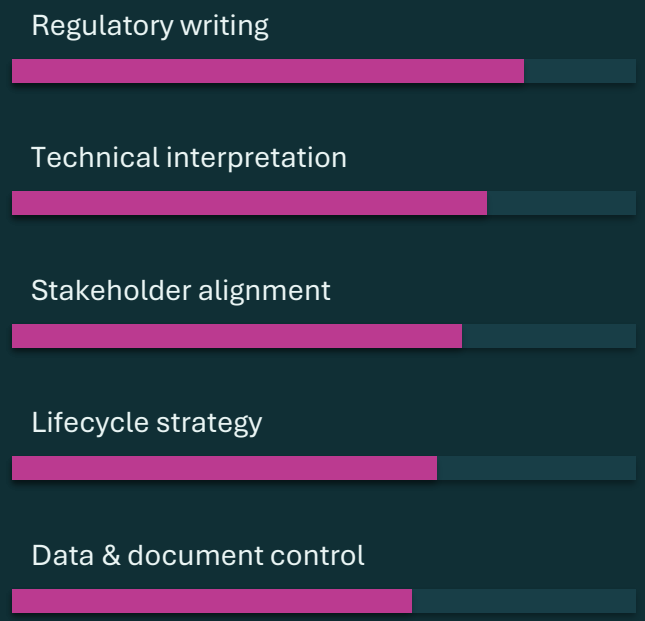
02 CTD / eCTD content

03 CMC coordination

04 Labeling & variations

05 Authority responses

CORE SKILLS



CAREER GROWTH

RA Associate

RA Specialist

Senior Specialist

RA Manager

Regulatory Lead / Director

Good fit signal
You enjoy turning complex rules into a clear submission strategy.

Quality Assurance: fit, work, and growth

Best for professionals who like systems, investigations, risk control, and operational improvement.

YOUR WORKDAY

01 Deviation review

02 CAPA effectiveness

03 Change control

04 Audit readiness

05 GMP oversight

CORE SKILLS

GMP decision-making

Root-cause thinking

Risk management

Audit communication

Documentation discipline

CAREER GROWTH

QA Associate

QA Specialist

Senior QA Specialist

QA Manager

Quality Lead / Head

Good fit signal

You like finding why a system failed—and proving the fix works.

Which path fits you better?

Score each row: choose the side that sounds more like you. Your dominant side is your starting signal.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS		QUALITY ASSURANCE
Interpret + coordinate	**Work style**	Investigate + control
CTD / eCTD / labels	**Main documents**	SOPs / deviations / CAPA
Approval + lifecycle	**Typical focus**	GMP + system state
Authorities + global teams	**Stakeholders**	Operations + site teams
What does regulation require?	**Problem type**	Why did the process fail?
Submission-ready outputs	**Best evidence**	Controlled quality outcomes

4+ RA choices → start with RA • 4+ QA choices → start with QA • 3–3 → explore hybrid roles

Turn your choice into job-ready evidence

Build foundations first, then technical proof, then visible career evidence.

DAYS 1–30

FOUNDATIONS

- GMP + product lifecycle
- RA: FDA / EMA / ICH basics
- QA: QMS + data integrity
- Learn role-specific terminology

DAYS 31–60

TECHNICAL PRACTICE

- RA: CTD, eCTD, CMC, labeling
- QA: deviation, CAPA, change control
- Review realistic case scenarios
- Create 1 practical work sample

DAYS 61–90

JOB EVIDENCE

- Tailor pharma CV keywords
- Prepare 5 interview stories
- Map skill gaps and courses
- Apply to focused role families

Reference framework: FDA • EMA • ICH • RAPS career resources