

GENETIC COUNSELORS

Genetic counselors provide risk assessment, education and support to individuals and families at risk for, or diagnosed with, a variety of inherited conditions. As part of the healthcare team, genetic counselors also interpret genetic testing results, provide supportive counseling and serve as patient advocates. They help people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease.

Genetic counselors work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics and laboratories as well as in public health and health policy and other areas of healthcare. While some genetic counselors are generalists, helping patients across medical disciplines, many select to focus on specific areas, including prenatal, pediatrics, adult, cancer and sub-specialties such as cardiology and neurology.*

**Excerpted from the website of the National Society of Genetic Counselors*

A PROFESSION IN DEMAND

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for genetic counselors in 2016 was \$77,480. Employment of genetic counselors is expected to grow 29 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Rapid advances in the fields of genomics and genetic medicine, some of which were developed at Baylor College of Medicine, ensure an expanding array of career opportunities for graduates.

BECOMING A GENETIC COUNSELOR

Through specialized graduate education, genetic counselors are trained in both medical genetics and counseling. In order to become a Certified Genetic Counselor (CGC®), you must obtain a master's degree from a training program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC) and pass the American Board of Genetic Counseling Certification (ABGC) Examination. While programs require some science courses as prerequisites (visit www.bcm.edu/gcp/admissions to view our list of prerequisites), students do not need to have majored in the sciences to pursue genetic counseling studies.



The diversity of training experiences at Baylor College of Medicine and the resources of the BCM Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, the largest research and clinical genetics department in the country, ensure that our graduates are ready to succeed in all career paths open to genetic counselors.



APPLICATION

Visit www.bcm.edu/gcp for admissions requirements and application process. Have questions? Email: gcp@bcm.edu. Details about upcoming information sessions are also available on our site. These sessions provide an opportunity to learn about the program, tour the campus, and ask questions about the application process. Virtual information sessions are also available.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

DECEMBER 31

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM

Baylor College of Medicine's combined track record in exceptional education programs for health professionals and in clinical care and genetics research uniquely position our program to offer students experiential learning opportunities not available at other genetic counseling training programs as well as exposure to cutting-edge translational, clinical and molecular genetics research.

OUR CURRICULUM

The Baylor College of Medicine Genetic Counseling Program is a 22-month sequence of didactic coursework, clinical rotations and a student thesis. Our students also have the unique opportunity to gain experience in the world-renowned Baylor Genetics laboratory. Our faculty of more than 35 genetic counselors will share their experience and knowledge to support students through every phase of the curriculum.

YOUR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Our students train in a mix of public and private hospitals, many of which are located in the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world, as well as community-based facilities. This diversity of training sites prepares our students to work in any clinical research or industry setting.

Houston is the most diverse large metropolitan area in the nation. In addition to the diversity of the local population, the institutions of the Texas Medical Center attract patients from around the world. This exposure to health beliefs and practices influenced by cultural origins leads to an exceptional understanding of how to approach the provision of patient-centered care.

INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Team-based instruction occurs within the didactic and clinical phases of our curriculum. Experiences involve a combination of disciplines including medicine, nurse anesthesia, physician assistant, pharmacy, social work and nursing to ensure a rich experience in interprofessional role socialization.

COMMUNITY

Our students gain valuable insights through community outreach programs and supplemental activities that transform perspectives on disease and redefine personalized medical care.



Students receive training at one of the nation's leading health science universities, which is home to the clinical genetics program that cares for the largest number of patients in the nation.