



Master's Degree in Genetic Counseling



Working alongside nationally recognized experts in genetic counseling, students in The Ohio State University Genetic Counseling Graduate Program (OSU GCGP) receive training to become experts in the delivery of genetic counseling services, as well as the future thought-leaders of the genetic counseling profession.

Who are genetic counselors and what do they do?

Genetic counselors are healthcare providers who have training in genetics/genomics, psychosocial assessment/counseling and healthcare service delivery. Genetic counselors interpret family and medical histories; provide genetic risk assessment; educate about inheritance patterns, genetic testing, medical management and prevention; and facilitate informed decision-making related to the use of genetic technologies. Genetic counselors also assist their clients to adaptation to the genetic risk or condition in themselves or their family members through discussions and emotional support. Most genetic counselors are employed by hospitals and provide care in specialties, such as pediatrics, prenatal, cancer, cardiovascular, hematology, personalized medicine and neurology. Some genetic counselors perform research, either as independent researchers or as part of a research team. Genetic counselors are also employed in positions related to public policy, marketing and communication, as well as commercial clinical laboratories. The list of genetic counseling subspecialties continues to grow, as do the opportunities.

Who should apply?

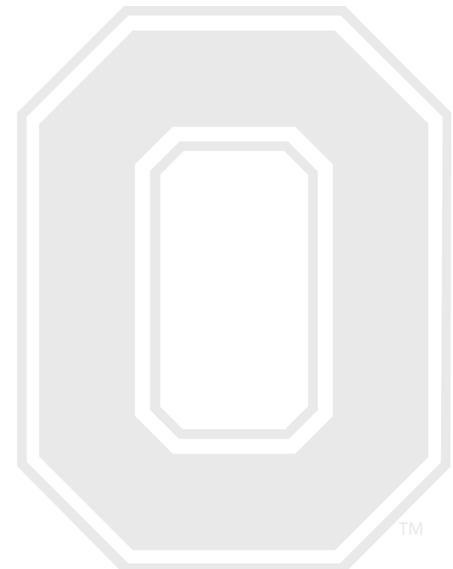
Genetic counseling allows students to combine their interest in science with the opportunity to interact with families affected by genetic disease.

Applicants to the OSU GCGP should have a knowledge of the genetic counseling profession and be critical thinkers, good communicators, empathic and lifelong learners.

Become an important member of the healthcare team. Prepare for a rewarding career in genetic counseling and join one of the fastest-growing healthcare fields.

The Ohio State Genetic Counseling Graduate Program's Benefits

- Each year, students enrolled in the OSU GCGP have received competitive national and local grants to fund their research projects, recognizing the importance of their contributions to the profession.
- All OSU GCGP graduates who have submitted their thesis work to professional conferences have received platform or poster presentations.
- OSU GCGP's first-attempt pass rate for the American Board of Genetic Counseling certification examination is 96%.
- Job placement for graduates of OSU GCGP is 100 percent.



About the Program

The OSU GCGP Program is a two-year master's degree program designed to train genetic counselors through comprehensive coursework, development of counseling skills and fieldwork experiences.

Students in the graduate program have access to a great variety of clinical and nonclinical fieldwork placements where they can practice the skills they are learning in class. The OSU GCGP utilizes sites in Columbus and Dayton, Ohio.



Curriculum

The OSU GCGP curriculum is designed to provide a solid educational, technical and experiential foundation for graduate students. Upon graduating, our students are well prepared to function as knowledgeable, compassionate and scholarly genetic counselors in any work setting.

Students in the first year of the program gain a foundation in integrated genetic medicine through a selection of core courses and introductory fieldwork placements. They participate in coursework related to research methods, genetic technologies and genetic specialties (e.g., prenatal, pediatric, cancer, cardiovascular). In the second year, they build on this foundation, expanding their psychosocial and counseling skills through additional coursework and fieldwork experiences. They also learn to conduct independent research by completing a master's thesis, which will enhance their in-depth knowledge in a specific area of study.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree (or higher) with completion of prerequisite courses listed below. Most students major in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry or genetics, but any major is considered
- At least one semester each of the following prerequisite courses: genetics, statistics, psychology and biochemistry
- Counseling experience (e.g., paid or volunteer work on crisis hotline, pregnancy/reproductive counseling service, residential/group home aide)
- Exposure to genetic counseling in a clinical setting through job shadowing or genetic counselor interviews
- Registration with the National Matching Services (NMS) at natmatch.com/gcadmissions

International Students: All international applicants must also earn a score of 550 on the written TOEFL, 79 on the Internet based TOEFL, and 7 on the International English Language "Testing System (IELTS) exam or 82 on the MELAB"

Admissions Calendar

September – December: Applications accepted for incoming class

January – April: Interviews

April: Genetic Counseling Admissions Match Day (date varies from year to year)

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