



COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

GENETIC COUNSELING

What is a Genetic Counselor?

Genetic counseling is a profession combining medical genetics and counseling that supports individuals and families seeking information about their genetic health.

Genetic counselors work with patients to offer guidance in genetic testing as well as interpretation of results. These providers provide psychosocial support to patients who are navigating the complexities of genomic medicine and decision making.

Genetic counselors work in a variety of settings, including:

- University medical centers
- Private and public hospitals/medical facilities
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Health maintenance organizations
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Government organizations and agencies

Why pursue the Genetic Counseling program at UNMC?

The University of Nebraska Medical Center offers nationally ranked programs, award-winning faculty, and cutting-edge approaches to learning. Here are the reasons our graduates will go on to rewarding careers and will continue to shape the future of science, academia, and health care:

- We have the first and only genetic counseling master's degree program in Nebraska, founded on the strengths of the College of Allied Health Professions and the Munroe-Meyer Institute.
- We are a Midwest-based program with strong community support and partnerships.
- We are committed to philanthropy and engagement with our community.
- Our faculty are independent medical providers who are both passionate and knowledgeable.
- We have an on-site human genetics laboratory integrated into the provision of clinical genetics care and education.
- We see our students as future colleagues and aim to foster professional development.

Accreditation

The UNMC Genetic Counseling Education Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC), located at 7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300, McLean, VA 22101. ACGC can be reached by phone at 402-506-7667 or through their website at www.gceducation.org.

Career Outlook

Genetic counseling is a fast-growing field — it's estimated that the number of genetic counselors in the U.S. will increase 29% by 2026 — in part because of the incredible advances in genetic testing over the past decade.

The average yearly gross salary reported by full-time genetic counselors who have direct patient care positions was \$83,209 while those in non-direct patient care positions was \$114,259. The average starting salary for new graduates in full-time positions was \$75,319. In addition, the majority (87%) of students accept their first position before graduation.

Genetic Counseling was rated as the best job in 2018 by CareerCast.



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www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/gc



The increase in demand for genetic counselors is one reason why other community health organizations are supporting the creation of the genetic counseling degree program at UNMC.

Program Information & Admission Requirements

Degree Received/Length of Program

Master of Genetic Counseling (MGC) / 21 months

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree. Specific degree not required but pre-requisites must be met at the time of the application.

- 2 semesters or equivalent of general biology with lab (biology for majors)
- 2 semesters or equivalent of general chemistry with lab (chemistry for majors)
- 1 semester or equivalent of upper level biochemistry (organic chemistry is a prerequisite for this course). Consult website for more details.
- 1 semester or equivalent of psychology (introductory or upper level course)
- 1 semester or equivalent of genetics (introductory or upper level course)
- 1 semester or equivalent of statistics
- 1 semester or equivalent of molecular or cell biology

Coursework that may strengthen an applicant's experience includes advanced science lab (biochemistry, molecular, and/or genetics), anatomy and physiology, abnormal psychology, developmental biology, advanced genetics courses.

Required GPA

Cumulative overall grade point average of 3.0 (based on 4.0 scale).

Recommended Experiences

- Counseling/Client Advocacy Experience: We strongly recommend potential applicants have experience in counseling or client advocacy. This can include working or volunteering with a crisis center, individuals with disabilities, or persons with medical needs.
- Exposure to the field of Genetic Counseling: Applicants should understand the role of a genetic counselor.
- Laboratory/research experience

Admission Committee will review the entire application when selecting applicants to interview.

National Match Service

All genetic counseling programs are now participating in a National Match Service, an electronic genetic counseling match (<https://natmatch.com/gcadmissions/>). Applicants must first register for the Match with NMS before applying to participating programs as the NMS identifier is required for the application. Once admission interviews are complete, both applicants and programs will submit ranked lists of preferred placements prior to the final deadline. A computerized matching algorithm will determine final placements. This Match list will be released both to applicants and programs simultaneously. The results of the Match are binding.

Admissions Contact Information

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