WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL *of*
ARTS & SCIENCES

Genetic Counseling (GENC)

Online Master of Science (MS)

Training thoughtful, innovative genetic counselors equipped to manage the challenges to genomic medicine now and in the future.

About GENC

Genomic medicine is a burgeoning field due to increasing knowledge of the role of genetics in disease and technological advances allowing for significantly faster and more affordable genetic testing. Genetic counselors are needed to help order appropriate testing, interpret complex test results for patients, and assist in management for genetic disease. As genomic medicine has extended into multiple branches of medicine as well as the consumer market, the demand for genetic counselors has increased significantly. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicted a 29% growth in genetic counseling positions by 2026. There is an urgent need for more genetic counselors to join the workforce and help care for the next generation of patients.

Program Objectives

The program's mission is to provide students with rigorous and dynamic educational and clinical experiences aimed to graduate patient-centered, ethically engaged, and future-focused genetic counselors who are poised to become leaders in the field.

The practice of genetic counseling has changed rapidly with evolving technology, and students must learn not only how to practice as genetic counselors now, but how to anticipate future changes and remain at the forefront of innovations. Wake Forest is poised to train pioneering genetic counselors by leveraging the expertise of faculty with diverse backgrounds in molecular genetics research, clinical research, and clinical care.

In order to produce genetic counselors who advocate for their patients and the genetic counseling field, our program's objectives are to prepare our graduates to be better able to:

- Provide oversight regarding the ordering of genetic tests in the medical community, assisting with interpretation, and educating patients regarding results and their ramifications
- Advise in the development of new genetic tests and the reporting of the results to patients and consumers
- Appreciate the gray-area between what "can" be done in the field of genetics, and what "should" be done

We aim to create future leaders who are thoughtful and engaged in ethical issues and can help guide and direct the genetic advances of the future.

Curriculum

Wake Forest's innovative curriculum integrates coursework from multiple graduate programs and their faculty to provide diverse training in genetics and genomics in our academic medical center environment. Clinical experiences include a mix of training using standardized patients and off-site placements across specialty areas to provide students with both depth and breadth in their graduate training. The Master of Science in Genetic Counseling degree requires 56 credits inclusive of coursework, clinical rotations, and a capstone experience.

Featured Faculty

Wake Forest®
School of Medicine

Emily Lisi, MS CGC

Program Director and
Adjunct Professor
Wake Forest University Graduate School Arts and Sciences
Biomedical Sciences

"The pioneering curriculum found in this program will prepare leaders to tackle complex clinical research challenges within the context of the larger healthcare system." — Dr. D'Agostino

Led by Ralph D'Agostino, Jr. PhD, the program faculty are research, clinical, and teaching faculty from Wake Forest University, as well as select faculty from outside the institution. In addition, highly accomplished practitioners from the healthcare industry will serve as lecturers, advisors and as industry experts.

Contact Us:

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