GENETIC COUNSELING, MSGC

The MSGC program provides a comprehensive educational environment for future genetic counselors that balances the importance of patient-focused care, scientific knowledge, research, and innovative technology. With an outstanding faculty and access to clinical opportunities at some of the nation’s premier healthcare facilities, the program prepares students to be successful genetic counseling professionals in the rapidly evolving field of genetics.

Preparing to become a genetic counselor involves education in three areas: laboratory and clinical medicine, counseling, and research. Students in the University of Pennsylvania’s MSGC program will develop a comprehensive understanding of the complex clinical management of patients with genetic conditions as well as the options for diagnostic testing. Coursework in counseling helps students cultivate the knowledge and skills to address the needs of patients, families, community advocacy groups and other health professionals. The program has a strong emphasis on clinical, translational, and implementation research. Graduates will gain both the research and writing skills necessary to develop and publish literature relevant to the profession.

The curriculum covers advanced genetics, genetic testing technologies, clinical medicine and genetics, counseling techniques, case management, psychosocial assessment, principles of medical ethics and public health, patient advocacy, research design and professionalism. Many courses will have Penn and CHOP genetic counselors as course coordinators and lecturers.

The Arcadia University Master of Science in Genetic Counseling has transferred sponsorship, faculty, and curriculum to the University of Pennsylvania and will now be known as the University of Pennsylvania Master of Science in Genetic Counseling. The Arcadia University Master of Science in Genetic Counseling program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC) through 2024. The program meets the requirements of the ACGC for curriculum content, clinical experience, and overall program design. Graduates of the program are qualified to sit for the certification examination offered by the ABGC and to apply for state licensure. The overall pass rate on the ABGC certification exam is 95% for students in our last five graduating classes. Transfer of this accreditation to the University of Pennsylvania has been approved by the ACGC.

For more information: https://www.med.upenn.edu/geneticcounseling/

Curriculum

The program requires the completion of 14 required course units as well as clinical internships, genetic counseling rounds, professional development seminars, advocacy experiences, and an approved research master’s thesis. Successful completion of each course requires a grade of B- or higher.

The core curriculum will provide the foundation necessary to prepare students for the everchanging practice of clinical genetics and satisfies the requirements set forth by the ACGC that allow program graduates to sit for the ABGC certification examination.

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