

GENETIC COUNSELING, MSGC

The University of Pennsylvania Master of Science in Genetic Counseling (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: clinical and laboratory medicine, counseling, and research. Students in the University of Pennsylvania's MSGC program 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, and students graduate with the research and writing skills necessary to develop and publish literature relevant to the profession.

The MSGC program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC), which establishes the Practice Based Competencies and Standards of Accreditation for genetic counseling graduate education. 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 American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) and to apply for state licensure.

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

Curriculum

The program requires the successful completion of 14 course units (with a grade of B- or higher in each) as well as experiential activities including clinical internships, genetic counseling rounds, a professional development seminar, advocacy experiences, and an individual research-based master's thesis.

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 professional development. Many courses have genetic counselors from Penn Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as course coordinators and lecturers.

Code	Title	Course Units
Year 1		
<i>Fall</i>		
GENC 6010	Advanced Genetics and Genomics	
GENC 6020	Mechanisms of Disease	
GENC 6030	Introduction to Genetic Counseling	
GENC 6130	Foundations of Clinical Genetics and Genomic Technologies	
GENC 6700	Internship	
<i>Spring</i>		

GENC 6040	Reproductive and Developmental Genetics
GENC 6110	Cancer Genetics
GENC 6120	Genetic Counseling Theory and Practice I
GENC 6140	Introduction to Genetic Counseling Research
GENC 6700	Internship
Year 2	
<i>Summer</i>	
GENC 6800	Clinical Internship
<i>Fall</i>	
GENC 6200	Medical Genetics I
GENC 6210	Genetic Counseling Theory and Practice II
GENC 6220	Biochemical Genetics
GENC 6230	Ethical Issues in Genetic Counseling
GENC 6400	Professional Development I
GENC 6500	Genetic Counseling Rounds I
GENC 6800	Clinical Internship
<i>Spring</i>	
GENC 6300	Medical Genetics II
GENC 6310	Genetic Counseling Theory and Practice III
GENC 6450	Professional Development II
GENC 6550	Genetic Counseling Rounds II
GENC 9900	Thesis
GENC 6800	Clinical Internship

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2024 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.