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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Course Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENC 6010</td>
<td>Advanced Genetics and Genomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENC 6020</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Disease</td>
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<td>GENC 6030</td>
<td>Introduction to Genetic Counseling</td>
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<td>GENC 6130</td>
<td>Foundations of Clinical Genetics and Genomic Technologies</td>
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<td>GENC 6700</td>
<td>Internship</td>
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<td>GENC 6040</td>
<td>Reproductive and Developmental Genetics</td>
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<td>GENC 6100</td>
<td>Cancer Genetics</td>
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<td>GENC 6110</td>
<td>Genetic Counseling Theory and Practice I</td>
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<td>GENC 6120</td>
<td>Genetic Counseling Research</td>
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<td>GENC 6140</td>
<td>Introduction to Genetic Counseling Research</td>
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<td>GENC 6700</td>
<td>Internship</td>
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Year 2

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<td>GENC 6200</td>
<td>Medical Genetics I</td>
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<td>GENC 6210</td>
<td>Genetic Counseling Theory and Practice II</td>
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<td>GENC 6220</td>
<td>Biochemical Genetics</td>
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<td>GENC 6230</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Genetic Counseling</td>
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<td>GENC 6400</td>
<td>Professional Development I</td>
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<td>GENC 6500</td>
<td>Genetic Counseling Rounds I</td>
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<td>GENC 6300</td>
<td>Medical Genetics II</td>
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<td>GENC 6310</td>
<td>Genetic Counseling Theory and Practice III</td>
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<td>GENC 6450</td>
<td>Professional Development II</td>
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<td>GENC 9900</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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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.