The future is bright for genetic counselors. Prepare for a career empowering and educating others in a dynamic and growing field.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Genetic Counseling
The MS in genetic counseling program, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling, prepares students for a successful career as a genetic counselor where they can apply their knowledge and unique skill set to help advance the understanding of genetics and genomic-related conditions within the communities where they work and live.

The two-year, full-time program offers an engaging and comprehensive curriculum covering: clinical genetics and genomics; the fundamentals of genetic counseling and advanced genetic counseling techniques; cultural competencies in genetics; social and ethical dimensions of genetic counseling and decision-making; and the role of genetic counselors in laboratories and research. The curriculum is taught by genetic counselors and medical geneticists.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in fieldwork experiences throughout Phoenix. Upon graduation, new graduates will be prepared to pass the American Board of Genetic Counseling certification exam and find a job that fits their skill set.

Students should note that some courses and faculty offices are located at the Health Futures Center building in North Phoenix.

At a Glance

- College/School: [College of Health Solutions](#)
- Location: [Downtown Phoenix](#)
Degree Requirements

71 credit hours and a thesis, or
71 credit hours including the required applied project course (GCO 593)

**Required Core (46 credit hours)**
BMD 562 Bioethical Issues in Applied Biomedicine (3)
GCO 510 Fieldwork Preparation (1)
GCO 530 Genetic Counseling Fundamentals (3)
GCO 540 Foundations of Medical Genetics (3)
GCO 560 Practice of Genetic Counseling (3)
GCO 570 Clinical Genetics (3)
GCO 610 Laboratory Fundamentals and Population Screening (3)
GCO 620 Genetic Counseling Techniques (3)
GCO 625 Cultural, Ethical and Legal Aspects of Genetics (3)
GCO 630 Advanced Genetic Counseling Techniques (3)
GCO 650 Cancer, Cardiac Genomics and Precision Medicine (3)
GCO 659 Embryology and Genetics (3)
GCO 660 Professional Issues for Genetic Counselors (3)
HCD 501 Biostatistics and Data Management (3)
HCD 520 Population Health (3)
IBC 640 Family and Couples in Primary Care (3)

**Fieldwork (15 credit hours)**
GCO 583 or GCO 683 Fieldwork (15)

**Other Requirements (4 credit hours)**
GCO 691 Topic: Journal Club I (1)
GCO 691 Topic: Journal Club II (1)
GCO 691 Topic: Journal Club III (1)
GCO 691 Topic: Journal Club IV (1)

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**
GCO 593 Applied Project (6) or
GCO 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
GCO 691 Journal Club topics are taken consecutively for 1 credit hour in each term of the program.

Students must have a minimum of 50 participatory cases during their fieldwork experiences with individuals who are being evaluated in the specialty areas of prenatal, pediatric, cancer and other adult conditions, with no one specialty dominating. All 50 participatory cases must be supervised by an experienced ABGC/ABMG(G)/CAGC certified genetic counselor. Students will be placed in fieldwork sites by the program.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admissions application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. letter of intent
4. professional resume
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.

Applicants must register with National Matching Services, Inc. (Match) prior to applying to ASU in order to be considered for this program. https://natmatch.com/gcadmissions/. The Genetics Counseling, MS program at ASU has an ID code of 15710. Applications will be reviewed by the admissions committee only once all materials have been received and the applicant has registered with Match.

The letter of intent should include experience and knowledge in the field of genetic counseling and articulate what makes the applicant a good candidate for this program. At least one letter of recommendation should be from a genetic counselor or other genetics professional. Academic and professional recommendations are strongly encouraged.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to interview genetic counselors and observe genetic counseling sessions when possible. Experience working in the health care setting, volunteering or working with individuals who have special needs and advocacy experience or experience providing crisis counseling is also highly recommended.
Tuition Information
When it comes to paying for college, everyone’s situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program are prepared for a position as a genetic counselor in clinical care, research or a laboratory setting or as an industry based genetic counselor. Genetic counselors are uniquely trained with a skill set that will allow them to work in a variety of medical, scientific or research-based settings as well as in private practice and academia.


Professional Licensure

ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the ASU professional licensure webpage.

Contact Information

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