

Program Description

This program offers a Master of Science degree in Genetic Counseling, through the Medical College of Wisconsin Graduate School. The program is a full-time, day program with one cohort of 12 students beginning each fall term. The program offers a Milwaukee and Green Bay campus track. All 12 students will complete their first year together on the Milwaukee Campus. The two students matched to the Green Bay track will relocate to the Green Bay campus at the start of the fall semester 2nd year. The duration is 21 months in length, consisting of four fall/spring terms with one intervening summer term session. The program

science (such as psychology, sociology, women's studies, philosophy, ethnic studies, etc). Additionally, starting in the 2025 admissions cycle applicants will be required to complete coursework in medical terminology, anatomy or physiology to ensure they are best prepared for the advanced level of learning occurring in the classrooms and practicum sites. We encourage students to take as many courses as possible relevant to genetic counseling to strengthen their application. All required courses should be taken prior to applying as it is difficult to evaluate courses "in progress" at the time of application.

For additional information pertaining to the admissions process and requirements, we encourage you to check out the [MSGC Program Website](#)

This course aims to familiarize students with a medical genetics evaluation typical to what would be seen in the pediatric or adult genetics clinic. Students will appreciate the interprofessional collaboration required for the diagnosis and management of children and adults with complex disease. Students will be introduced to a plethora of genetic conditions spanning multiple disease categories. A differential diagnosis and genomic testing plan will be formulated using information gathered from thorough chart review, birth, family, and developmental histories, and the physical exam. Students will be able to determine the clinical significance of genetic testing results.

40150 Genetic Counseling I: Skills and Practice. *2 credits.*

Students will be introduced to the history and evolution of the genetic counseling profession. Students will be oriented to fundamental genetic counseling skills including pedigree construction, pedigree analysis, case preparation, contracting, documentation and risk assessment. Students will begin to consider legal, ethical, social and cultural issues related to genetic counseling and be encouraged to explore their own values and biases. Development and adaptation of oral and written communication skills to various audiences will be applied through course assignments and case-based learning. Students will be introduced to professional issues such as credentialing, professional development and lifelong learning.

40155 Genetic Counseling II: Theory and Practice. *2 credits.*

This course prepares students to conduct a full genetic counseling session including case preparation, facilitation of session components and follow-up. Students will expand upon their interviewing skills develop case conceptualization ability and hone their patient education skills. Through standardized patients and in class role play, students will learn to recognize psychosocial aspects of the genetic counseling session and apply their counseling skills. Students will engage in course activities to further develop their communication abilities (oral and written), apply advanced risk assessment, and examine professional boundaries. Students will have the opportunity to enhance personal skill development through the giving and receiving of feedback with peers and supervisors.

40156 Genetic Counseling III: Psychosocial Issues. *2 credits.*

This course builds on Genetic Counseling 2: Theory and Practice by further exploring psychological aspects of the genetic counseling process. Students will learn to apply counseling theories in the development of their clinical communication skills. Students will learn to integrate client factors including cultural, socioeconomic, emotional, behavioral, gender, and educational status into the genetic counseling session. Students will develop more advanced techniques to address the psychosocial impact of a genetic condition on the family, complex family dynamics and unique issues that may occur in genetic counseling. Continued professional development will be emphasized by exploration of personal strengths, limitations, values, and biases as they relate to genetic counseling.

40157 Genetic Counseling IV: Advanced Topics. *2 credits.*

This course will prepare students for life beyond the classroom with a focus on honing skills needed to become an independent successful genetic counselor. Students will develop an appreciation for the growth of the genetic counselling field and for lifelong learning inherent in the profession. Discussion of current and emerging topics will put students in a

40160 Research Methodologies & Informatics. 2 credits.

Program Mission

The mission of the Medical College of Wisconsin Genetic Counseling Graduate Program is to cultivate exceptional genetic counseling leaders who reflect the visible and invisible diversity of the communities we serve.

The MSGC program aims to achieve this mission through the following: