

The Genetic Counseling Program is 56 credits and five semesters of rewarding graduate training at the highest level of excellence. The program coursework adheres to the university's academic calendar, while fieldwork rotations might be arranged on dates beyond the regular calendar schedule.

Semester Curriculum

Fall Year 1	Credit Hours	Fall Year 2	Credit Hours
GENC 5005 Introduction to Genetic Counseling	2	GENC 5030 Research Seminar Series	1
GENC 5010 Introduction to Prenatal Genetic Counseling	1	GENC 5045 Clinical Genetic Testing and Variant Interpretation	2
GENC 5025 Clinical Observation	2	GENC 5060 Capstone Research Project III	1
GENC 5030 Research Seminar Series	1	GENC 5070 Fieldwork Internship II & III	6
GENC 5035 Medical Genetics	3	GENC 5085 Advanced Topics in Precision Medicine - Reproductive	1
GENC 5040 Principles of Human Genetics for the Genetic Counselor	3		
COUN 5000 Research Methodology & Program Evaluation	3		
COUN 5015 Counseling Techniques	3		
Spring Year 1		Spring Year 2	
GENC 5015 Introduction to Cancer Genetic Counseling	1	GENC 5030 Research Seminar Series	1
GENC 5020 Introduction to Pediatric and Adult Genetic Counseling	1	GENC 5060 Capstone Research Project IV	1
GENC 5030 Research Seminar Series	1	GENC 5071 Fieldwork Internship IV & V	6
GENC 5055 Introduction to Clinical Practice	2	GENC 5056 Introduction to Clinical Practice Peer Supervision	2
GENC 5060 Capstone Research Project I	1	GENC 5100 Professional Development and Diverse Roles	1
GENC 5721 The Developing Embryo for the Genetic Counselor	1	GENC 5734 Healthcare Delivery System	2
COUN 5125 Social and Cultural Diversity	3	GENC 6000 Online Review Course	0
Summer Year 1			
GENC 5060 Capstone Research Project II	1		
GENC 5070 Fieldwork Internship I	3	PROGRAM TOTAL	56

Fieldwork Rotations

In the Summer of Year 1, Fieldwork Rotations begin and continue into the Fall and Spring of Year 2. The fieldwork rotations include three 8-week core rotations (pediatric/general genetics, prenatal and cancer) and two ~4-week elective rotations. The core rotations occur at ACGC-approved sites, most of which are at one of the Ochsner Medical Center (OMC) locations (Main Campus, Baptist, Baton Rouge, St. Tammany) that are within the New Orleans metro area or ~1-hour drive. We make every effort to avoid students having the extra expense of traveling to and finding housing for required rotations. However, this may be unavoidable depending on the fieldwork rotation site schedule, the program schedule, and a student's schedule. Many of the elective rotations are remote through telehealth.

Capstone Research Project

Each student must complete a capstone research project (CRP) in their graduate training. The CRP introduces students to the research process and provides them with skills to contribute to the field of genetic counseling. Students will identify a unique research question, submit it to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval or exemption, collect original data and summarize the findings in a summative manuscript. They will also present their work to the department and invited guests and will be encouraged to publish their findings.

Academic Graduation Requirements

- Successful completion of all coursework, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a grade of “B” or higher in all courses with letter grades (or pass if the course is on a pass/fail basis; or satisfactory if the course is satisfactory/unsatisfactory). Students may only retake up to two courses if they fail on the first attempt.
- Passing each fieldwork rotation at ACGC-approved sites with satisfactory evaluations from clinical supervisors and a completed ABMG logbook of at least 50 participatory cases.
- Demonstrate a high level of proficiency with the Practiced-Based Competencies.
- Successful completion of a Capstone Research Project and presentation.
- Successful completion of an oral comprehensive examination.
- Attendance at all journal clubs, seminars and other program activities unless the student has been given an excused absence.