

The Genetic Counseling Program is 58 credits and five semesters of rewarding graduate training at the highest level of excellence.

FALL YEAR 1 (Credit Hours)

- GENC 5005 Introduction to Genetic Counseling (2)
- GENC 5721 The Developing Embryo for the GC (1)
- GENC 5025 Clinical Observation (2)
- GENC 5030 Research Seminar Series (1)
- GENC 5035 Medical Genetics I (3)
- GENC 5040 Principles of Human Genetics for the Genetic Counselor (3)
- GENC 5050 Foundations of Clinical Research for Genetic Counseling (2)

11 credit hours coursework, 2 hours clinical observation, 1 hour seminar

SPRING YEAR 1 (Credit Hours)

- GENC 5015 Introduction to Cancer Genetic Counseling (2)
- GENC 5010 Introduction to Prenatal Genetic Counseling (2)
- GENC 5020 Introduction to Pediatric and Adult Genetic Counseling (1)
- GENC 5031 Research Seminar Series (1)
- GENC 5055 Introduction to Clinical Practice (2)
- GENC 5060 Capstone Research Project I (1)
- COUN 5015 Counseling Techniques (3)

8 credit hours coursework, 2 hours clinical practice, 1 hour seminar, 1 hour research

SUMMER YEAR 1 (Credit Hours)

- GENC 5061 Capstone Research Project (1)
- GENC 5070 Fieldwork Rotation-1 (3)
- GENC 5036 Medical Genetics II (1)

1 credit hour coursework, 3 hours fieldwork rotation, 1 hour research

FALL YEAR 2 (Credit Hours)

- GENC 5032 Research Seminar Series (1)
- GENC 5045 Clinical Genetic Testing and Variant Interpretation (2)
- GENC 5062 Capstone Research Project (1)
- GENC 5071 Fieldwork Rotation-2 (3)
- GENC 5072 Fieldwork Rotation-3 (3)
- GENC 5085 Advanced Topics in Precision Medicine – Reproductive (1)

3 credit hours coursework, 6 hours fieldwork rotations, 1 hour seminar, 1 hour research

SPRING YEAR 2 (Credit Hours)

- GENC 5033 Research Seminar Series (1)
- GENC 5063 Capstone Research Project (1)
- GENC 5073 Fieldwork Rotation-4 (3)
- GENC 5074 Fieldwork Rotation-5 (3)
- GENC 5056 Introduction to Clinical Practice Peer Supervision (2)
- GENC 5100 Professional Development and Diverse Roles (1)
- GENC 5734 Healthcare Delivery System (2)
- COUN 5125 Social and Cultural Diversity (3)

6 credit hours coursework, 2 hours of peer supervision, 6 hours fieldwork rotations, 1 hour seminar, 1 hour research

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 ~4-6 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.