Clinical Cancer Genetics
Genetic Counseling Summer Internship
Application Information

Introduction
The Clinical Cancer Genetics (CCG) program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of the largest genetic counseling programs among the National Comprehensive Cancer Centers. The program’s mission is to provide research-driven genetic risk assessment, genetic testing, risk modification, and prevention screening for patients and their families who are at risk for developing hereditary cancer.

The Clinical Cancer Genetics program is proud to sponsor an unpaid internship at MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) located in the Texas Medical Center. This internship introduces college students to the field of genetic counseling and is designed to provide opportunities for clinical shadowing, and an overall base knowledge of cancer genetics.

Who is Eligible to Apply?
The summer internship program is for students who are juniors or seniors in an accredited college or university. Candidates must have maintained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. To be eligible, candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Ideal candidates have a specific interest in the field of genetic counseling.

Internship Objectives and Expectations

I. Objectives
   A. Obtain a base knowledge of cancer genetics and genetic counseling
   B. Exposure to a variety of cancer genetics cases through clinical shadowing and observation
   C. Provide a broader view of the genetic counseling profession and preparation for graduate school

II. Expectations
   A. Overview
      1. The internship will last 4 consecutive weeks during the following 6 week window: June 26, 2017-August 4, 2017 (to be determined by the intern’s availability). Interns will spend 3 days per week (10-20 hours) at MDACC observing cases, attending conferences/meetings, and working on any research projects assigned by the genetic counselors.
      2. Each intern is expected to attend the internship uninterrupted for the duration of program (i.e. vacation time must be communicated prior to beginning the program).
      3. Interns will be paired with a genetic counselor, who they will assist in clinical and research activities as assigned. This part of the internship will be individualized per the schedule/patient load, research interest and plans of the supervising genetic counselor.
      4. Interns will receive constructive feedback which will help to become better candidates when applying to genetic counseling graduate school programs.
B. Clinic Shadowing/Observation
   1. Interns will receive an unmatched opportunity for clinical observation in the many cancer genetic clinics at MDACC.
   2. Interns are expected to exhibit professionalism in the clinic area at all times. Once the genetic counseling session is in progress, the intern is expected to stay for its duration. Sleeping, texting, talking are not allowed when observing a genetic counseling session.
   3. All interns must maintain the utmost confidentiality and privacy regarding patient medical records and sensitive information, whether in verbal, written, or electronic communication.
   4. Interns must abide by all MDACC policies (including, but not limited to dress code, use of computers, and protection of patient health information).

C. Assignments
   1. Interns will complete a variety of projects and assignments provided by the supervising genetic counselor.
   2. Project expectations and timelines will be communicated by the supervising genetic counselor throughout the internship.
   3. All Interns will receive a cancer dictionary assignment to be completed prior to beginning the internship program. The cancer dictionary will help the intern better understand the terminology used in clinic, as well as provide a basic understanding of a variety of genetic cancer syndromes.

Application Instructions

Applications should be sent to:
   MD Anderson Cancer Center
   Clinical Cancer Genetics, Unit 1354
   Summer Internship Program
   P.O. Box 301439
   Houston, TX 77230-1439

I. Resume or Curriculum Vitae
   A. This document should at least include the following:
      1. Completed contact information
      2. Educational background
      3. Listing of educational or community related extracurricular activities

II. Transcript/List of Course Work
   A. Transcript representing a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (can be unofficial)
   B. Please include a list and two sentence descriptions highlighting all courses that would be useful in this internship.

III. Personal Statement
   A. Provide a brief 500 word statement explaining your interest in the genetic counseling internship. Why you are applying? What past experiences have shaped your interest in genetic counseling? What skills do you hope to acquire or improve upon during this internship? How will you integrate this experience into your career aspirations?

IV. Letters of Recommendation (optional, but recommended)*
   A. One or two sealed letters of recommendation from recent academic or professional contacts
   B. It is the intern’s responsibility to make sure that the letters of recommendation are received prior to the due date.

All application items must be received on or before April 1, 2017
Selection Process
The Clinical Cancer Genetics Summer internship program is highly competitive. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until all positions are filled. Individual genetic counselors select their own summer interns and provided one-on-one mentoring throughout the program. Candidates will be informed of their selection into the program no later than May 1, 2017. If selected, participants must secure their own travel arrangements and housing for the duration of the internship. In addition, the desired 4 week window must be determined by May 12, 2017.

Acceptance Requirements
Successful candidates selected for the internship program are required to complete a formal MDACC application and submit the following supplemental documentation. Failure to meet any of these requirements in a timely manner will result in the forfeiting of an intern’s placement in the program.

- Up-to-date immunization records (including TB and flu shot records)
- Criminal background check
- Tobacco screening
- Drug screening
- MDACC Orientation
- Cancer Dictionary Assignment
- Other documentation as request by MDACC

For More Information
Please navigate our website www.mdanderson.org/departments/ccg for more information about the Clinical Cancer Genetics program overview, clinical services and affiliated faculty and staff. For any questions or concerns regarding the status of your application, please contact the Clinical Cancer Genetics office at 713-745-7391 or ccg@mdanderson.org.

*The application deadline for the internship program is April 1, 2017. All interested students are strongly encouraged to apply well in advance of the deadline.

** Please be aware that if you are not accepted into the internship program this is not a reflection of your ability to gain acceptance into an accredited genetic counseling graduate program.