UT Genetic Counseling Program

Message from the Director

We are thrilled that you are considering the field of genetic counseling, a dynamic and growing career. For information on the profession visit www.nsgc.org.

Our students have access to unmatched resources within the Texas Medical Center. World renowned faculty teach, conduct research, and provide services to over 10 million patients a year through 59 member institutions, including UTHealth, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. Students rotate in the following clinical settings:

Prenatal Clinics:
- University of Texas Fetal Center
- UT Physicians Women’s Center locations
- Memorial Hermann Hospitals in suburban locations throughout Houston
- Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
- St. Joseph’s Medical Center
- Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center
- Texas TIPS Teratogen Hotline

Medical Genetics/Pediatrics Clinics:
- University of Texas Health
- Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
- Shriners Hospital for Children in Houston
- Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital

Cancer Clinics:
- UT MD Anderson Cancer Center Clinics: Gynecologic Oncology, Breast Cancer, Pediatric Cancer, Gastroenterology, Leukemia, Hereditary Endocrinopathy and Suburban MDAnderson Centers
- UT Health Cancer Clinic
- Houston Methodist Cancer Center
- University of Texas Medical Branch

Specialty Clinics:
- Tuberous Sclerosis Complex
- Osteogenesis Imperfecta
- Craniofacial
- Hemophilia
- Cardiovascular and Aortic Aneurysm
- Mitochondrial Disease
- Huntington Disease

Elective and Summer Sites:
- University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and League City
- Industry, Laboratory, and Research Genetic Counseling opportunities
- Spanish Immersion Rotation at UTHealth and Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
- Away and abroad rotations may also be explored

https://gsbs.uth.edu/genetic-counseling/

Program Description

The UTHealth Genetic Counseling Program (UTGCP) is a challenging and unique Master of Science program administered through the MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and is housed in the Division of Medical Genetics, Department of Pediatrics, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. The UTGCP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling. Since its founding in 1989, the UTGCP has graduated over 138 students with more than 94% achieving board certification on the first examination. The program’s mission is to excel in the educating and training of exemplary genetic counselors by providing a strong didactic foundation and exposing students to the depth and breadth of clinical and research opportunities in the UT System and the Texas Medical Center.
The Curriculum
full time program

**Fall, Year 1**
- Introduction to Genetic Counseling
- Cancer Genetic Counseling
- Prenatal Genetic Counseling
- Topics in Medical Genetics I
- Psychosocial Issues in Genetic Counseling I
- Ethical Dimensions of Biomedical Sciences
- Embryology

**Spring, Year 1**
- Introductory Clinical Rotations
- Topics in Medical Genetics II
- Approaches to GC Research I
- Psychosocial Issues in Genetic Counseling II

**Summer, Year 1**
- Summer Elective Rotation
- Research in Biomedical Sciences
- Laboratory Rotation

**Fall, Year 2**
- Advanced Clinical Rotations
- Approaches to GC Research II
- Masters Thesis Research
- Contemporary Issues in Genetic Counseling I

**Spring, Year 2**
- Advanced Elective Rotations
- Masters Thesis Research
- Contemporary Issues in Genetic Counseling II
- Psychosocial Genetic Counseling Practicum

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What Makes The UTGCP Special?
*In the words of our alumni...*

- The wide variety and high numbers of clinical cases, resulting in graduates feeling extremely confident and prepared to be practicing as independent genetic counselors
- The welcoming of all students so that you feel like you are with family, even if you are far from your biological family
- The dedicated faculty and staff
- The financial opportunities that make getting a first class education easier on the pocketbook

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**Application Process**

**Successful applicant scores:** GPA > 3.5 and GRE > 75%

**Minimum suggestions:** GPA > 3.0 and GRE > 50%

**Personal statement:** Should convey applicant’s passion for and discovery of genetic counseling

**Recommended:** Genetics, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Calculus, Statistics, Advocacy/Crisis/Disability work, Genetic Counseling Shadowing

**Applicants/Interviews:** 200 applications; 40 interviews in March/April each year

**Acceptances:** 10; notified on match program release date set by Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors in conjunction with National Matching Service in late April

**Scholarships:** offered annually to three incoming students; provides tuition remission to in-state rates for out-of-state residents. Scholarships renewed in second year for students in good academic standing.

**Tuition and fees:** For two years (45 credit hours total) approximately $11,000 in-state tuition and $30,000 out-of-state. Tuition and fees subject to change.

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**Contact**
For more information, contact:
Sarah Noblin, MS, CGC
gsbs.gcpinfo@uth.tmc.edu
Coordinator for Recruitment and Outreach

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UTGCP is an outstanding place to train for an exceptional value!