

GENETIC COUNSELOR

Genetic Counselors assist patients and healthcare providers with the genetic testing support and optimization of precision medicine. This profession combines medical genetics and counseling to support individuals and families regarding inherited diseases that may impact their health. Genetics counselors work with patients to provide psychosocial support, as well as providing expert advice and training to other healthcare providers.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$95,770
- » National projected career growth: 16%
- » Many work in hospitals, physician offices, outpatient care centers, university medical centers, and diagnostic laboratories

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 6 years
- » Average Entering GPA: 3.0
- » Typical-entry level education: Bachelor's Degree
- » Average entering GPA nationally: 3.5

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center
- » Augustana University (Sioux Falls, SD)
- » University of Minnesota
- » University of Wisconsin-Madison
- » University of Oklahoma Health Sciences
- » University of Colorado-Denver

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record, especially in the last 30 semester hours
- » Gain experience in counseling or client advocacy
- » Obtain direct patient care experience
- » Obtain exposure to the field of genetic counseling
- » Gain experience with crisis centers or individuals with disabilities
- » Participate in laboratory/research

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY



"My value as a genetic counselor is to be able to serve as a translator for families because they can then understand what is going on, what the genetic testing means, and become partners with the scientists and clinicians."

-Brenda Finucane

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

Clinical

- » Pediatric
- » Oncology
- » Specialty

Laboratory

- » Diagnostic Lab
- » Research
- » Education

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*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC

Last update: 9.2024

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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska Medical Center	Augustana University
University of Minnesota	University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Oklahoma Health Science Center	University of Colorado-Denver

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 17)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab	5	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 1750 Biology II & Lab	5	F, S, M	BIOL 1450
BIOL 2140 Genetics & Discussion	4	F, S, M	BIOL 1450 & 1750 & CHEM 1140 or 1180
AND			
BIOL 3020 Molecular Biology of the Cell	3	F, S, M	BIOL 2140 and a Gen. Chem course
OR			
BIOL 4140 Cell Biology	4	F, S	BIOL 2140, 3020 & CHEM 2210 or 2250

Chemistry (minimum credits: 17)			
CHEM 1180/1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190 & 1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184
AND			
CHEM 2250 Organic Chemistry I*	3	F, S, M	CHEM 1190 & 1194
CHEM 2260 & 2274 Organic Chemistry II & Lab*	5	F, S	CHEM 2250
CHEM 4610 Biochemistry of Metabolism	4	S	CHEM 2260 (CHEM 2274 recommended)
OR			
CHEM 2210/2214 Fund of Organic Chem & Lab*	5	F, S	CHEM 1140 & 1144 or CHEM 1190 & 1194
CHEM 3650 & 3654 Fundamentals of Biochemistry	4	F, S	CHEM 2210 & 2214 or CHEM 2260 & 2274

*Necessary to meet the requirement of Biochemistry that includes Organic Chemistry as a pre-requisite.

Statistics (minimum credits: 3)			
PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
BIOL 2020 Statistics for Life and Environ. Science	3	F, S	MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, or 1320
SOC 2130 Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
STAT 1530 Elementary Statistics	3	F, S	ACT 19 or ALEKS 4
STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I	3	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320

Psychology (minimum credits: 3)			
PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	

Strongly Recommended Courses			
PSYC 4440 Abnormal Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010
BIOL 4130 Molecular Genetics	4	F	BIOL 2140, 3020, & CHEM 2210 or 2260
BIOL 4850 Developmental Biology	3	S	BIOL 1450, 1750, 2140, 3020 & CHEM 3650 or 4650
BIOL 4890 Genes, Brain, & Behavior	3	F, S	NEUR 1520 & BIOL 2140
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740

*Any course in personal genomics will be useful as well.