

# 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. Genetic counselors work with patients to provide psychosocial support, as well as providing expert advice and training to other healthcare providers.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National Average Salary: \$85,700
- » National Projected Career Growth: 26%

## TYPICAL EDUCATION\*\*

- » Years of school (including undergraduate): 6
- » Approximate cost: \$47,395
- » Minimum entering GPA: 3.0
- » 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 Center
- » University of Colorado-Denver

## COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain strong academics, especially in last 30 semester hours
- » Gain experience in counseling or client advocacy
- » Obtain direct patient health 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 PROFESSIONALS 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

\*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\*\*Data and information from UNMC.

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Click the links for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">University of Nebraska Medical Center</a>	<a href="#">Augustana University</a>	<a href="#">University of Minnesota</a>
<a href="#">University of Wisconsin-Madison</a>	<a href="#">University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center</a>	<a href="#">University of Colorado-Denver</a>

### UNMC Prerequisites

**F = Fall, S = Spring, M = Summer**

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 17-18)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 – Biology I	5	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 1750 – Biology II	5	F, S, M	BIOL 1450
BIOL 2140 – Genetics**	4	F, S, M	BIOL 1450, 1750 & CHEM 1180
BIOL 3020 – Molecular Biology of the Cell	3	F, S, M	BIOL 2140
<b>OR</b>			
BIOL 4140 – Cell Biology	4	F, S	BIOL 2140, 3020 & CHEM 2210 or 2250

\*\*Must be complete prior to applying

Chemistry			
CHEM 1180 & 1184 – General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1320 or CHEM 1140/1144
CHEM 1190 & 1194 – General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	CHEM 1180/1184 and MATH 1320
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 2260/2274
<b>OR</b>			
CHEM 2210 & 2214 Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry*	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 requirement of Biochemistry that includes Organic Chemistry as a pre-requisite

Recommended Mathematics (minimum credits: 3)			
BIOL 4110–Statistics for Biology	4	F	BIOL 1450 & 1750, and MATH1220, 1130, or 1530
PSYC 3130 – Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1220, or 1530
SOC 2130 – Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1130, 1220 or 1530
STAT 3000 – Statistical Methods I	3	F, S, M	MATH 1310 or 1220

Social Sciences			
PSYC 1010 – Introduction to Psychology**	3	F, S, M	None

\*\*Must be complete prior to applying

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 BIOL/CHEM 4650
BIOL 4890 – Genes, Brain, & Behavior	3	F, S	NEUR 1520 & BIOL 2140
BIOL 2740 – Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	F, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 – Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	S, M	BIOL 2740

-Any course in personal genomics will be useful as well