



Genetic Counseling Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

WELCOME

The Mission of the University of Colorado Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling is to train competent, compassionate and innovative graduates who will effectively integrate professional practice and human genomics to deliver quality, client-centered genetic counseling services, promote informed health policy, and engage in scholarship, advocacy and leadership activities throughout their careers. We are a community of trainees, faculty, and staff, each shaped by their unique personal, cultural, social, educational, and professional experiences. We work collaboratively within the program and with our campus partners to foster a welcoming and supportive learning environment for all by encouraging the sharing of individual ideas and perspectives, promoting respectful and open communication, and providing access to opportunities and resources to assist trainees in reaching their personal and professional goals.

WHAT IS GENETIC COUNSELING?

Genetic counselors work in clinical, laboratory, teaching, administrative, commercial, government, research, and consulting environments. As members of health care teams, they provide information and support to individuals and families affected with or at risk for genetic conditions or genetic predispositions to diseases such as cancer. They investigate the traits present in the family, interpret information about these conditions, assess inheritance patterns and risks of occurrence and/or recurrence, review testing and management options, provide supportive counseling, identify community, and support group resources, and act as patient advocates. They may serve as professional liaisons for laboratories to ensure that health care providers order and interpret genetic tests appropriately. They serve as educators and resources for other health care professionals and the general public. Genetic counselors facilitate support groups, participate in health care policy development, and conduct research. Genetic counselors are in exceedingly high demand as genetic/genomic testing options and their applications to personalized medicine continually expand. *For more information, visit www.NSGC.org.*

The program provides comprehensive master's level training addressing the complex individual, family, and societal impact of advances in human genomics. Students learn to effectively assist patients, health care providers and the public to understand and utilize genetic information and testing to promote individualized and informed health care choices and wellbeing.

The program was founded in 1971. Alumni practice throughout the U.S. and Canada in all specialties of genetic counseling. Employment settings include hospitals, genetics centers, clinical research programs, laboratories, biotechnology companies and public health departments.

The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC). We provide in-depth classroom education in scientific and psychosocial aspects of genetic conditions concurrently with early, hands-on clinical experiences, combining theory with practice throughout the 5-semester, 21-month curriculum. Students gain experience with a range of clinical genetic testing and scholarly research activities. Our graduates' ABGC boards pass rate is excellent.

If you are committed to high standards of academic learning, patient care, and personal and professional growth in this expanding field, we look forward to your application!

Carol Walton, M.S., C.G.C.

Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Director, Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling

KEY INFORMATION

Application Deadline & Match Process | All student positions will be filled via the 2026 Genetic Counseling Admissions Match through National Matching Services (NMS). To be considered for the incoming 2026 class, an applicant must complete both steps:

1. **Register for the 2026 Genetic Counseling Admissions Match.** Your application will not be considered unless you first register with National Matching Services (NMS). You must register with NMS even if you only apply to this program. Enter your NMS identification number on the program application. Additional match information is on Page 5. Register at natmatch.com/gcadmissions
2. **Applications for Fall 2026 open Sept 1, 2025, and close Jan 1, 2026.** Applications must be submitted by 10 p.m. Mountain Standard (Denver) Time. [Access the online application.](#)

Transcripts | Electronic Transcripts should be e-mailed to the Graduate Admissions team at graduate.school@cuanschutz.edu.

If you are unable to submit electronic transcripts, you may mail physical transcripts directly to:

Graduate School
Mail Stop C296
Fitzsimons Building, C5000
13001 E. 17th Place
Aurora, CO 80045

Contact the Program | Email us at genc-ms@cuanschutz.edu.

Program website | cuanschutz.edu/genetic-counseling
Graduate School website | graduateschool.cuanschutz.edu

CONTENTS

Click on a heading or subheading to jump to that section.

SECTION I. ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS	4
PREREQUISITE COURSES	5
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE	5
CANDIDATE SELECTION	6
GENETIC COUNSELING ADMISSIONS MATCH	6
SECTION II. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE	7
CURRICULUM	7
TUITION	8
FEES	8
FINANCIAL AID	8
SECTION III. DENVER AND THE AURORA METROPOLITAN AREA	8
THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS (CU ANSCHUTZ)	9
STRAUSS HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY	9

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL COLORADO.....	9
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL (UCH).....	10
HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION.....	10
STUDENT SERVICES AND RESOURCES	10
SECTION IV. DESCRIPTION OF COURSES	11
SECTION V. CORE CLINICAL TRAINING SITES	13
SECTION VI. GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM TEACHING AND CLINICAL FACULTY	15
SECTION VII. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS.....	16
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST FOR DOMESTIC APPLICANTS	16
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS.....	17

SECTION I. ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling must meet admission requirements of both the Graduate School and the Genetic Counseling Program. These are detailed below and on the next page.

1) Fulfillment of the academic requirements for regular admission to the Graduate School:

- a. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a college or university of recognized standing in the biological sciences, psychology, social work, nursing, or a related field.
- b. MINIMUM undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

2) Completion of the online application form and submission of supporting materials. Access the online application website at graduateschool.cuanschutz.edu/admissions/apply.

3) **FOUR letters of recommendation are required.** Recommendations should be requested from individuals who know the applicant in an academic or professional context and can directly attest to the applicant's academic performance, professional abilities, and potential for success as a graduate student and genetic counselor.

Preferably, at least two of the recommendations should be from academic sources at the undergraduate level or higher (course professors, major/academic advisor, research mentor, thesis advisor), while others should be from supervisors in volunteer/advocacy or professional contexts. Recommendations from family members and personal/family friends are strongly discouraged.

The application site provides instructions for sending requests to your recommenders and for sending follow-up reminders to them, if needed, prior to the application deadline. This online system enables the recommender to complete a secure, online recommendation and submit it directly to the online system.

Please plan ahead! If you wait until too close to the deadline to request your recommendations, your recommenders may not have adequate time to submit their materials prior to the deadline and your application cannot be reviewed.

An **official** set of recommendation letters submitted **directly** from a school career center is acceptable. Recommendations that have been in the possession of the applicant **cannot** be accepted.

4) **ONE official copy of each transcript must be sent *directly* from *all* colleges and universities attended** (degree and non-degree), regardless of the number of courses taken. Electronic submission of official transcripts by the registrar's office is also acceptable; please email electronic transcripts to graduate.school@cuanschutz.edu.

If the applicant has completed a study abroad program, transcripts from the host institution overseas should be requested unless specific information about the study abroad institution, program, courses taken, grades received, and credits awarded toward the degree are reported on the student's official transcript of their undergraduate institution.

Transcripts marked "issued to student" will only be accepted if they are in their original sealed (unopened) envelopes as issued by the registrar.

IMPORTANT

Remind recommenders that, in addition to the ratings requested on the recommendation form, *providing specific narrative discussion about the candidate's performance and qualifications is extremely helpful.*

Please allow your recommenders adequate time to write and submit your recommendations.

- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that these materials have been submitted by recommenders by the January 1 deadline.
- Recommendations submitted after our January 1 deadline will *not* be accepted.

All recommendations are subject to verification of authenticity.

5) **GRE scores are not required** for the 2026 admissions cycle.

6) **ELP Test Scores.** Official scores (i.e., TOEFL) must be submitted if your native language is not English or do not meet one of the exemption criteria. Please see the International Applicants checklist (Section VII, Page 18) for further details.

PREREQUISITE COURSES

Prerequisite courses must be completed or in progress at the time of application to the program and taken for a letter grade, not pass/fail. Final grades received in fall term courses should be included in the application and an updated transcript sent as soon as final fall course grades are posted. If any courses will be taken during spring term, submit a current transcript verifying enrollment in the course(s) or a proof of enrollment letter from the registrar.

NOTE: Prerequisites cannot be waived, taken during the summer term immediately prior to starting the program, or taken concurrently during enrollment in the genetic counseling program.

- **General/Introductory Biology** (a full academic year first-year level course sequence).
- **General/Inorganic Chemistry** (a full academic year first-year level course sequence).
- **General Biochemistry** (comprehensive upper-level course). This may either be fulfilled by completion of both semesters of a full academic year upper-level course sequence (e.g., Biochemistry I and Biochemistry II) or by completion of a comprehensive/accelerated one semester upper-level biochemistry course. Completion of just the first semester of a full year course sequence does not fulfill the prerequisite. Organic Chemistry is typically a prerequisite for upper-level Biochemistry courses. If the biochemistry course you are considering does not have an organic chemistry prerequisite, it likely is not taught at a high enough level to adequately prepare you for this program. A combined one semester Organic/Biochemistry course does not satisfy this prerequisite.
- **General Genetics** (upper-level course including fundamentals of genetics of prokaryotes and eukaryotes, Mendelian principles, molecular genetics principles, gene expression, recombinant DNA technology, population & quantitative genetics, laboratory techniques). Completion of an accompanying genetics laboratory component is strongly recommended if not already integrated into the core genetics course. Please note that an upper division "Human Genetics", "Molecular Genetics", or "Behavioral Genetics" course does not fulfill this prerequisite, though such higher-level courses are encouraged as useful supplements to the prerequisite general genetics course to reinforce your genetics background as a basis for graduate studies.
- **General/Introductory Psychology** (one semester course). Once you have completed this prerequisite course, you may find other upper division psychology and introductory counseling courses beneficial to further enhance your knowledge. However, these courses do not replace the prerequisite requirement.
- **Also *highly* recommended:** Introductory Statistics, Anatomy & Physiology, Molecular/Cellular Biology.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Experience in counseling/advocacy and laboratory settings, and a strong understanding of the genetic counseling field, are highly recommended to be considered a competitive applicant. Interacting directly with people in a counseling or client advocacy setting provides opportunities to practice and gain confidence with communication, empathic listening and response, crisis management, decision-making support, and other skills central to caring for clients as a genetic counselor. Examples of relevant experiences include volunteer or paid positions with:

- Community healthcare agency such as Planned Parenthood, clinic for the homeless or similar programs
- Crisis hotlines or community crisis counseling centers
- Group homes or day programs for individuals with developmental or behavioral disabilities
- Domestic assault programs or shelters
- Hospice programs
- Clinics or research programs working directly with patients or clinical research subjects.
- Genetic counseling assistant (GCA) with a clinic or laboratory
- Technician work in genetics laboratories, or TA positions in biology, genetics, or other relevant courses, are also desirable experiences.

Applicants must demonstrate a clear understanding of the genetic counseling field and their personal goals and motivation for pursuing a career in genetic counseling, and this should be reflected in their application essays and other materials. Successful applicants have typically spoken to and/or met with genetic counselors to learn directly about the career field, and many have job shadowed, interned with, or otherwise participated in activities such as case conferences of a genetic counseling or clinical genetics center during their process of career exploration.

NSGC has a [directory of genetic counselors](#) willing to talk to individuals considering the career field.

CANDIDATE SELECTION

Admission to the genetic counseling program is highly competitive. Currently, the program admits six new students per year. Admitted candidates generally have qualifications exceeding the minimum standards indicated. Thus, meeting the minimum standards does not guarantee an interview or an offer of admission to the program.

All interviews are by invitation only. The Admissions Committee will make its initial selections based on review of the applicants' files. Selected applicants will be invited to interview on specific dates in March & April. **The program will conduct interviews remotely via Zoom for the 2026 admissions cycle, regardless of an applicant's proximity to campus.** This eliminates the often prohibitive cost of travelling for in-person interviews and reduces applicants' time away from school, work and other responsibilities. Since first implemented during the 2020 recruitment cycle, remote interviewing has been positively received by our applicants and the incoming cohorts of students who have matched to the program.

GENETIC COUNSELING ADMISSIONS MATCH

The M.S. Genetic Counseling Program is participating in the Genetic Counseling Admissions Match through National Matching Services (NMS). All student positions will be filled via the Match. The GC Admissions Match was established to enhance the process of placing applicants into positions in masters-level genetic counseling programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC). The Match uses a process that takes into account both applicants' and programs' preferences. All applicants must first register for the Match with NMS before applying to participating genetic counseling graduate programs. At the conclusion of all program interviews, both applicants and programs will submit ranked lists of preferred placements to NMS according to deadlines posted on the NMS website. The binding results of the Match will be released to both applicants and programs simultaneously on a specific date in mid-April 2026, to be determined by NMS and posted to its website along with other important dates.

Visit the NMS website at natmatch.com/qcadmissions to register for the match, review detailed information about the matching process and deadlines, and view a demonstration of the matching algorithm.

The program only admits students once each year for full-time study, with a new student cohort beginning training in late August each year. Due to the sequencing of the didactic and clinical components of the training, part-time, evening, and distance curriculum delivery are not available. You should apply for the year that you anticipate being able to begin your graduate studies, as deferred admissions are not offered. Similar to medical school and other intensive graduate and health professional programs, students in the M.S. Genetic Counseling program should consider their graduate studies as their priority during the 21-month program.

SECTION II. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE



The genetic counseling program requires a minimum of 47 core semester hours for completion of the **M.S. Genetic Counseling degree (subject to change without notice)**. Students must earn at least a B minus grade in all required courses; course grades below B minus cannot be applied toward the graduate degree.

M.S. Genetic Counseling students complete a degree Plan II of the Graduate School. This is a

non-thesis degree plan with a required scholarly Capstone Project. It requires successful completion of a minimum of 44 core course/clinical rotation credits plus 3 semester credits of capstone work. Students must complete a Capstone scholarly project as well as pass a two-part comprehensive examination in the spring of year two of the program. The comprehensive examination consists of a written examination followed by an oral examination that is case-based and requires application of knowledge from courses and clinical rotations.

Students may take additional elective courses, but electives are not required since the program's core credit requirements exceed the minimum degree requirements of the Graduate School for award of an M.S. degree. Most students can successfully complete the requirements of the program during the typical 21-month, 5-semester (including summer) plan of full-time study. Registration for additional semester(s) in residency may be required if a student in otherwise good academic standing does not make expected progress toward completion of the Capstone project or other degree requirements.

CURRICULUM

Coursework during years one and two includes instruction in the principles of human/clinical genetics and genomics, cytogenetics, molecular genetics, biochemical/metabolic genetics, cancer genetics, risk calculation; psychosocial, interviewing and counseling theories and techniques, and ethical, legal, social, and professional issues in genetic counseling practice.

Laboratory Experience is obtained via a series of integrated cytogenetics and molecular genetics didactic and laboratory courses taken in year one of the program. Additional laboratory experiences may be arranged for the interested student.

Required Clinical Rotations include Pediatric General Genetics Clinic, Prenatal Genetics Clinic, Adult and Pediatric Hereditary Cancer Clinic, Metabolic Genetics Clinic, Regional Telemedicine and Specialty/Multidisciplinary Clinics, and Adult Medical Genetics and Neurology Clinic. Students assume responsibility, under the supervision of their clinical supervisors in each setting, for appropriate care of all clients to whom they are assigned. Case activities include pre-clinic case preparation and literature review, obtaining intake histories and family histories (pedigrees), participating in dysmorphology examinations, conducting genetic risk assessment, and provision of genetic counseling regarding diagnosis, genetics, testing options, informed consent, test results, psychosocial impact and adjustment, and support needs and resources. Students gain extensive experience in identifying and arranging appropriate genetic testing, and in results interpretation and disclosure. Students present cases for discussion at case conferences, conduct post-clinic follow-up regarding testing and results, complete medical documentation in electronic medical records systems, and write correspondence to patients/families and their medical providers. It may be possible for interested students to arrange a clinical rotation outside of Colorado during the summer semester between years 1 and 2 if an appropriate host center can be identified and the student's planned involvement meets program degree requirements, ACGC training requirements, and legal requirements of the University of Colorado and the host institution.

The Capstone Project is conceptualized by students during year 1 and undertaken during the summer and year 2 of the program. This is an individualized scholarly project that contributes to the knowledge and/or practice of genetic counseling. Each student works with a committee of faculty mentors for guidance regarding project topic, design, execution, and presentation of results.

Additional activities: Required activities include participation in clinical case conferences, variant interpretation conference, multidisciplinary team meetings, care conferences with patients and families, maternal/fetal medicine conferences, oncology tumor board meetings, Genetics Grand Rounds and Genetic Counseling Journal Club. Successful completion of an online clinical embryology course during the first semester of the program is also required.

TUITION - The tuition rates for the 2025-26 academic year are \$817 per semester credit hour for Colorado residents and \$1548 per semester credit hour for non-Colorado-residents. Genetic counseling students take a minimum of 25 credit hours during their first year (including summer) and the balance of credits during their second year.

Most non-Colorado-resident U.S. students may receive in-state tuition rates in their second year if they establish Colorado residency following their first year of school. Guidelines for determination of residency are available at cuanschutz.edu/registrar/residency.

FEES - Fee amounts may change at any time without prior notice. Fees include:

- Background check for incoming students - \$65.00
- Matriculation fee for incoming students - \$140.00
- Student Activity/Senate: \$20/year
- Academic Support Services: \$64 per semester
- RTD College Pass: \$37.70 per semester
- International Student fee: \$225.00

Tuition and Fees tables:
cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/cost-of-attendance/graduate.

Billing and Payment information (Bursar's Office):
cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/billing-payments.

FEES (Continued) - Annual premiums for required student health insurance and student health services currently total \$6,580.00 per year (2025-2026 plan year). Though health coverage is mandatory, purchase of the student health insurance plan may be waived with proof of comparable health insurance at the time of enrollment.

Information about Student Health Insurance can be found at cuanschutz.edu/student/health-wellness/student-health-insurance.

FINANCIAL AID - Although there is no formal monetary support for students in the Genetic Counseling Program, every effort is made to help students find part-time positions on campus, such as in laboratories, clinical, research or office support areas. Some students work part-time off-campus.

The campus Financial Aid Office contacts incoming students upon formal admission to CU Anschutz. If you are applying to the graduate program and anticipate needing Federal student loans, work-study or other aid, the Financial Aid office advises that you file a FAFSA form by April 1 (priority consideration). **The Title IV code for CU Anschutz is 004508.**

CU Anschutz Financial Aid Office:
cuanschutz.edu/student-finances/financial-aid

SECTION III. DENVER AND THE AURORA METROPOLITAN AREA



Picture yourself in [Denver](#), Colorado's capital city. CU Anschutz students enjoy the resources, variety, and beauty of the adjacent cities of Denver and [Aurora](#), which are at the hub of a six-county metropolitan area of over 2.5 million people along the eastern foothills of the magnificent Rocky Mountains. Recreational and cultural activities abound.

The metro area has extensive networks of urban and mountain parks perfect for jogging, hiking, biking, and water sports. Several major ski and snowboarding areas are just 1-2 hours away. The Denver Performing Arts Center attracts national theater tours and hosts the Denver Symphony Orchestra. The Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Zoo and several excellent museums are popular diversions. Denver's sports franchises include the Colorado Rockies, Denver Broncos, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rapids and Denver Nuggets. Boulder, home to another campus of the University of Colorado, is only 30 miles away and boasts numerous cultural events, CU college athletics, an eclectic downtown area and easy access to mountain parks and trails.

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS (CU ANSCHUTZ)



The new state-of-the-art [CU Anschutz Medical Campus \(CU Anschutz\)](#) was constructed from the ground up as a modern, integrated academic medical community dedicated to the education of health sciences students in many disciplines, provision of quality patient care across the lifespan, and research in the clinical and basic sciences. [Its mantra](#) -- that the future is ours to create -- resonates throughout the campus. Genetic counseling students enjoy the convenience of attending their classes, laboratories, seminars, and many of their clinical rotations in modern educational and medical facilities that are within steps of each other at CU Anschutz. Check out the [interactive campus map](#) and imagine [beginning your student journey here](#).

The Genetic Counseling Program is located in Clinical Genetics and Metabolism on the fourth floor of the Education 2 South building at CU Anschutz. The dedicated genetic counseling student office is a hub for studying and clinical work, with networked computers and phones to facilitate communication with patients and the EMR. Clinical Genetics and Metabolism serves thousands of patients each year through a network of genetics and specialty multidisciplinary clinics at Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) and at regional outreach and telemedicine clinics. Many of the genetic counselors, clinical and metabolic geneticists, and other program training faculty are based here, encouraging frequent and convenient interaction with the genetic counseling students. The Education 2 complex contains modern classrooms, dozens of small group study rooms, bright, comfortable student lounge spaces with kitchenettes, a café/coffee shop, and the University Bookstore. Wireless internet is available throughout.



STRAUSS HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

Only two blocks away from Education 2 is the modern and welcoming [Strauss Health Sciences Library](#). 60 computers in the main reference area and wireless internet throughout the building provide students with immediate access to print and electronic resources. Group study, quiet reading rooms and other designated study spaces are plentiful throughout the building.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO



Adjacent to our offices and classrooms in Education 2 South is the magnificent [Children's Hospital Colorado \(CHCO\)](#), which is consistently ranked as one of the top pediatric hospitals in the nation. CHCO provides cutting edge care in its family-centered, kid-friendly [inpatient and outpatient facilities](#). Meet some of the patients and families ["experiencing different"](#) at Children's Hospital Colorado. Students training here routinely attend grand rounds, case conferences, family

conferences and other educational events designed to enhance their experience in clinical rotations. The cafeteria, with its spacious outdoor patio, and a coffee bar and ice cream shop in the main lobby are convenient and affordable destinations for meals or a study break. [It's a good life](#) as a trainee with the Children's Hospital Colorado team.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL (UCH)



[University of Colorado Hospital \(UCH\)](#) is the main academic medical center of UCHHealth, a nonprofit health care system that includes twelve hospitals and dozens of clinics throughout Colorado. U.S. News and World Report ranks University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) as the best hospital in Colorado. UCH is located just across from Children's Hospital Colorado at the main entrance to the CU Anschutz campus. Here, genetic counseling students receive training in prenatal genetics, hereditary cancer, and adult medical genetics and neurology clinics.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION



A wide range of rental apartments, condominiums and houses is available in the Denver and Aurora areas. There is a style to fit any preference and price range, from units in historic buildings to single family homes and large, modern apartment complexes with many amenities. Although there is no university-sponsored on-campus housing for students, the CU Anschutz [Student Affairs](#) office maintains a housing guide with information about rentals in the vicinity.

There are several private apartment complexes bordering the north and south sides of the CU Anschutz campus within a 5-minute walk of the classroom buildings and many others in neighborhoods within walking or biking distance of campus. Many other nice rental options are within about 15 minutes of campus by car, bus, or light rail. A roommate matching service is also available.

CU Anschutz is a stop on the light rail RTD "R" line and on several RTD bus lines serving the metro area, including Boulder. Students receive the RTD EcoPass as part of their student fees each semester. The campus has convenient highway access, and daily or monthly parking permits can be purchased. Denver International Airport (DIA) is an easy 20-minute drive or light rail ride from the campus.

STUDENT SERVICES AND RESOURCES

The [Student Affairs](#) office also oversees many programs to support students' success and wellness. These include [student organizations](#) and [student government](#), as well as [recreational activities](#).

The [Office of Disability, Access and Inclusion](#) supports the needs of students with disabilities. The campus [Office of Access and Engagement](#) sponsors initiatives to promote and support the varied backgrounds, interests, and needs of the campus community.



SECTION IV. DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

GENC 6101/6102 Psychosocial Aspects of Genetic Counseling I & II. A two-semester course sequence addressing basic psychosocial and counseling theories, approaches, and resources necessary for the provision of genetic counseling to clients and their families in prenatal, pediatric, and adult clinical settings. The first semester focuses on human and family development, pregnancy and perinatal loss, and grief theory. The second semester focuses on family systems, crisis theory and intervention, grief and coping responses, and integration of psychosocial approaches into genetic counseling practice.

GENC 6105 Basic Interviewing Skills. A course covering the fundamental theories and principles of effective patient/client interviewing in genetic counseling practice. Lectures are combined with hands-on role plays and interviews so that students may gain applied experience and receive feedback to foster skills development.

GENC 6110/6111 Topics in Medical Genetics I & II. A two-semester course sequence regarding principles of clinical genetics and genetic counseling, and development of knowledge and clinical skills used in pediatric, prenatal, and adult clinical settings.

GENC 6120 Clinical Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics. A lecture course providing integrated instruction regarding human cytogenetic and molecular genetic principles, techniques, and diagnostic testing approaches used in clinical evaluation and risk assessment for genetic disorders/predispositions in prenatal and postnatal patient populations.

GENC 6121 Laboratory in Clinical Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics. A laboratory course providing an introduction to specific methodologies and interpretation of studies used in diagnostic cytogenetics and molecular genetics laboratories. Principles discussed in the co-requisite Clinical Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics course will be applied through demonstrations, hands-on activities, and discussion of illustrative cases.

GENC 6123 Applied Laboratory Genetic Counseling. During this third course in the cytogenetics/ molecular course sequence students will rotate in genetic testing laboratories to learn about the professional practice of laboratory-based genetic counselors and specific skills such as test ordering, variant interpretation, results report writing, communication with laboratory clients, and collaboration with other members of laboratory teams.

GENC 6130 Cancer Genetics and Genetic Counseling. A course in the provision of genetic counseling services to clients with or at risk for hereditary cancer predisposition. Topics include clinical oncology, epidemiology, molecular biology of cancer, risk assessment, genetic testing, ethical/legal considerations, psychosocial impact and support, and specific approaches used in cancer genetic counseling.

GENC 6140 Human Inborn Errors of Metabolism. A course providing systematic review of major metabolic disorders, including their clinical phenotypes, diagnosis, and management. Physiological and laboratory testing principles important to the understanding of these disorders are reviewed, and the psychosocial impact of metabolic disorders and specific genetic counseling approaches will be discussed.

GENC 6150 Congenital Malformations and Disorders of the Newborn. A survey course covering common major malformations and non-metabolic genetic disorders identified by newborn screening programs. Clinical phenotypes, diagnosis, management, etiology, psychosocial impact, and specific genetic counseling approaches are discussed.

GENC 6170 Introduction to Clinical Research for Genetic Counseling Students. A course covering key methods, study design, ethics, regulatory issues, and research roles in genetic counseling are explored.

GENC 6201 Advanced Psychosocial Genetic Counseling. A course examining advanced genetic counseling techniques as they relate to psychosocial theories, specific client characteristics, and the client/counselor dynamic, via critical discussion of core topics and readings, and application of theories to analysis of students' cases.

GENC 6210/6211 Professional Issues in Genetic Counseling I & II. A two-semester course sequence regarding professional practice issues of master's level genetic counselors. The fall semester course focuses on professional standards, professional ethics, legal principles, and health systems and policy issues relevant to genetic counselors. The spring semester course focuses on disability issues, cultural competency, public health genetics, and the expanding professional roles.

GENC 6250 Risk Calculation in Genetic Counseling. A practical course covering pedigree analysis, population genetics, clinical epidemiology and risk calculation principles used by genetic counselors in clinical practice.

GENC 6940 Capstone in Genetic Counseling. Students design and complete an individualized scholarly project that contributes to the knowledge and/or practice of genetic counseling.

GENC 6910 Applied General Genetics Clinic. A required clinical rotation through a general genetics clinic serving a variety of referral indications from birth to adulthood. Students learn and practice case management, history taking, risk assessment, counseling, and client advocacy skills.

GENC 6911 Applied Prenatal Genetics Clinic. A required clinical rotation through prenatal diagnosis and genetics clinics serving patients with routine and high-risk referral indications. Students learn and practice history taking, risk assessment, patient education and genetic counseling regarding prenatal screening, fetal diagnostic testing, and case management, as well as attend procedures, seminars, and care conferences.

GENC 6912 Applied Metabolic Genetics Clinic. A required clinical rotation through our comprehensive clinic for inborn errors of metabolism. Students will work with patients of all ages referred for diagnostic evaluation, medical and nutritional management of specific conditions, and follow-up of positive newborn metabolic screening results.

GENC 6913 Applied Regional Telemedicine & Specialties Genetics Clinics. A required clinical rotation through regional outreach telemedicine genetics clinics and specialty/multidisciplinary clinics for various genetic conditions.

GENC 6914 Applied Hereditary Cancer Clinic. A required clinical rotation for genetic counseling students through Adult Hereditary Cancer and Pediatric Oncology clinics where risk assessment, genetic counseling and testing for genetic cancer predisposition syndromes are provided.

GENC 6915 Applied Adult Medical Genetics Clinic. A required clinical rotation for genetic counseling students through genetics clinics providing diagnosis, management, risk assessment and genetic counseling for adults affected with or at risk for genetic disorders and genetic predispositions to disease.

GENC 6919 Applied Medical Genetics Clinic – Clinical Elective. An elective clinical rotation for students desiring to arrange training in settings outside of core required clinical rotations or an additional, advanced rotation.

GENC 6920 Applied Medical Genetics – Laboratory Elective. An elective rotation for students desiring to arrange an advanced, applied training experience with genetic counselors based in a genetics diagnostic laboratory.

Curriculum Overview by Semester (subject to change without notice):				
Year 1 Fall	Year 1 Spring	Year 1 Summer	Year 2 Fall	Year 2 Spring
Coursework: GENC 6101, 6105, 6110, 6120, 6121, 6170; Online clinical embryology	Coursework: GENC 6102, 6111, 6123, 6130, 6140 or 6150 (alternate years)	Coursework: GENC 6940	Coursework: GENC 6201, 6210, 6250, 6940	Coursework: GENC 6211, 6140 or 6150 (alternate years), 6940
Clinical Training: Clinical observations EPIC EMR training “Hands on” clinical practice	Clinical Training: “Hands on” clinical practice Formal Clinical Rotations (sequence varies by student)	Clinical Training: Formal Clinical Rotations (sequence varies by student)	Clinical Training: Formal Clinical Rotations (sequence varies by student)	Clinical Training: Formal Clinical Rotations (sequence varies by student)
Other required activities: Weekly department education meetings and case conferences. Monthly GC Journal Club.	Other required activities: Weekly department education meetings and case conferences. Monthly GC Journal Club.	Other required activities: Weekly department education meetings and case conferences.	Other required activities: Weekly department education meetings and case conferences. Monthly GC Journal Club	Other required activities: Weekly department education meetings and case conferences. Monthly GC Journal Club.

<p>Required Clinicals (<i>all students start formal clinical rotations in Spring semester of year 1 and continue through Spring semester of year 2</i>):</p> <p>GENC 6910 Pediatric General Genetics</p> <p>GENC 6911 Prenatal Genetics</p> <p>GENC 6912 Metabolic Genetics</p> <p>GENC 6913 Regional Telemedicine and Specialty Clinics</p> <p>GENC 6914 Hereditary Cancer (Adult and Pediatric oncology settings)</p> <p>GENC 6915 Adult Medical Genetics and Adult Neurology</p>	<p>Comprehensive M.S. Exams (written and oral)</p> <p>Capstone Project Completion (submission of formal paper and oral presentation to campus genetics community)</p>
<p>IMPORTANT</p> <p>Clinical training is provided via in-person or hybrid in-person and telehealth formats, depending on the specific clinic setting. Students must be in compliance with all immunization, drug screening, HIPAA, and other requirements of each of their training settings and the hospitals in which they are located.</p>	

SECTION V. CORE CLINICAL TRAINING SITES

University of Colorado Hospital and Anschutz Centers for Advanced Medicine:

- Adult Medical Genetics Clinic
- Adult Neurology Genetics Clinic
- Adult Hereditary Cancer Clinic
- Prenatal Diagnosis and Genetics

Kaiser Permanente of Colorado

- Prenatal Diagnosis and Genetics

Other affiliated Denver area training partners supporting student training in oncology, prenatal genetics, and other practice areas.

Children's Hospital Colorado

Division of Clinical Genetics and Metabolism:

- General Genetics Clinic
- Positive Results Clinic
- Inherited Metabolic Disorders Clinic
- Neurocutaneous Clinic
- Skeletal Dysplasia Clinic
- Craniofacial Clinic
- Hereditary Hearing Loss Clinic
- Pediatric Cardiology Clinic
- Neuromuscular Disorders Clinics
- Ophthalmologic Genetics Clinic
- 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Clinic
- SOAR (Differences of Sex Development) Clinic
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Clinic
- Regional Telemedicine Clinic
- Inpatient Genetics Consults

Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders:

- Pediatric Hereditary Cancer Clinic

Colorado Fetal Care Center



SECTION VI. GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM TEACHING AND CLINICAL FACULTY

Program Director: Carol Walton, MS, CGC

Assistant Director, Clinical Training: Kathleen Brown, MS, CGC

Faculty Genetic Counselors, Clinical Supervisors, and Course Lecturers

- Kaitie Angione, MS, CGC
- Lisen Axell, MS, CGC
- Janet Bell, PhD, MS, CGC
- Lianna Braham, MS, CGC
- Emma Burt, MS, CGC
- Curtis Coughlin II, MS, MBe, PhD, CGC
- Kaylee Dollerschell, MS, CGC
- Hannah Elfman, MS, CGC
- Melissa Gibbons, MS, CGC
- Sara Gracie, MS, CGC
- Shay Guetz-Lindahl, MS, CGC
- Susan Howell, MS, MBA, CGC
- Sarah Hunt, MS, CGC
- Janell Kierstein, MS, CGC
- Kristina Kocsis, MS, CGC
- Lisa Ku, MS, CGC
- Marrisa Lafreniere, MS, CGC
- Susan Larabell, MS, CGC
- Caitlin Lavin, MS, MPH, CGC
- Sandy Linn, R.N., MS, CGC
- Leslie McCallen, MS, CGC
- Tiera Mack, MS, CGC
- Kristina Markey, MS, CGC
- Jay Moore, MS, CGC
- Emily Muth, MS, CGC
- Michele Rapp, MS, CGC
- Jonathan Saari, MS, CGC
- Kami Schneider, EdD, MS, CGC
- Samantha "Sam" Seymour, MS, CGC
- Mindy Simonson, MS, CGC
- Michelle Springer, MS, CGC
- Leighann Sremba, MS, CGC
- Ali Suttman, MS, CGC
- Shayna Svihovec, MS, CGC
- Kelli Swan, MS, MA, CGC
- Yael Weinstein, MS, CGC
- Allison Wheeler, MS, CGC
- Erica Wright, MS, CGC

Psychosocial Curriculum Faculty

- Carol Heinisch, MS, MSW, LCSW
- Michael Talamantes, MSW, LCSW



Physician Faculty

Clinical Genetics and Metabolism, CHCO:

- Peter Baker II, MD
- Kathryn Chatfield, MD (Cardiology/Genetics)
- Aaina Kochhar, MBBS
- Austin Larson, MD
- Shawn McCandless, MD
- Naomi Meeks, MD
- Farrah Rajabi, MD
- Margarita Saenz, MD
- Jessica Stansauk, MD (Cardiology/Genetics)
- Janet Thomas, MD
- Johan Van Hove, MD, PhD, MBA

University of Colorado Hospital:

- Matthew Taylor, MD, PhD, Adult Genetics
- Manesha Putra, MD, MFM

Denver Health Medical Center

- Lizbeth McCarthy, MD, Prenatal Genetics

Laboratory Faculty

Colorado Genetics Laboratory (Clinical Cytogenetics):

- Stephen Wicks, PhD
- Billie Carstens, B.S., ClSp(CG)
- Chandra Perez-Gill, MS, CGC
- Mikayla Stoecker, MS, CGC

Precision Diagnostics Laboratory/CHCO (Clinical Molecular and Biochemical Genetics):

- Kit Kronquist, PhD
- Tim Wood, PhD

Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine Biobank:

- Kristy Crooks, PhD
- Emily Todd, MS, CGC

REMEMBER

You must register with NMS for the Match prior to submitting your application to the program.

Your application to the Program will not be considered if you have not first registered for the Match via the NMS website by our 1/1/2026 application deadline: natmatch.com/gcadmissions. The GCEA has established a match fee waiver program for eligible applicants. See the [NMS site for eligibility and application information](#).

SECTION VII. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

General instructions regarding application and supporting materials for all domestic and international applicants:

APPLY NOW

APPLICATION OPENS: SEPTEMBER 1

DOMESTIC APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 1

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1

Carefully read all instructions in this brochure and on the on-line application site as you complete the various sections of the application. You will automatically be provided with links directing you to the online recommendation system and instructions for downloading any supplementary forms.

Please remember that you may save and re-enter the on-line application site at any time using your password, and that you do not need complete your online application all in one sitting.

Please do not submit videotapes, manuscripts, portfolios, or other supplementary items not requested by the application, as these will not be reviewed by the Admissions Committee and cannot be returned to you.

Incomplete applications may not be considered.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST FOR DOMESTIC APPLICANTS

International Applicants please see the next page.

A complete application must include the following items:

1. Application form (submitted online):

- ☐ **Online Application form:** Includes NMS Match Number, Demographics and Contact Information, Institutions Attended, Courses in Progress, Test Scores, Names of 4 references and several list and essay questions addressing your past achievements, experience relevant to your proposed study in the field of genetic counseling, and future plans for graduate study and a professional career in genetic counseling.

Please answer each of these questions thoughtfully and completely. Do not substitute a previously prepared generic "personal statement" document in place of the individual essay questions, as each is asking you for different information. Together, your responses to all these questions constitute your "personal statement" to the Admissions Committee. You will be asked to attach files in one of several acceptable file formats containing your essay style responses to these questions. It is extremely helpful if you also attach your CV or resume, though this document does not replace your essay responses.

2. Required Supporting Materials (if submitted via mail, use the address on Page 1 of this brochure)

- ☐ **Four letters of recommendation**, submitted via the online recommendation system.
- ☐ **One official sealed copy of your transcript** sent directly (via mail or electronically) from every college/university you attended, even if you only took one class there.
- ☐ **Application fee of \$50.00** in U.S. funds paid to the University of Colorado. Your online application will not be considered active until payment is received. Online Credit Card payment via the online application site is available and is strongly encouraged for fastest payment of your application fee and activation of your application.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

[Learn more about University International Admissions requirements.](#)

Domestic Applicants please see previous page.

Applicants who do not have United States citizenship or permanent resident visa status, including those who are currently in the U.S. on any type of temporary visa, are required to apply as International Applicants.

Most of the application materials are the same as described for Domestic Applicants (previous page). In addition, you must:

- **Submit official English Language Proficiency (ELP) scores** (i.e. TOEFL) if your native language is not English or if you do not meet one of the [requirements for an exception](#). The minimum TOEFL score required for admission is 550 (paper)/ 213 (computer)/ 80 (internet). Please note: 570/230/89 are the preferred competitive minimum scores. Institution code: 4875 (University of Colorado Denver).
- **Provide adequate proof of financial support** for your course of study at CU Anschutz. Refer to specific guidelines on the “Financial Statement for Foreign Applicants” forms, to which the online application site will direct you.
- **Request one (1) certified copy of official records (transcripts).** Do not submit transcripts from foreign (non-US) institutions to the University. Instead, you must provide an international credential evaluation report from Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) or World Education Services (WES). You will send your transcripts to the evaluation provider of your choice, and the provider will send their evaluation report to the Graduate Admissions team. Academic credentials must be evaluated from each institution of higher education where you enrolled in courses or earned the bachelor's degree or other post-secondary certificates or degree(s). [Learn more about external credential evaluations.](#)

International Application Deadline: Materials from international applicants are more extensive and generally require more review regarding eligibility for graduate study. Thus, **we strongly advise you to file your application by December 1, 2025**, rather than using the regular January 1, 2026, deadline. Incomplete applications may not be considered.

A complete application must include the following items:

1. Application form (submitted online):

- ☐ **Online Application form:** Includes NMS Match Number, Demographics and Contact Information, Institutions Attended, Courses in Progress, Test Scores, Names of 4 references and several list and essay questions addressing your past achievements, experience relevant to your proposed study in the field of genetic counseling, and future plans for graduate study and a professional career in genetic counseling.

Please answer each of these questions thoughtfully and completely. Do not substitute a previously prepared generic “personal statement” document in place of the individual essay questions, as each is asking you for different information. Together, your responses to these questions constitute your “personal statement” to the Admissions Committee. You will be asked to attach files in one of several file formats containing your essay-style responses to these questions. It is extremely helpful if you also attach your CV or resume, though this document does not replace your essay responses.

2. Required Supporting Materials (if submitted via mail, use the address on Page 1 of this brochure)

- ☐ **Four letters of recommendation**, submitted via the online recommendation system.
- ☐ **Academic credential evaluations** from every college/university you attended, even if you only took one class there.
- ☐ **Official ELP score report (if not exempt)** sent directly to institution code 4875.
- ☐ **Proof of Adequate Financial Support documentation** (follow instructions on online application).

The \$75 international application fee is waived for any applicant whose transcript is reviewed via an external credential evaluation.