About our Program

The Genetic Counseling Master’s Program (GCMP) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, is a two year graduate program for students wishing to pursue a career in the field of genetic counseling. The program involves rigorous coursework, a variety of clinical rotations offered throughout the state, and a Master’s research project. Our leadership team consists of genetics professionals from Rutgers Department of Genetics, the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Division of Genetics, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and the Human Genetics Institute of New Jersey. As the only genetic counseling training program in New Jersey, our students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of talented genetic counselors working in a range of professional settings.

Our Mission

To provide excellent, innovative, and interdisciplinary training that prepares our students for the evolving field of genetic counseling.

Our Vision

Graduates of the Rutgers GCMP will be empathic and competent counselors, self-directed learners, and respected leaders who strive to advance the profession and are prepared to fulfill a variety of roles in a healthcare system that increasingly utilizes genetic and genomic medicine.

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Genetics Counseling Master’s Program
Rutgers University–New Brunswick

gcmp.rutgers.edu
About Genetic Counseling

Genetic counselors are trained health care professionals that help patients and families with a variety of genetic conditions understand genetic and medical information, the impact of the condition to family members, and facilitate health decisions in light of the genetic condition. Genetic counselors work with families in a variety of clinical settings including but not limited to prenatal, pediatrics, cancer, cardiac, and neurology. Genetic counselors also work in a variety of other settings, including in research, industry, and laboratories, in response to the expansion of genetic and genomic testing.

The field of genetic counseling has been recognized by US News and World Report as a “hot concentration in healthcare.” Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts job growth to be “much faster than average” given the advancements in genetic and genomic technology. Currently, there is a high demand for genetic counselors both in New Jersey and nationally.

Program Snapshot

The Genetic Counseling Master’s Program is a 56 credit, two-year program. Students complete most coursework during the first year allowing time for clinical rotations during the second year.

Fall First Year:
- Foundations of Genetic Counseling
- Principles of Epidemiology
- Human Genetics
- Clinical Cancer Genetic Counseling
- Lab rotations

Spring First Year:
- Genetic Counseling II: Reproductive Genetics
- Research Methods for Genetic Counseling
- Medical Genetics I
- Counseling Techniques for Genetic Counselors I
- Clinical Rotation

Summer:
- Loss Across the Lifespan
- Clinical Rotation

Fall Second Year:
- Genetic Counseling III: Current and Advanced Topics
- Medical Genetics II
- Counseling Techniques for Genetic Counselors II
- Research
- Clinical Rotation

Spring Second Year:
- Genetic Counseling IV: Genetic Counseling in the 21st Century
- Research
- Clinical Rotation

How to Apply:

Applications are accepted beginning in the Fall with a deadline on or around February 15. Please visit gradstudy.rutgers.edu for more information on how to apply using our online portal. For additional application information including deadlines, please refer to: gcmp.rutgers.edu/admissions/how-to-apply.

Application requirements include:
- Online application
- Official Transcript(s) from all post-secondary institutions
- GRE (taken within the past five years)
- Personal Statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or CV
- $65 nonrefundable application fee
- TOEFL scores if from a non-English speaking country

Top applicants will be invited for an interview at Rutgers University, Busch Campus.

Prerequisites and Recommended Experiences:

- A GPA of 3.2 or higher is recommended
- Course work:
  - Genetics
  - Statistics
  - Biochemistry

- Job shadowing or other genetic counseling experiences that familiarize an applicant with the genetic counseling profession is highly recommended.

- Counseling experience is strongly encouraged. Some examples include volunteering with individuals experiencing crisis, various hotline work, working with individuals with disabilities, and working with support groups.