

GENETICS COUNSELOR FACT SHEET



Last Updated: June 2025

TRADITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Check with individual schools for more information

Helpful Resources:

For information about programs: [Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling](#)

Schools in Michigan:

[University of Michigan - Flint](#)

[Wayne State University](#)

Course Requirements

Each school will have a specific list of course requirements that each applicant is expected to take during their Bachelor's degree. Check the school's website for the program under the "Admission Requirements" tab for more information.

Wayne State University: [Pre Req list](#)

U of M Flint: [Admissions Information](#)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	Successful Completion is needed with a B or C (Depending on Program)	
General Biology	BIO 1200 (4 credits) BIO 1300 (4 credits) BIO 1201 (1 credit)	WSU, UM
General Chemistry	CHM 1440 (4 credits) CHM 1470 (1 credit) CHM 1450 (4 credits) CHM 1480 (1 credit)	WSU, UM
Organic Chemistry 1	CHM 2340 (4 credits)	WSU, UM
Biochemistry	BIO 3232 (4 credits) OR BCM 4254 and 4256 (6 credits)	WSU, UM
Genetics	BIO 3400 (4 credits)	WSU, UM
Statistics	STA 2222 (4 credits) or STA 2221 (4 credits) or STA 2226 (4 credits)	WSU, UM
Psychology	PSY 1000 (4 credits)	WSU

GPA
National GPA Standard: Total Mean GPA: 3.5 3.0 Minimum Prerequisite GPA

*Competitive GPA usually varies by school

Resources

[Academic Support](#) helps with effective studying, time management, test preparation, tackling difficult assignments, and improving strategies for college-level work.

[Academic Success Center](#) (tutoring)

[Writing Center](#)

Experience

Applicants are also evaluated on nonacademic factors. Some examples may include Shadowing, Community Service, Researching, Leadership Skills, Teamwork, Diversity Experience, Teaching, Publications etc.

Resources

[Office of Student Involvement \(OSI\)](#) has student organizations which can help with Leadership Skills, Volunteering and Community Service.

[Writing Center](#) and [Pre-Professional Advising](#) will help on how to write about your experiences.

UM

- **Advocacy Experience:** Advocacy experience helps candidates develop skills and comfort in taking on some of the responsibilities of a counseling or supportive role. This may be accomplished through a volunteer or paid position with a community-based agency such as a crisis intervention program, Planned Parenthood affiliate, domestic violence program, hospice program, etc., through a position as a resident assistant or student advisor; or through some related activity. The advocacy experience should provide sufficient opportunity to work in a responsible, one-on-one (in person, by telephone, or text/web-based) relationship with a variety of individuals seeking information, resources, guidance, counseling, or other support services made available through the sponsoring agency or organization. Advocacy experience typically includes training in interpersonal and related skills, ongoing supervision, and opportunities for feedback and continued growth. Most applicants complete this experience on a part-time basis in the evenings and weekends while attending school or working full-time.

WSU

- Advocacy Experience: Our program specifically would like applicants to have counseling advocacy experience- i.e., experiences where a person receives training in counseling/interpersonal communication skills and then uses those skills to help someone in distress. Examples include but are not limited to crisis counseling hotlines (including crisis text hotlines), domestic violence hotlines/shelters, sexual assault hotlines/advocacy, grief and loss support organizations, peer counseling experiences, and resident assistant positions. Questions about applicable experiences can be addressed to the program directors.
- Insight into the Genetic Counseling Profession: Successful applicants should be able to show that they have investigated the genetic counseling profession and can describe their reasons for wanting to become a genetic counselor. There are many ways to learn about the profession. Shadowing and/or meeting with genetic counselors are effective ways to learn more about the profession, when possible. There are many other ways to learn about the profession. These include watching podcasts about genetic counseling and patient experiences with genetic conditions, watching videos of mock genetic counseling sessions, attending open houses/seminars hosted by genetic counseling programs (many of which are now virtual), attending genetic counseling conferences (again, many of which may be virtual), reading about genetic counselor, and/or taking a course on genetic counseling. To find genetic counselors in your area that are willing to meet with prospective applicants, use the [NSGC Find a Counselor Tool](#).

Examination

GRE

Take when ready. Aim to take once.

GRE Test Sections: Analytical, Quantitative, Verbal

[Registration for GRE](#)

[GRE Scoring and Interpretation](#)

Cost: \$220

[GRE Fee Reduction Program](#)

*GRE is not required for WSU or U of M Flint

Test Prep Resources

GRE

Free Resources

[Learning Express](#) - contact Kresge Library for any questions

Other Resources

[PACE](#) - Oakland University (Kaplan)

[Princeton Review](#)

Competitive scoring for GRE varies by school.

Application

No Centralized Application

Deadlines vary by program

Personal Statement

A personal statement is for you to express your motivation and desire to become a genetics counselor and what makes you unique as an applicant. This statement is sent to all the schools you apply to, so you don't want to direct it to a specific school. It should be more of a story, not a resume and should not list experiences again.

Resources

[Writing Center](#) - For help with writing your personal statement.

Letter of Recommendation

3 to 5 Letter of Recommendation

Each school requires different types of individuals to write the letters

Examples: Professor, Supervisor, Genetic Counselor, etc.

Interviews

Personal Interviews are given to the only top applicants who meet the requirements.

Typically Traditional Interviews

The candidates are usually interviewed by one or more people.

The questions will be more about you as an individual, special life experiences, and what you learned from these life experiences. Students should review the application before the interview and research possible interview questions.

CASPer

Some schools require CASPer

[**CASPer Test**](#) - a 60-90 minute online situational judgment test

Resources

For additional help with interview practice, contact [Career and Life Design Center](#).

[Online Mock Interview Tool](#): “Big Interview”