

# WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN GENETIC COUNSELING?

Students who have an interest in:



Psychology



The Medical Field



**Helping People** 



**Patient Support** 



Science or Genetics

## LEARN MORE

## Learn more about genetic counseling:

National Society of Genetic Counselors www.nsgc.org/About/About-Genetic-Counselors

### See a list of genetic counseling programs:

Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling www.gceducation.org/

#### Find resources for interested students in Arizona:

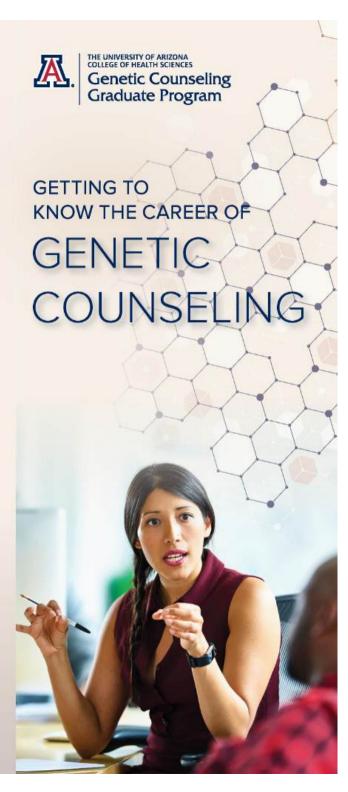
Arizona Genetics Alliance www.azgeneticsalliance.com/student-resources

Scan the QR code below to learn more.



For questions about the University of Arizona's genetic counseling program, email GCGPinfo@arizona.edu

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Genetic Counselors, at www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/genetic-counselors.htm (visited July 10, 2023).
- National Society of Genetic Counselors. (2023) 2023 Professional Status Survey. www.nsgc.org/Policy-Research-and-Publications/ Professional-Status-Survey





# WHAT DO GENETIC COUNSELORS DO?

Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals that help people understand genetic conditions.

#### Genetic counselors:

- Have a deep knowledge of genetics and genetic conditions
- · Educate patients about genetic conditions
- · Provide emotional support to patients
- Understand genetic testing and explain options to patients

#### What does a genetic counselor do in a typical day?

- Document family health history
- Estimate the chance of a genetic condition occurring
- · Offer genetic testing options
- Support the patient in choosing the next step that is right for them

# WHAT SPECIALTIES DO GENETIC COUNSELORS WORK IN?

### Specialties may include:

- Cancer
- Prenatal
- Pediatric
- Adult
- · Neurological
- Laboratory

### Where do genetic counselors work?

- · Clinical settings like hospitals or clinics
- Laboratories
- · Universities
- · Online or in person

### WHAT EDUCATION IS NEEDED?

- Undergraduate bachelor's degree
  Usually a science or social science
- A master's degree from an accredited genetic counseling program
  - Usual length of around 2 years

# WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK AND SATISFACTION?

Genetic counseling is a growing field. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment is expected to grow 18% from 2021-2023. This is a faster rate than average.

In a 2023 report, most genetic counselors (88%) were satisfied with the career of genetic counseling.<sup>2</sup> Average starting salary from full time genetic counselors who graduated in 2022 was surveyed to be around \$80,000 a year.<sup>2</sup>