

Technical Standards for Admissions to the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program

The objective of the Genetic Counseling Program at the University of Michigan is to prepare students for entry into the practice of genetic counseling. As defined by the program's accrediting body, the American Board of Genetic Counselors, an entry-level genetic counselor must demonstrate mastery of a broad body of genetics knowledge, and develop skills in the following domains: Communication Skills; Critical-Thinking Skills; Interpersonal, Counseling, and Psychosocial Assessment Skills; and Professional Ethics and Values. Graduate training is a rigorous and intense training process that places specific requirements and demands on enrolled students.

The technical standards set forth below establish criteria that go beyond academic requirements for admission (e.g., GPA, GRE, letters of support) and define essential abilities candidates admitted to the program must possess in order to complete graduate training.

Candidates for selection to the Genetic Counseling Program must meet the following requirements:

- A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and all members of the health care team.
- The candidate must have the mental capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, and integrate concepts and to problem solve in a timely fashion.
- The candidate must possess the emotional health and psychological stability required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team. The candidate must be able to adapt to changing environments and to function effectively under stress.

Candidates for selection to the Genetic Counseling Program will be required to verify that they understand and can meet these technical standards.

If you think you need an accommodation due to a disability to meet the technical standards, you can contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (734.763.3000; <http://www.umich.edu/~sswd/>), which can help confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws and can make recommendations about accommodations.