

# HGEN 6420: Genetic Counseling Seminar I: Principles of Genetic Counseling

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**Credit Hours: 3.0**

## Contact Information

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Faculty TBD			UUGPGC@utah.edu

## Course Information

### Brief Description of Course

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the principles of genetic counseling. The course develops clinical and psychosocial genetic counseling skills through a variety of methods including lectures, role plays, and practice genetic counseling sessions with simulated patients. The course also covers the history of genetic counseling and clinical genetics, teaches basic competencies in genetic counseling, explores community experiences with genetic conditions, and provides instruction in the genetic counseling process, pedigree analysis, impact of genetic conditions and disabilities, public health influences in clinical genetics, and psychosocial aspects of genetic counseling.

### Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1. Use the professional values of genetic counseling to develop personal professional values
2. Understand genetic conditions and birth defects from the point of view of families
3. Develop and practice skills to manage a genetic counseling encounter
4. Utilize reflective journaling to enhance the educational experience
5. Develop and expand their voice as a counselor in order to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of clients
6. Gain comfort in reviewing, sharing, and improving counseling techniques and personal style
7. Develop tools of self-reflection and peer evaluation of your counseling interactions by engaging in Self-reflection; Session analysis; Assimilation of peer and supervisor feedback; Incorporation of client feedback; and Examination of cultural competence and sensitivity.
8. Gain abilities in critically reading and reviewing scholarly and scientific works for the purpose of informing interactions with clients.

### The ACGC Practice-Based Competencies Addressed in this course:

- Genetics and Genomics Expertise: 1; 1.a, 1.b.
- Risk Assessment: 2; 2.a, 2.b.
- Counseling: 3; 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d.
- Communication: 4; 4.a, 4.b, 4.c.
- Healthcare Systems: 6; 6.a, 6.c.
- Professional Identity: 7; 7.a, 7.b, 7.c, 7.d.

## Course Format & Schedule

### Timeline

One semester

### Educational and Instructional Modalities

This course is held in person for two 90-minute sessions a week.

**Role of the Student in this Course**

Students will be expected to engage in a variety of learning activities including reading, viewing videos, sharing with peers, role plays, writing and creating educational presentations.

**Required Textbooks/Readings**

- LeRoy B, Veach PM, Bartels D. (2020). *Genetic Counseling Practice: Advanced Concepts and Skills*. Wiley-Blackwell. Second edition.
- Uhlmann WR, Schuette JL, Yashar B. (2009). *A Guide to Genetic Counseling*. Wiley-Liss. Second edition. [This book will also be used in GC Seminar II.]
- Veach PM, LeRoy BS, Callanan NP. (2018). *Facilitating the Genetic Counseling Process. Practice-Based Skills*. Second Edition. [This book will also be used in GC Seminar II.]
- Additional reading assignments and sources will be found in Canvas under each individual class.

**Assessment & Grading**

**Evaluation Methods**

Your final grade will be based upon midterm and final examinations, homework assignments and discussions, participation in class, and progress in developing counseling skills. The final grade in this area will be based on improvement and openness to self-review, in addition to skill level. The final exam will be videotaped genetic counseling sessions with simulated clients and presentation and analysis of the taped sessions. **Students must earn at least B- to pass the course.**

**Grading System**

Students will receive a final letter grade. To pass this course you must achieve an overall score of at least 80% (a B- equivalent) as required by the Department of Human Genetics.

Grading Scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	82-85
B-	79 – 81
C+	76-78
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	Below 60

## Standard Policies

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act.**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodation. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

### **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

### **Campus Safety.**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).

### **Alternate Name and/or Personal Pronoun**

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name as well as 'Preferred' first name (if previously entered by you in the Student Profile section of your CIS account). While CIS refers to this as merely a preference, we will honor you by referring to you with the name and pronoun that feels best for you in class, on papers, exams, group projects, etc. Please advise us of any name or pronoun changes (and please update CIS) so we can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun will be respected.

### **Current COVID-19 Campus Guidelines**

COVID-19 Guidelines change rapidly. Please access the most current information COVID-19 Central @ The U. [coronavirus.utah.edu](http://coronavirus.utah.edu)