

HGEN 6820: Research Seminar for Genetic Counseling Students

Credit Hours: 1.0

Contact Information

| Name | Position | Phone | Email |
|-------------|----------|-------|-----------------|
| Faculty TBD | | | UUGPGC@utah.edu |

Course Information

Brief Description of Course

This course is tailored to address the skills that genetic counseling students need to complete their graduate research project requirements successfully. Topics covered include qualitative research methods, informed consent, IRB applications, and research presentations. This course will enable the student to understand research methodologies, apply learned skills to develop their own research, and provide a basis for a critical review of medical literature. Prerequisite: University of Utah Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling (UUGPGC) students or permission of instructor; undergraduate course in genetics.

Course Objectives

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

1. Understand the research requirements for the UUGPGC and their role in the research process at the University of Utah, including engaging with the IRB
2. Evaluate different research methodologies including qualitative and quantitative techniques
3. Consider implications of their own research questions including the need for informed consent,
4. Present a well-rounded and complete research proposal and engage with questions about the research project.

The ACGC Practice-Based Competencies Addressed in this course:

- Genetics and Genomics Expertise: 1; 1.a
- Communication: 4, 4.a., 4.b.
- Research: 5, 5.a., 5.b., 5.c
- Healthcare Systems: 6, 6.a, 6.d.
- Professional Identity: 7; 7.a; 7.b; 7.c

Course Format & Schedule

Timeline

One semester

Educational and Instructional Modalities

This course is held in person for one 60-minute sessions a week. There will be some asynchrony work and occasional recorded lectures within class discussion.

Role of the Student in this Course

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

Required Textbooks/Readings

Textbook: Genetic Counseling Research. A Practical Guide MacFarlane, Veach, LeRoy, 2014. 1st edition

Assigned Readings, Optional Readings, Resources:

Readings will be found in Canvas under each individual class and may be printed or downloaded on your home computer. Make sure you read the headers and footers, as they contain textbook chapter information and websites that are required reading.

Supplemental Materials:

- UUGPGC_Research_Syllabus_Class of 2025.pdf (in Canvas)
- Understanding Clinical Research: Behind the Statistics is a free online Coursera course that focuses on helping practitioners and researchers develop greater confidence in understanding statistical analysis and results. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/clinical-research>.
- Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research (IPPCR) is a free online course to train participants on effectively conducting clinical research. The course focuses on the spectrum of clinical research and the research process by highlighting epidemiologic methods, study design, protocol preparation, patient monitoring, quality assurance, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issues. Other areas covered include data management and ethical issues, including protecting human subjects, building a budget, and many special topics. The course is free (registration is required) and can result in a certificate. <https://ocr.od.nih.gov/courses/ipocr.html>
- Research Education at the University of Utah: <https://education.research.utah.edu/>

Assessment & Grading

Evaluation Methods

Homework assignments in Canvas (40 pts), attendance, and class participation (30 pts). Please note attendance and participation are required. Late homework assignments will have one point deducted per day late.

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

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|----|----------|
| 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.

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