

Technical Standards for Admissions, Continuation, and Graduation

Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling (MSGC)

The Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling program is committed to providing a genetic counseling degree without regard to disability, while assuring that academic and technical standards are met. Technical standards represent the essential non-academic requirements that a student must demonstrate to successfully participate in the Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling degree program and meet the professional competency requirements. Students must demonstrate competence in intellectual, physical, and social tasks that represent fundamentals of being able to successfully complete the curriculum in order to pursue any career path in genetic counseling. Thus, the standards are prerequisites for admission, continuation, and graduation from the Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling program.

The Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling program will consider for admission any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform or to learn to perform the skills listed in the technical standards. All applicants are held to the same academic and technical standards of admission and training, with reasonable accommodations as needed for students with disabilities. The program reserves the right not to admit any applicant who cannot meet the Technical Standards with reasonable accommodations. Applicants are not required to disclose the nature of their disability(ies), if any, to the Admissions Committee. To matriculate into the Program, the applicant must sign the Technical Standards Certification Form documenting their ability to meet the standards. If a student cannot demonstrate the required skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request an appropriate accommodation. Any applicant with questions about these technical standards is strongly encouraged to discuss the issue with the Associate Director of Admissions prior to the interview process. If appropriate, and upon the request of the applicant/student, the school will consider technological and other facilitating mechanisms needed in order to train and function effectively as a genetic counselor.

The objective of the Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling Program at Keck Graduate Institute is to prepare students for entry into the practice of genetic counseling. An entry-level genetic counselor must demonstrate practice-based competencies and a mastery of a broad body of genetics knowledge. The competencies are categorized into the following domains: Genetics Expertise and



Analysis; Interpersonal, Psychosocial and Counseling Skills; Education; and Professional Development & Practice. These domains represent practice areas that define activities of a genetic counselor. The didactic and clinical training components of the curriculum of a genetic counseling program are rigorous and must support the development of the competencies.

The technical standards set forth below establish criteria that go beyond academic requirements for admission and define essential abilities candidates admitted to the program must possess in order to complete graduate training. Candidates for selection to the Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling Program must meet the following requirements:

- Must possess the emotional health and psychological stability required for the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team.
- Ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients to elicit information from them and to provide information to patients and all members of the health care team.
- Ability to receive and interpret written communications in a timely manner in both the academic and clinical settings, including information presented on computer screens.
- Ability to receive and send verbal communication during life threatening situations within the acceptable norms of clinical settings, including responding to warnings and alarms, interpreting auscultation, and indications of other diagnostic equipment.
- Ability to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, and integrate concepts and to problem solve in a timely fashion.
- Ability to exercise sound judgment.
- Ability to understand ethical issues related to the genetic counseling profession.
- Ability to maintain a professional demeanor and to relate in a professional manner to patients and other health care professionals.
- Ability to accept feedback and respond with appropriate behavior or modification of behavior.
- Ability to adapt to changing environments and to function effectively under stress.

The Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling program at Keck Graduate Institute has been granted Accredited New Program accreditation, effective February 1, 2018. A program achieving Accredited New Program accreditation may admit students, who, upon successfully completing their degree, will be deemed to have graduated from an ACGC-Accredited program. KGI has received approval from the Western Association for Schools and Colleges to offer the Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling Degree.



I the undersigned applicant have read and understand all pages of the technical standards form. I understand that these technical standards are requirements for admission, continuation, and graduation from the Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling Program.

Print Name: _____

Sign Name: _____

Date: _____