



GENETIC COUNSELING INTERN POSITION MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

BACKGROUND:

Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals with specialized graduate training in the areas of medical genetics and counseling. Genetic counselors usually work as members of a healthcare team, providing information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders and to families who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions.

Depending on the specific reason(s) for the consultation, the genetic counselor may:

- Review personal and family medical histories
- Identify possible genetic risks and discuss inheritance patterns
- Review appropriate testing options
- Discuss prevention strategies, screening tools, and disease management
- Provide genetics-related information and reliable resources
- Provide supportive counseling

Adapted from www.nsgc.org

ABOUT MCW:

Mission: We are a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists and health professionals; we discover and translate new knowledge in the biomedical and health sciences; we provide cutting-edge, collaborative patient care of the highest quality; and we improve the health of the communities we serve.

At MCW, our genetic counselors work in a wide variety of settings and may provide different services. We currently staff the Froedtert Health Network and Children's Hospital clinics in: pediatrics, perinatology, reproductive medicine, oncology, cardiology, ophthalmology, and neurology.

OBJECTIVE:

To learn more about the career of genetic counseling through assisting the genetic counselors in case preparation, observing patient counseling sessions, contributing to program development projects and participating in clinical research.

DAYS AND TIMES:

The days and times of the internship are variable depending on the on-site needs and intern availability. We will adapt to fit to the student's schedule. Our commitment is typically 140-160 hours per semester.



Genetic Counseling

DUTIES:

- Shadow clinicians and observe patient care.
- Provide aide-related activities such as obtaining medical records, family medical history, pedigree construction, relevant medical literature searches, other case preparation work, and communication follow-up.
- Aid in the development of patient education tools.
- Work on program development projects that may involve data collection/entry, data analysis, contacting referring physicians, enhancing access to services, etc.
- Participate in community education events.
- Contribute to clinical research.

PREREQUISITES:

- Actively enrolled as an undergraduate in their junior or senior year. Minimum GPA of 3.0. Currently enrolled or completed a college level biology and genetics course.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application process is through MCW's PURE Program:

<http://www.mcw.edu/Graduate-School/Prospective-Students/Internship-Program-PURE.htm>

The MCW Genetic Counseling Internship Program does accept students year-round. This is an unpaid internship, however some colleges do allow for credit to be received for the experience.

LINKS OF INTEREST:

For more information about the field of genetic counseling: www.nsgc.org

For more information about the MCW Genetic Counseling Program:

<https://www.mcw.edu/departments/genomic-sciences-and-precision-medicine-center-gspmc/what-we-do/services-resources/for-health-care-providers/genetic-counseling>