

## **TECHNICAL STANDARDS (for Admission, Retention, and Graduation)**

The Masters of Genetic Counseling degree from the Ohio State University Genetic Counseling Graduate Program (GCGP) indicates that the individual is a genetic counselor who is competent to practice genetic counseling in any postgraduate training program and is capable of genetic counselor licensure. All graduates are required to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to provide safe and effective genetic counseling services to diverse patients in a wide variety of clinical settings. Thus, each candidate for admission must possess the ability to develop the skills and qualities required to practice direct patient care regardless of his or her ultimate career goals.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended, the leadership of the OSU Genetic Counseling Graduate Program requires that matriculates into the program meet the following technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, as a condition of participation in the medical education program. Reasonable accommodations include those assistive devices and strategies that do not change the essential requirements of the curriculum and do not change the standards of performance judged to be acceptable. Assistive strategies that use trained intermediaries to obtain and interpret data from patients on behalf of the student will not be accepted as reasonable.

### **Standard I - Intellectual, conceptual, integrative, qualitative abilities:**

- a. The matriculate must be able to observe, measure, calculate, and utilize information to engage in critical thinking and problem solving in both individual and group contexts that are essential to the function of a genetic counselor. They must be able to demonstrate these procedures under pressure and in a timely fashion across the range of clinical conditions and timeframes.
- b. The matriculate must be able to comprehend multi-dimensional relationships.

### **Standard II - Stamina:**

- a. The matriculate must possess the physical and mental stamina necessary to reliably and fully participate in the curriculum, including small group learning activities, computer-based learning activities, computer-based examinations, and clinical rotations.
- b. The matriculate must be able to demonstrate sustained intellectual activity to master the large volume of material needed to meet GCGP performance standards.
- c. The matriculate must be able to work erratic shifts and function as a collaborative team member within the work hours defined by the fieldwork placement sites assigned by the GCGP.

### **Standard III - Observation:**

The matriculate must be able to actively participate in instructional activities utilizing images, to observe patients for signs of genetic disease and ill ease.

### **Standard IV - Communication:**

- a. The matriculate must be able to communicate independently with peers and other members of the healthcare community.
- b. The matriculate must be able to communicate efficiently and effectively using written text.

**Standard VI - Professional Interactions:**

- a. The matriculate must possess the emotional stability and personal management skills necessary to behave with integrity, respect, compassion, tolerance, and acceptance of others in their interactions with patients, peers, faculty, and other members of the medical center community at all times, including under stress and after interrupted sleep.
- b. The matriculate must be able to respond quickly to demands within the clinical environment.
- c. The matriculate must be able to demonstrate flexibility with regard to the demands of the curriculum and must be able to manage clinical uncertainty.

Prior to receiving reasonable accommodations, a student must be evaluated at the Ohio State University Office of Disability Services:

OSU Office of Disability Services  
098 Baker Hall  
113 W. 12th Ave.  
614-292-3307  
<http://slds.osu.edu/>

Students approved through the Office of Disability Services will receive all reasonable accommodations to the study of genetic counseling and for locally administered examinations. Independently, we require that all students adhere to the technical standards set forth by the College of Medicine. The American Board of Genetic Counseling certification examination board has their own accommodations approval process. For information about learning disabilities and testing accommodations, see the ABGC website for the current Bulletin of Information for the American Board of Genetic Counseling Certification Examination.

If at any point in time a student enrolled in the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program might no longer meet the Technical Standards of the GCGP they must notify the OSU GCGP Program Director. The student should consult with the Office of Disability Services regarding potential accommodations and request that a report of the ODS evaluation and recommendations be sent to the OSU GCGP office. Upon receipt of the attestation and the ODS report, the OSU GCGP leadership will determine if **reasonable** accommodations for the student can be made. In circumstances when the OSU GCGP leadership determines that a student does not meet the technical standards and cannot be reasonably accommodated the student will be referred for review by the **COM Vice Dean for Education**. It is the responsibility of the **COM Vice Dean for Education** to determine whether the student can or cannot meet the described standards utilizing reasonable accommodations. The recommendations of this Vice Dean shall guide the OSU GCGP leadership in determining whether a student should be referred for dismissal. Students who are no longer able to meet the technical standards of the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program even with reasonable accommodations will be dismissed.

**English Competency Requirement**

Students must be able to demonstrate effective communication skills with patients that include spoken, auditory, reading, and writing proficiency in English language. Any faculty or staff member has the authority to refer an applicant with a provisional acceptance or a matriculated student to the Graduate School leadership if a concern is raised about English competency. The Graduate School may require assessment and subsequent remediation of the individual if minimal competency is not demonstrated. Individuals must have a score of 19 on each section of the paper-based TOEFL, 79 Internet Based TOEFL,

7.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam or IELTS Indicator, or in order to meet minimal competency standards.

If minimal competency is not met, the individual will be removed from clinical studies or have a deferred admission until remediation is achieved according to the OSU spoken English-competency program. Any individual who does not meet spoken English competency must also demonstrate competency on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a 280 or higher score on the computerized exam or a score of 114 or higher on the TOEFL iBT test.

If remediation cannot be accomplished in one year, provisional acceptance will be withdrawn. Matriculated students who are unable to meet competency standards will be unable to complete the curriculum due to inability to participate in clinical assignments and will be counseled accordingly.

### **Criminal Background Checks**

All students are required to complete a criminal background check. This policy is described in detail in [Section 7: Program Policies.](#)