

Academic Preparation for GC Graduate Programs

Minimum Required Coursework for Admission to GC Programs. Students should research the admission requirements for the genetic counseling programs to which s/he intends to apply early in his/her academic career, and s/he should schedule her/his undergraduate classes based on the requirements of the programs in which s/he is interested. ***Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling the admission requirements of the programs to which s/he intends to apply.***

Most genetic counseling graduate programs require the following classes:

- 2 semesters of general biology with labs (BIO 171 and 172);
- 1 semesters of general chemistry with lab (CHM 111);
- 1 semester of genetics (BIO 280 – the prerequisites for this course are BIO 172 and CHM 112);
- 1 semester of cell biology (BIO 460 – the prerequisites for this class are CHM 112 and BIO 280) or molecular biology (BIO 410 – the prerequisites for this course are CHM 222 and BIO 280);
- 1 semester of biochemistry (BMB 465 – the prerequisites for this course include CHM 222 and BIO 172);
- 1 semester of statistics (STA 126);
- 1 semester of introductory psychology (PSY 101);
- *2 semesters of psychology, sociology, anthropology, and/or public health;
- *1 semester of human anatomy and physiology (BIO 131 and 132)
- *1 semester of technical writing (TCO 341 – the prerequisite for this class is TCO 141);

****= depends on the program of interest. Because admission requirements may vary, students are urged to investigate the graduate programs available and identify their preferred programs early.***

Courses that could enhances your academic portfolio:

- 1 semester of biopsychology (PSY 210; *note that PSY 101 is a prerequisite for this course*)
- 1 Semester of medical sociology (SOC 323; *note that SOC 101 or GHS 101 is a prerequisite for this course*)
- 1 semester of biostatistics and morphology (BIO 421; *note that grades of C or better in BIO 260 and in CHM 112 or 115; or BIO 300, BIO 301, or BIO 302 are prerequisites for this course*)
- 1 semester of embryology (BIO 450 – the prerequisites for this course include CHM 112 and BIO 280)
- 1 semester of research methods (course ID varies by department);
- 1 semester of developmental psychology (PSY 245);
- 1 semester of abnormal psychology (PSY 265);
- 1 semester of bioethics (PHI 293); and
- 1 semester of medical terminology (students who need this course are advised to find an accredited institution who offers it online (e.g., portagelearning.com, UNE, Liberty University).
- Consider minors in statistics (STA) and/or biology (BIO)

Academic Majors and Minors for Pre-GC Students. The Bachelor of Science in Biology or in Neuroscience offered by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences fits well with this chosen field, but students are urged to investigate graduate schools to identify their targets to see what each prefers before choosing a major field of study. Genetic counseling programs look for individuals who come from various backgrounds and possess a variety of skills and interests. While most graduate and professional schools in the U.S. require applicants to complete a bachelor's degree before they matriculate, they may not express a preference for any particular academic major when reviewing applications.

The Importance of Mathematics to the Pre-GC Track. To enroll in the first semester of general biology (BIO 171) and general chemistry (CHM 111), a student must demonstrate a minimum mathematics

competency that is equivalent to pre-calculus (MAT 133) or above. This competency may be demonstrated through a "math index" (calculated upon entry as a first-year student using the high school GPA and math score on the SAT or ACT) of 980 or higher; college credit for MAT 133 (transfer, AP, or CLEP), or by scoring 15 or higher on the math placement test. Information about the math placement test can be found online here: <http://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/placement-exams/>.

CLEP Exam for Pre-calculus. A student who scores 50% or higher on the CLEP pre-calculus exam may submit his or her test official transcript to the Mercer registrar and receive MAT 133 credit. Information about the CLEP pre-calculus exam can be found here: <http://clep.collegeboard.org/exam/precalculus>.

