

ACGC MESSENGER



A Newsletter from the Accreditation Council
for Genetic Counseling

Welcome to the ACGC Messenger

Welcome to the 2025 First Quarter ACGC Messenger newsletter. We look forward to keeping you updated with important information and announcements in this quarterly newsletter.

Standards Revision Process



Did you know that it typically takes about two years, in total, to complete a full revision to the ACGC Standards? This is a very detailed process, for which the thoughtful and intentional incorporation of comments and feedback from all stakeholders is essential.

In Year One, members of the Standards Committee are identified. We first collect input from these committee members, the ACGC Board, and the DEIJ committee regarding specific areas to focus on for potential changes to the Standards.

Next, a survey regarding the Standards document is created and distributed to all genetic counselors' contacts ACGC has, as well as encouraging those individuals to share the communication with others who may be impacted but did not directly receive the communication. This survey requests input on each individual Standard and is typically open for a period of two months. The Standards committee then divides into teams, each assigned to one section of the Standards. Over the span of two months, these teams collate all the comments for their section, draft minor revisions, and draft questions/possible edits for more substantial changes.

The Standards Committee then meets twice per month to begin working together on more substantive changes and edits to the Standards and the FAQ document. This process takes around five to six months, beginning at the end of Year One, and extending into Year Two. During this time, we discuss significant edits and seek feedback from the ACGC Board and the DEIJ committee for any additional information or resources that may be required to inform these changes. Typically, by the late Spring of Year Two, the proposed changes to the full Standards are provided to the Board, who then may return them to the Standards Committee for additional suggested revisions. This process takes about two to three months. At this time, the "final" draft of the Standards is released for a public comment period of two months, usually in mid-late summer. Over the next month, the Standards Committee then reviews/incorporates any additional changes that may be required based on the feedback from the public comment period. These revisions are then sent to the Board for review, any final suggestions for revision, and ultimately approval, a process which takes an additional two to three months. Typically, by December of Year Two, the Board will release the new version of the Standards, with a timeline for compliance.

For the current review taking place, the initial survey went out late in Spring 2024 and the Committee has just shifted into the second year of the process. We anticipate the latest proposed version of the Standards to be available for public comment in Summer 2025, with an estimated final release date in Winter 2025.

Navigating Challenges: ACGC's Commitment to Programs

In recent months, we have seen a range of catastrophic events occurring all over the U.S. and Canada. If your program is impacted, now or by an occurrence any time in the future, and it is felt that this will cause undue hardship in accomplishing accreditation Standards, please reach out to the [ACGC Executive Office](#). Together, we can collaborate on possible solutions to help lessen any impact and ensure your leadership team is supported.

Self-Study and Report of Current Status Open for 2025

Self-Study instruments were assigned on February 3rd for the programs undergoing reaccreditation this cycle and Report of Current Status (RCS) instruments were assigned on March 14th. If you have any team members who will be working on these submissions, but either do not yet have an Armature account or need to have access added to these forms, please [reach out to Angela](#).

Along with this, all invoices have been added to Armature. For those programs paying by credit card, please [reach out to Amalia](#) to access the credit card payment portal.

Cohort Size Approvals



Cohort sizes are reviewed and approved by the ACGC Board at the time of any New Program application approval or at the time of a program's reaccreditation. This approved number will be noted on your accreditation confirmation letter and can be found on a program's Armature profile under the 'Profile' tab and then within the 'Additional Info' subtab.

Please note that any changes (such as an increase in cohort size request or program leadership changes) should not be made on Self-Study or Report of Current Status submissions. These changes must be submitted through the respective forms which will be made available to you in Armature by the Executive Office.

Program Development

2025 Application Status

Ongoing New Program Applications

University at Buffalo (January 15, 2025, Review Cycle)

2024 Programs Undergoing Reaccreditation

Stanford University

University of California – San Francisco

2025 Programs Undergoing Reaccreditation

Arizona State University

Keck Graduate Institute

University of Toronto

University of Rochester

Announcements

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – Los Angeles, CA: March 18-22, 2025

Accreditation Fees Due: **June 30, 2025**

Report of Current Status Application Due: **June 30, 2025**

Genetic Counselor Educators Association 2025 GCEA Conference – Denver, CO: July 14-16, 2025

Self-Study Application Due: **August 1, 2025**

2025 Site Visits: **October 2025 through January 2026**

Canadian Association of Genetic Counselors 2025 Annual Education Conference – *Banff, Alberta: October 5-8, 2025*

National Society of Genetic Counselors 44th Annual Conference – Seattle, WA: November 7-10, 2025

National Society of Genetic Counselors 45th Annual Conference – Baltimore, MD: November 10-14, 2026

Resource Reminders

Do you have any questions about accreditation processes or policies? We love hearing from you, but make sure you check [the resources available](#) on the ACGC website first. The Accreditation Manual is a wealth of information, and it might answer your questions faster than waiting for an email!

We encourage you to forward and share this newsletter on your social media platforms or with colleagues and associates.