

ACGC MESSENGER



A Newsletter from the Accreditation Council
for Genetic Counseling

Welcome to the ACGC Messenger

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

ACGC Acknowledgement of April 23rd Executive Order

You may be aware of the ‘[Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education](#)’ Executive Order (EO) that was issued on April 23, 2025. The ACGC was made aware of the situation soon after its publication and we are taking into consideration any necessary future actions on behalf of our organization to comply with any requirements that may follow. At this time, there is no clear guidance or full understanding of the implications of this EO, how it will be implemented or if any actions are required, either now or in the future. We are actively communicating with the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) who will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves. If any changes to Standards or policies become necessary, ACGC will communicate them as quickly as possible. However, at this time we intend to continue to monitor the actions of the federal government without changes to our current Standards.

Petition for Variance Policy Reminder

With the recent federal and state activities stepping back from diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) efforts, ACGC would like to remind all programs of the existence of the [Petition for Variance Policy](#) that is in place. This policy, implemented last year, establishes “guidelines for the definition, consideration, and approval of variances, with the goal of increasing transparency in our review processes.” This review and approval process is intended to “provide programs with an alternative method of achieving a Standard when it poses an undue hardship.”



As a note, programs should always consult with their university’s legal affairs department to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local laws when determining a need for a variance application. If you do need a variance application to be opened, please [contact the ACGC Executive Office](#).

Teaching Modality Data Collection

On the Report of Current Status (RCS) 2025, you may



Hybrid Learning

have noticed a new question (Q-34) asking about the “primary delivery method of the didactic coursework taught by the program to students as defined by your University or using **the definitions found on the ACGC website.**” We will be adding this information to your program’s Armature profile (in the same place as your cohort size), including your teaching modality on the **‘Find a Program’** section of the ACGC website to better inform prospective students, and using this to better

structure site visits for each program’s reaccreditation moving forward.

PBC Compliance Deadline

As a reminder, the compliance deadline with the **2023 Practice-Based Competencies** is June 15, 2025. The Practice-Based Competencies describes the seven practice-based competencies that are necessary for practice as an entry-level genetic counselor. Embedded within the seven competencies are 25 sub-competencies that support the attainment of the practice-based competencies. These competencies, along with the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counselors’ Standards of Accreditation, provide guidance for the training of genetic counselors and for evaluating trainees’ knowledge and skills.

Tripartite Infographic

Genetic counseling is a highly technical field with several organizations playing pivotal roles in shaping its standards, certification, and education. It can be downright confusing which group is handling what and who is going to have the answers to your burning questions! To make it a little easier, ACGC, ABGC, and GCEA worked together to make a **printable infographic** to keep on hand as a resource for those very moments. This document has been added to each organization’s website so it can be easily found (and shared) for years to come.



Program Development

2025 Application Status

Ongoing New Program Applications

The University of Chicago

Accredited, New Program Status

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
University at Buffalo

2025 Programs Undergoing Reaccreditation

Arizona State University
Keck Graduate Institute
University of Toronto
University of Rochester

ACGC Office Hours



June 16, 2025, from 12-1 pm ET

Come prepared with any questions you may have, or feel free to send them to us in advance to be answered live! This is your chance to connect with some of the ACGC Board members and clarify anything that could be impacting your program. Register [here](#) if you have not yet done so!

Announcements

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*

American College of Medical Genetic and Genomics Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – *Baltimore, MD: March 10-14, 2026*

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

Resource Reminders

On the 'Forms & Resources' page of the ACGC website, the DEIJ Committee have created a series of videos to accompany the previously provided DEIJ Language Guide. These videos are intended to provide pronunciation and material clarification of where terms may be found in genetic counseling research and intended applications of the suggested replacement terms and phrases. You can view these videos [here](#).

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



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