

# ACGC MESSENGER



A Newsletter from the Accreditation Council  
for Genetic Counseling

## Welcome to the ACGC Messenger

Welcome to the 2026 First Quarter ACGC Messenger newsletter. We look forward to keeping you updated with important information and announcements in this quarterly newsletter.

## 2026 Standards of Accreditation



The 2026 Standards of Accreditation have officially been published and are available on the ACGC website [here](#). The compliance date for these Standards will be August 1, 2027. Accompanying these new Standards, you will also find FAQ's in Appendix 1 and commonly requested definitions in Appendix 2.

There is also a companion document available to help identify the language differences in the Standards between the 2023 version and the 2026 version. The Standards Change Guide can be found [here](#).

If, after reviewing all supplemental materials, you still have questions pertaining to the Standards, please [contact the Executive Office](#). You might just help us add another "Q" to the FAQ's!

## Self-Study and Report of Current Status Open for 2026

Self-Study instruments were assigned on February 2nd for the programs undergoing reaccreditation this cycle and Report of Current Status (RCS) instruments were assigned on March 13th. 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 sent directly to the primary program contact. For those programs paying by credit card, please [reach out to Amalia](#) to access the credit card payment portal.

The due date for all payment types and RCS submissions is June 30, 2026. Self-Study submissions are due by August 1, 2026.

## ACGC Leadership Shift

After years of dedicated service as the Executive Director of the ACGC, Joe Jackson, CAE stepped down from his role at the end of February. Joe's leadership has been instrumental in steadying ACGC's administration, strengthening operational excellence, and supporting the genetic counseling community.



Stepping into the role of Managing Director is Angela Bond, whose experience within ACGC - most recently as Senior Accreditation Manager - positions her well to lead the organization forward. Angela has already been a key contributor to ACGC's accreditation processes, program support, and organizational initiatives.

Together, this transition reflects ACGC's continued commitment to strong, steady leadership and support for the programs and professionals it serves.

## ACGC Board Member 2026 Applications

The ACGC Board of Directors applications are officially open! As a member of the Board, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the future of our organization in a unique way, shaping policies and promoting excellence in genetic counseling graduate education. We are looking to fill the following:

- Genetic Counselor Educator Member – One available position
- Academic Member - One available position

If you are interested in serving on the ACGC Board, please complete the Board of Directors application found [here](#) by March 31, 2026.

## Policies vs. Standards...what's the difference?



In accreditation work, the terms 'Standards' and 'Policies' often appear side-by-side, yet they serve very different purposes. Understanding the distinction helps programs better navigate expectations, prepare submissions, and maintain compliance throughout the accreditation cycle.

### **What Are Standards?**

Standards are the *required criteria or benchmarks* a program must meet to earn and maintain accreditation. They define what must be achieved. These requirements outline the essential elements of a high-quality genetic counseling program—such as qualified faculty, appropriate clinical placements, and necessary curriculum components. Meeting the Standards demonstrates that a program aligns with the profession's expectations for academic and clinical excellence.

### **What Are Policies?**

Policies explain how the accreditation process works and how Standards are interpreted, monitored, and enforced. They outline the procedures, timelines, and rules that guide each step of the accreditation lifecycle. Examples include instructions for submitting annual reports, the process followed during site visits, or how substantive change requests are handled. Policies make the accreditation system operational by defining the framework within which programs demonstrate compliance.

### **How They Work Together**

In simple terms:

- Standards = What you need to achieve
- Policies = How the accrediting body evaluates those achievements

Standards set expectations for program quality, while policies ensure a fair, consistent, and transparent process for evaluating that quality. Together, they uphold the integrity of accreditation and support continuous program improvement.

## Part-Time Program Tracks

Recently, ACGC has been receiving inquiries about the possibility of part-time students or tracks starting within existing genetic counseling programs. We ask that if your program has a student who chooses (or needs) to change to part-time, or if the program begins to accept students in a part-time capacity from the beginning of their education, please disclose this to ACGC in a formal cover letter sent to the Executive Office. This should also be noted on your Report of Current Status/Self-Study, along with any differences the program feels should be disclosed in how they are ensuring these students are receiving an equivalent experience to those enrolled in a full-time capacity.

## Office Hours



March 30th - 12-1 pm EST

Come prepared with any questions you may have, or feel free to send them to us in advance to be answered live! This is a chance to collaborate with other program leaders and ACGC Board members on questions, clarifications, and generally engage with your accreditation community. Register [here](#) if you have not yet done so!

## Program Development

### [2025 - 2026 Application Status](#)

#### **Ongoing New Program Applications**

The University of Chicago

#### **2025 Programs Undergoing Reaccreditation**

University of Toronto

#### **2026 Programs Undergoing Reaccreditation**

Bay Path University

Medical University of South Carolina

University of Connecticut

Thomas Jefferson University

Rutgers University

University of Alabama

University of Colorado

University of Manitoba

University of Pittsburgh

University of South Florida

Case Western Reserve University

## Announcements

Accreditation Fees Due: **June 30, 2026**

Report of Current Status Application Due: **June 30, 2026**

**Genetic Counselor Educators Association Annual Conference - Virtual: July 2026**

Self-Study Application Due: **August 1, 2026**

**Canadian Association of Genetic Counselors 2026 Annual Education Conference - Halifax, NS: October 14-16, 2026**

**American Society of Human Genetics Conference - Montreal, Canada: October 20-24, 2026**

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

2026 Site Visits: **October 2026 through February 2027**

**American College of Medical Genetic and Genomics Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting - Minneapolis, MN: April 13-17, 2027**

**National Society of Genetic Counselors 46th Annual Conference - Tampa, FL: November 7-11, 2027**

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