

Generic skills statements

Graduate Diploma in Genetic Counselling

On completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify with the professional goals, ethics and skills of the genetic counselling profession
- Establish a professional relationship with clients
- Communicate in an open, non-directive manner with families and people with genetic conditions
- Communicate clearly and understand the principles of genetic inheritance relevant to families and individuals in understanding their particular genetic condition
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team, with an awareness of the roles of different professionals
- Relate to clients in a holistic manner, identifying the complex medical and psychosocial issues that may confront people and their families who come for genetic counselling and make appropriate referrals to other professionals and to community resources
- Undertake administration tasks in co-ordination as appropriate within a Genetics clinic

Human Genetics and Genetic Counselling (subjects 571-836 & 571-837)

On completing these subjects, students should be able to:

- Understand and clearly explain the principles of genetic inheritance, as applied to genetic conditions, affecting people and their families
- Understand the molecular basis for common genetic conditions
- Evaluate and interpret DNA and cytogenetic diagnostic tests
- Complete a family pedigree, interpret and apply this information to make a genetic diagnosis where appropriate in the family
- Clearly identify the role of a genetic counsellor in a Genetics team, including coordination tasks and professional boundaries
- Evaluate the role of the health care system and the ethical issues in the delivery of genetic services

Genetic Counselling Skills (subject 571-838)

On completing this subject, students should be able to:

- Develop the ability to use basic counselling skills and to feel confident in doing so
- Develop an understanding of relevant theories including psychoanalytic theory, systems theory, family theory and cognitive behavioural theory
- Experience, through practice of case examples, what it is like to be a genetic counsellor and what it is like to seek help from a genetic counsellor in a variety of contexts
- Develop one's personal identity as a counsellor and an understanding of one's strengths and weaknesses
- Have a basic understanding of developmental psychology and psychopathology

Interviewing in Genetic Counselling (subject 571-839)

On completing this subject, students should be able to:

- Identify and understand the issues of grief, reactions to bad news and decision-making
- Identify and understand the principles of working effectively in a multi-disciplinary team
- Critically evaluate the different and particular reactions of people who come for genetic counselling and how their past experience influences their present reaction
- Analyse the process of a genetic counselling interview through observation
- Critically evaluate, comprehend and acknowledge the normality of various emotional reactions at the time of diagnosis and develop strategies within the interview for acknowledging these
- Develop self-awareness
- Present information in plain English in an accurate, non-judgemental and non-directive way

Supervised Placement (subject 571-841)

On completing this subject, students should be able to:

- Identify and analyse theories of counselling that can be integrated into clinical interviews and practice
- Develop the effective use of counselling models and skills to establish a relationship with clients from diverse backgrounds, with different genetic conditions and in different situations and to offer effective interventions appropriate to genetic counselling
- Engage effectively in supervision to develop reflective practice and self awareness
- Explore and understand the role of the genetic counsellor within a multidisciplinary team
- Understand the link between genetic counselling practice and the community, developing appropriate referral patterns and resources
- Enhance skills through reading widely in journals and texts