

**Target Group:**



**Occupational Profile**

# Genetic Counselor

Standard Occupational Code 29-9092.00

## What They Do

Assess individual or family risk for a variety of inherited conditions, such as genetic disorders and birth defects. Provide information to other healthcare providers or to individuals and families concerned with the risk of inherited conditions. Advise individuals and families to support informed decision making and coping methods for those at risk. May help conduct research related to genetic conditions or genetic counseling.

## Is This For You?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

**Investigative** – Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate, and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

**Social** – Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping, and curing people. They are good with words.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

**Achievement** – Results oriented occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

**Relationships** – Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment.

**Recognition** – Offer advancement, potential for leadership, and may be considered prestigious.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Written Comprehension
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning

## Skills You Need

- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Complex Problem Solving – Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
- Active Learning – Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

## Education & Training

Genetic counselors need a **master's degree in genetic counseling, genetics, or related program.**

## Where They Work

Industries which employ the largest number of genetic counselors are:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Offices of Physicians
- Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories
- Research Laboratories

## Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Median Annual Wage
3,100	4,000	300	29%	\$77,480

## Activities: what you might do in a day

- Inform medical professionals regarding patient conditions and care.
- Explain medical procedures or test results to patients or family members.
- Communicate detailed medical information to patients or family members.
- Analyze test data or images to inform diagnosis or treatment.
- Interact with patients to build rapport or provide emotional support
- Prepare reports summarizing patient diagnostic or care activities.
- Advise patients on effects of health conditions or treatment.
- Develop medical treatment plans.

## Additional References

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)