I decided to attend the UAMS genetic counseling program because it provided unique opportunities that differed from other genetic counseling programs. Students learn how to counsel patients via telemedicine/telegenetics, which is the future of health care. Additionally, having a diverse set of faculty members teaching from different states through distance education technology offers great networking opportunities.

Shogher Nalbandian, Masters of Science in Genetic Counseling, Class of 2016

For more information, contact:
CHP Welcome Center at 501-686-5730
healthprofessions.UAMS.edu
LEADING-EDGE LEARNING THAT LEVERSAGES THE BENEFITS OF A MAJOR MEDICAL CENTER

Students earning a Master of Science in Genetic Counseling experience an exceptional graduate education at a large academic medical center. This two-year accredited program is located at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), the state’s only genetics provider.

Students engage in interactive distance learning, groundbreaking telemedicine training and clinical experiences that prepare them to deliver ethical, effective counseling services. Recent graduates have enjoyed stellar board pass rates and professional success in one of the most sought-after careers in health care.

Interactive Distance Learning Combined with Invaluable Hands-on Experiences

• Students have the rare opportunity to work with telemedicine, learning how to provide genetic counseling over interactive video via the internationally renowned ANGELS program.
• Students benefit from live instruction by experienced faculty along with interactive video classes, which offer them the flexibility to train at off-campus clinical sites in the second year.
• Students see a variety of patients in pediatrics, adult genetics, prenatal/reproductive genetics and hereditary cancer in outpatient, inpatient, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary settings. Ophthalmic genetics and the adult Down Syndrome clinics are one of only a few in the United States.
• Students spend their first year at UAMS working closely with medical geneticists and genetic counselors in central and northwest Arkansas.
• The second year may be spent at another major medical center outside of Arkansas. Summer rotations may be spent outside of the U.S.
• Graduates are extremely competitive in the marketplace: The first-attempt pass rate for the national board examination between 2012 and 2015 was 100 percent.
• The program attracts nationally competitive students seeking a friendly, nurturing environment and an affordable education.

Assess, Inform and Counsel Individuals about the Genetic Contributions and Implications to their Physical and Mental Health

Genetic counselors:
• Interpret medical histories to assess the risk of disease or a medical condition.
• Work with other health professionals in hospitals, physicians’ offices, laboratories, research and public health settings as well as the biotech industry.
• Educate patients about inheritance, testing, management, prevention, resources and research.
• Counsel patients to promote informed choices regarding a specified risk or condition.

Graduates Face Excellent Short- and Long-Term Professional Prospects

• The profession is expected to grow 41 percent over the next 10 years, according the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
• In a recent program survey, 100 percent of our graduates’ employers stated they would hire another UAMS graduate.
• Personalized, genomic-directed medicine (aka precision medicine) is elevating the importance of genetic counselors in assisting all clinicians and patients in understanding this information.

“...This program is unique; I do not think you will find a more comprehensive program that is willing to fit your interests. If I expressed an interest in a particular specialty or area, my professors worked to let me the absolute best clinical experiences available.”

Christine Bruha, Pediatric Genetic Counselor, Class of 2015

*Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling, Inc.