



University of Minnesota Genetic Counseling Program

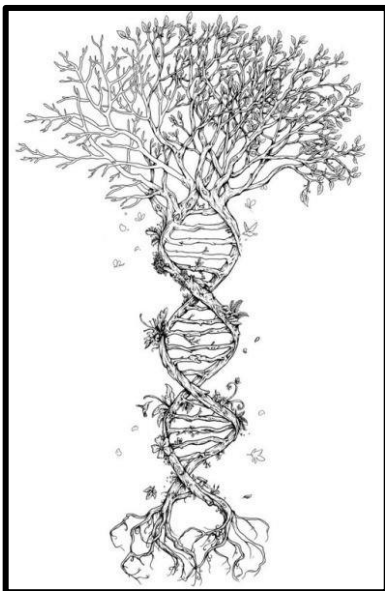
Undergraduate Research Assistant Opportunities

Are you an Undergraduate Student interested in exploring research in the field of Genetic Counseling?

Richard King Fund Research Assistantships support Undergraduate students at \$15/hr. for a maximum of 100 hours (\$1500 total) over the course of a semester.

To get started and download an application, visit:

<https://cbs.umn.edu/genetic-counseling/resources/king>



Current Research Opportunities

- **Community Based Research to improve Genetic Counseling and Genetics Service Delivery:** This study will be a scoping literature review. The student will work with a librarian and Dr. Heather Zierhut to review the available literature on the use of community based engaged or participatory research approaches in genetic counseling, genetic implementation, clinical genetic testing and genetic service delivery studies. The overall goal of the literature review is to summarize how researchers have used community based research to identify the needs, goals, processes, and use of the research findings on genetics service delivery. Undergraduate students working as research assistants will review published journal articles and gray literature for inclusion or exclusion in the review. Then research assistants will extract data from the articles into a database and synthesize themes identified in the included articles by comparing and contrasting the needs, goals, and use of the research findings in clinical practice. If time permits, they will also participate in writing an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- **The Effect of Non-Verbal Cues on Counseling Process Issues:** Many previous studies of genetic counseling processes (e.g., self-disclosure, responding to strong patient emotions) have used written scenarios as the prompt and asked GCs/students/patients how they would respond. These studies are missing critical non-verbal cues that may influence counseling perceptions and outcomes. We will replicate a past study using video vignettes to incorporate non-verbal information and compare the results to the writing only study. You will work with Dr. Ian MacFarlane to select a study to replicate, develop an IRB proposal, create video clips to use in the study, and launch data collection. Depending on your interest and availability, you may continue to work on the study to analyze results and help write a manuscript to submit for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.



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