



Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics

Division of Clinical Genetics

Student Resource List

Campus Services

1. Student Disability Services <https://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

Student Disability Services (SDS) serves as a resource for the Wayne State University community to ensure academic access and inclusion for students, supporting a view of disability guided by social, cultural and political forces. We work to create an inclusive academic environment by promoting universal design throughout the university. SDS provides academic accommodations, resources and training in assistive technology to foster self-advocacy and success for students with disabilities. We share information to foster understanding of disability throughout the university community.

Any student wishing to register with SDS for the first time should complete our New Student Registration Request form located here: https://wayne-accommodate.symplcity.com/public_accommodation/. Once the registration form is submitted, a member of the SDS staff will contact you within 1 business day to schedule your initial appointment. Questions? Please give us a call at 313-577-1851.

2. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) <https://caps.wayne.edu/>

The goal of CAPS is to provide the university community with counseling services to support student health, personal well-being, and academic success. We achieve this goal through the progressive development of the Counseling and Psychological Services' ethical standards, quality of services, creativity, and resourcefulness. CAPS offers a variety of services to the University Community which include:

- Counseling services to registered Wayne State students
- Therapy groups, support groups, and educational groups
- Clinical case management
- Outreach services and events
- Workshops/educational activities
- Crisis intervention for students, faculty, and the university community
- Consultation to faculty and the university community
- Consultation to parents of university students

CAPS Mission: CAPS enhances the wellness and success of our diverse student body and the university community by providing tailored, culturally-competent, research-based, ethical, collaborative, and inclusive mental health services, consultation, crisis response, and outreach. We maintain the highest standards of care by continually fostering the

professional development of our staff, providing immersive and evidence-based education to our trainees, and making scholarly contributions to our disciplines.

CAPS Vision Statement: A WSU community where no mental health need goes unmet and all students reach their highest personal and academic potential.

CAPS Diversity Statement: At CAPS, we value and respect the diversity of our students and staff. We see diversity and culture as broad, inclusive and ever evolving, and therefore, representing the many social and cultural groups in our society. We recognize the importance of having a multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary, and multi-theoretical staff to address our diverse populations' needs.

We acknowledge that oppression, prejudice, privilege, and discrimination impact all of us in detrimental ways. CAPS aims to support our students and the broader university in understanding the impact of these issues, advocating for social justice, and providing appropriate and effective mental health services.

We strive to create a safe, inclusive, and affirming climate where students can feel welcome to explore the importance of their diverse identities and life experiences. We also recognize that building and cultivating self-awareness and self-identity is a continuous and life long journey. We promote this among our staff and trainees through various learning opportunities offered on campus and within the greater community. These opportunities assist us in building awareness regarding our own bias and privilege as well as systemic bias. It is our hope that by building this awareness we can better serve our students and community.

3. Campus Health Center, <https://health.wayne.edu/>

The Campus Health Center (CHC) is a full-service primary care clinic that serves all currently enrolled Wayne State University (WSU) students. CHC has always been an academic, nurse-managed clinic that is owned and operated by Nursing Practice Corporation (NPC), the faculty practice plan of the College of Nursing (CON) at WSU.

We provide a wide range of primary healthcare services with the objective of keeping WSU students healthy and ready to learn. Each currently enrolled WSU student is eligible for one free illness visit per semester enrolled. A list of some of the many services we offer is available on our website at <https://health.wayne.edu/our-services/>. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

Our mission is to help all Wayne State students stay healthy so that they can attain their educational, professional, and personal goals. We aim to do so by providing healthcare services to prevent and treat common physical illnesses. We also work to promote the health and well-being of students at Wayne State University. We partner with departments across campus to provide students with a well-rounded understanding of health—both physical health and well-being—as well as mental health, exercise, and diet. We also educate students on an array of important medical topics, from sexual health to women's health to preventative care, and we help them navigate the medical and insurance systems as many are on their own for the first time. Along with the health clinic, we also do outreach events in buildings across campus and in campus housing to make health care more accessible to students.

4. Office of Diversity and Inclusion <https://wayne.edu/diversity/office-of-diversity-and-inclusion>. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion aims to engage with students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni and the surrounding community to co-create and sustain a diverse, inclusive and welcoming campus. For a list of recent WSU communications regarding DEI initiatives, go to <https://wayne.edu/diversity/about/communications>

Select Resources

- Gender neutral bathroom locations in Scott Hall <http://maps.wayne.edu/all/#gender-neutral-restrooms-scott-hall-unisex>
- Gender neutral bathroom locations across campus <http://maps.wayne.edu/locations/gender-neutral-restrooms/>
- Spiritual facilities across campus (includes foot baths and meditation rooms) <http://maps.wayne.edu/#spiritual-facilities>
- Lactation support rooms across campus <http://maps.wayne.edu/#lactation-support-room>
- The W Food Pantry and Wardrobe (provides those in need of food assistance with supplemental food, has a wardrobe with gently used clothing, and additional resources to enhance student success). <https://thew.wayne.edu/>
- Housing and Residential Life Diversity Statement <https://housing.wayne.edu/about/diversity>

5. Office of Multicultural Student Engagement <https://omse.wayne.edu/about>
The Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE) seeks to cultivate a safe campus environment where we value, promote, and celebrate identities among all student who engage with our office, while intentionally offering initiatives that positively address and impact retention and graduation rates of students that arrive at WSU underrepresented and at risk.

You can connect to OMSE in multiple ways, by linking to our social media pages joining our mailing list, or sending us an email if you'd like to contact us directly via email at omse@wayne.edu. You can also subscribe to our listserv.

We hold events and programs and support learning communities. For events, go to <https://getinvolved.wayne.edu/organization/omse/events>

For learning communities, one example is RISE, a community that aims to protect the retention of undergraduate and graduate women of color (WOC) of Wayne State University to support one another's experienced as WOC at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). RISE provides a safe space for self-identified WOC to develop Leadership, Scholarship, Sisterhood, and deeper Self-Actualization. Through programming, we create a community that focuses on identity development, promotes self-reflection, and embraces intersectionality while celebrating the diversity that influences our lives. Another learning community is The Network. The Network is aimed to support student learning inside the classroom while offering them peer and professional mentoring, and life skills outside of the classroom.

If you are interested in learning more about The Network or RISE learning communities, please complete the interest form at https://waynestate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eaIBME85KfOEtEd

The OMSE office is located on the seventh floor of the Student Center, and has excellent views of the New Center and the Fisher building. We have an exclusive space reserved just for students to come collaborate and study. The study space is open during regular office hours which are Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Genetic Counseling Professional Organizations

1. Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors, <https://magcinc.org/>

Michigan genetic counselors had met as an informal group for over fifteen years. In 2006, the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors, Inc. was formally incorporated. In 2008, MAGC became a state chapter of the National Society of Genetic Counselors. With these two important changes, MAGC is positioned to serve as the recognized, leading advocate of quality genetic counseling services in Michigan. MAGC holds professional networking events, communicates relevant information through its member list, and holds an annual conference. Students can join MAGC at a discounted rate.

2. National Society of Genetic Counselors, www.nsgc.org

The National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) promotes the professional interests of genetic counselors and provides a network for professional communications. Access to continuing education opportunities, professional resources, advocacy and the discussion of all issues relevant to human genetics and the genetic counseling profession are an integral part of belonging to the NSGC.

The mission of the NSGC is that the organization advances the various roles of genetic counselors in health care by fostering education, research, and public policy to ensure the availability of quality genetic services. Its vision is integrating genetics and genomics to improve health for all. More information, including the NSGC's statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion is available at <https://www.nsgc.org/page/about-nsgc>.

Students enrolled in accredited genetic counseling programs can join NSGC at a discounted rate (\$120). Student members have all the privileges of full members except they cannot vote, serve on the Board of Directors, chair a committee or chair a special interest group except one chartered for students.

NSGC has many resources available for members. Benefits for student members include access to the Student Discussion forum, discounts on online courses and registration for the Annual Education Conference, the ability to join NSGC's Special Interest Groups and apply for SIG grants and awards, access to the Job Connection service, and mentoring and guidance through the NSGC Mentorship Program.

3. Canadian Association of Genetic Counselors, <https://www.cagc-accg.ca/>

The Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors was formed in 1987 with the goal of promoting high standards of practice, facilitating and supporting professional growth and increasing public awareness of the genetic counselling profession in Canada. The CAGC provides educational programs/continuing education, networking opportunities, practice communities and many resources to its members. Membership is open to all genetic counsellors, genetic counselling students, and allied health care

professionals working in the field of genetics. Clinical and laboratory geneticists may also become members. Student members are welcome!

Education initiatives for members include an Annual Education Conference, Biennial Short Course, Crossover, a newsletter published three times a year, committees regarding specific areas of interest.

4. Alliance for Genomic Justice, <https://allianceforgenicjustice.org/>

The AGJ aims to advance health equity and workforce diversity in genomic medicine. The organization and its members provide educational and career support to diversity the workforce, including mentoring and affinity groups. This organization grew out of the Minority Genetics Professional Network (below).

5. Minority Genetics Professional Network,
<https://www.westernstatesgenetics.org/mgpn-resources/>

The Minority Genetic Professionals Network (MGPN) was created by the Western States Regional Genetics Network to address the limited racial and ethnic diversity among medical genetic professionals. Few high school and undergraduate students are aware of opportunities in these professions, and that is even more true among students from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds. This lack of diversity impacts patient access in North American communities of color, with less availability of genetic services, less awareness of these services, and few providers from these communities who patients feel comfortable with. The MGPN serves as an organized way for genetic professionals of racial and ethnic minority backgrounds to connect with one another to address these issues together.

The mission of the MGPN is to create a place for racial and ethnic minority medical genetic professionals and those training to enter such professions to connect with one another for the purposes of mutual support and community outreach. Medical genetic professionals include medical geneticists, genetic counselors, genetics nurses, and physician assistants in genetics.

The vision of the MGPN is Minority genetic professionals and genetic professionals in training have peers to reach out to in order to feel supported in their places of work and education. Minority genetic professionals and genetic professionals in training have opportunities to collaborate and increase awareness in their communities about:

- Career opportunities in medical genetic services
- The importance of medical genetic services for individuals and families

An increased number of minority students choose to enter careers in medical genetics. Patients from minority communities feel more comfortable seeking out genetic services. For additional information, watch this video that provides information for students and trainees. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQvonkYe62c>

6. Genetics Opportunities, Learning, Development and Empowerment Network (Golden) <https://www.nymacgenetics.org>

The Genetics Opportunities, Learning, Development, and Empowerment Network (GOLDEN) is dedicated to increasing the awareness of genetic counseling among Black students, primarily at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). For prospective genetic counselors, GOLDEN also provides mentorship

throughout the graduate school application process. GOLDEN Seeks to inform Black students about the career of genetic counseling. Our goal is to increase the number of black genetic counselors by providing group mentorship and resources to mentees through our network of black genetic counselors and current students.

7. Arab Society of Genetic Counselors <https://www.asgcsociety.org/about>

The Arab Society of Genetic Counselors (ASGC) is a non-profit corporation that promotes networking, creates resources, and encourages collaboration among genetic professionals in order to extend quality genetic services to Arab patients globally. The ASGC is headquartered in Michigan, USA, with membership and participation from around the world. The goals of the society are to: Extend genetic counseling services to underserved Arab populations by making available a growing registry of genetic counselors located in various countries; Advocate for Arab patients by raising awareness on their unique cultural, religious, and social characteristics; Support genetic counselors and other genetic professionals who are serving Arab patients by creating networking and collaboration opportunities. Membership is free. Go to the website to join.

8. LGBTQ+ Genetic Counselors Community via Slack

The slack community provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ students and genetic counselors to discuss research, projects, and support, along with hosting a monthly virtual processing group. Complete the google form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrlozS2sh5gX8hMP8oOD5ajlwvo8Z2AJCoDycm8PpXFj5vLg/viewform>) to join the Slack Channel. Email Kim at kzayhows@bu.edu to learn more how to join the virtual processing group.

9. American Board of Genetic Counseling, <https://www.abgc.net/>

The American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1993 for the purpose of certifying and recertifying genetic counselors. It is led by an elected Board of Directors comprised of certified genetic counselors and a public advisor. ABGC Diplomates elect the Board of Directors and also support the activities of ABGC by volunteering in many different capacities, including serving as item writers and ad hoc committee members.

ABGC provides detailed information about the process of certification at <https://www.abgc.net/becoming-certified/>. The organization also has certification resources including a detailed content analysis (what types of topics are on the examination) and a practice examination available for purchase. This information will become important to you once you are close to graduation and making your plans to sit for the board examination.

10. Canadian Board of Genetic Counselling <https://www.cbgc-ccc.ca/?page=1>

Originally, the Canadian Association of Genetic Counseling, (CAGC) established a Certification Board for Canadian genetic counselors in 1994 as part of its organization. The first nation-wide certification exam was held in 1998 and a system for continuing-education credits instituted in 1999. Genetic counsellors granted the credential CCGC (Canadian Certified Genetic Counsellor) and/or its French equivalent CGAC (Conseiller(ère) en génétique agréé(e) du Canada), have demonstrated standard knowledge and practice competencies.

The Professional Governance Committee (PGC) of the CAGC was formed in 2011 to address questions from the membership regarding regulation of genetic counsellors in Canada. In 2014, the PGC was commissioned by the CAGC to report on recommendations that would promote the autonomous practice of genetic counsellors in Canada. In its report “Toward Autonomous Practice of Genetic Counsellors in Canada: Recommendations to the CAGC”, the PGC recommended “the establishment of a clear process for identifying certified genetic counsellors as soon as possible, either as a National Registry of Genetic Counsellors in Canada or an entity within the CAGC”. Until recently the small number of genetic counsellors in Canada has been prohibitive to the formation of a certification organization separate to the CAGC.

In 2017, the CAGC Board of Directors mandated the creation of an independent body to oversee national certification of genetic counsellors. At the end of 2018 a task force began working on this and the Canadian Board of Genetic Counselling- Conseil Canadien de Conseil Génétique (CBGC-CCCG) was created. The CBGC-CCCG was incorporated on July 12, 2019 and is responsible for the national certification of genetic counsellors practicing in Canada. The genetic counselling profession is currently unregulated in Canada and, as such, practitioners are not governed by provincial and territorial legislation, which ensure safe, competent, and ethical practice in the interest of public protection. The national certification credential is an important basis for the evolution of professional legislation and regulation in Canada.

Additional Genetic Counseling Resources

Dare to Be Aware, [HELLO | My Site \(awaredare.wixsite.com\)](http://www.awaredare.wixsite.com)

This is a web resource developed to raise awareness, promote inclusion, and strive for equity for disabled, chronically ill, and neurodiverse genetic counsellors, current students and future students. The organization was created by Janette Hayward (she/her), a genetic counsellor living in Australia who has a genetically inherited chronic illness and associated comorbidities that sometimes disable her. She hopes the website will allow others to share their stories and will assist abled, well, and neurotypical GCs students and colleagues to be more aware of, provide equity for and include peers. Includes blogs and resources.

Disability GC Network. [DisabilityGC Network - WSRGN \(westernstatesgenetics.org\)](http://www.westernstatesgenetics.org)

This group is part of the Western States Regional Genetics Network which also hosts the Minority Genetics Professional Network described above. The network consists of 60+ genetic counselors and current students who have a disability, chronic illness, mental illness or major medical condition. They aim to elevate the voices of disabled GCs by advocating for accommodations, acceptance, and support within NSGC and workplaces. The network is available to mentor prospective genetic counseling students with disabilities and answer questions about graduate school, employment and accommodations. They have an Instagram (@disability GC) and Twitter (X) account (@DisabilityGC).