



**Division of Human, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Health Science, University of Cape Town
Genetic Counselling Programme**

<http://www.humangenetics.uct.ac.za/>

The Division of Human Genetics is offering **6-month long semester courses in Medical Genetics and Principles of Genetic Counselling** as stand-alone courses. Students register as occasional students at UCT. These courses are NQF level 9 credit bearing courses and can contribute towards the full-time MSc(Med) Genetic Counselling degree, within a 4 year time period (subject to availability and suitability).

These part-time courses are aimed at health-care professionals who want to broaden their knowledge about Medical Genetics and gain insight into the theory that supports the process of Genetic Counselling. The courses are taught by distance/online learning with some contact time at UCT, as well assignments and a formal written examination.

Candidates who hold any degree that is acceptable to the Health Science Faculty of the University of Cape Town are eligible. These degrees include an MBChB degree, BSc (Hons) or BA (Hons) equivalent in biological science, nursing, psychology or social work. Knowledge of genetics is required and participants may be required to write an entrance examination. All applications from participants with other qualifications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

MEDICAL GENETICS	PRINCIPLES OF GENETIC COUNSELLING
<p>Is the specialty of medicine involved with diagnosis, care and prevention of birth defects and genetic disorders and is taught as two semester courses:</p> <p>Medical Genetics 1 (PTY5005F) 12 credits <i>Registration 30 January to 3 February 2017</i> <i>Contact week 3 to 7 April 2017</i></p> <p>Medical Genetics 2 (PTY5006S) 12 credits <i>Registration 26 to 30 June 2017</i> <i>Contact week 11 to 15 September 2017</i></p>	<p>Is the process of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease and is taught as:</p> <p>Prin of Gen Couns: Coursework (PTY5003F) 10 credits <i>Registration 30 January to 3 February 2017</i> <i>Contact week 10 to 12 April 2017</i></p> <p>Prin of Gen Couns: Applied learning (PTY5004S)10 credits <i>Registration 26 to 30 June 2017</i> <i>Contact week 18 to 20 September 2017</i></p>

It needs to be noted that these courses do not equip participants to register or practice as Genetic Counsellors or Medical Geneticists. Further information on the HPCSA Scope of Practice for Registered Genetic Counsellors can be found at: <http://www.geneticcounselling.co.za/> and <http://www.hpcsa.co.za/boardmeddenteducation.php>

Candidates who are interested in a **career as a genetic counsellor** can apply for the 2 year full-time Master’s degree at UCT. (**Applications for 2018 close 30 September 2017**). Unlike the occasional courses, successful completion of this degree and meeting the HPCSA intern requirements, individuals are able to practice as genetic counsellors once they are registered with the HPCSA. The entry requirements are the same as for the occasional courses.

Other options

Candidates who are interested in research by dissertation only can conduct research on relevant topics to broaden or contribute to the field of genetic counselling and can enrol in our **Masters by dissertation** or **PhD degrees**. Candidates who have a proven research record and the appropriate undergraduate degrees will be considered.

For further information and details regarding the administration of applications and formal registration

Applications

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