

Clinical Cancer Genetics Genetic Counseling Summer Shadowing Program

Application Information

Introduction

The Clinical Cancer Genetics (CCG) program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of the largest genetic counseling programs among the National Comprehensive Cancer Centers. The program's mission is to provide research-driven genetic risk assessment, genetic testing, risk modification, and prevention screening for patients and their families who are at risk for developing hereditary cancer.

CCG welcomes individuals who wish to learn more about cancer genetics and genetic counseling through an unpaid one week observational program. One applicant will be selected for each date. This program aims to provide applicants with exposure to the field of cancer genetic counseling through clinical shadowing and observation of genetic counselors.

Who is eligible to apply?

Individuals who have a high school diploma and who are currently working towards or have completed an undergraduate degree. Applicants must be 18 years or older and be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Ideal applications will demonstrate a specific interest in the field of genetic counseling.

Program Objectives and Expectations

I. Objectives

- a. Appreciate the knowledge base of cancer genetics and genetic counseling
- b. Exposure to a variety of cancer genetics cases through clinical shadowing and observation
- c. Provide a broader view of the genetic counseling profession and preparation for graduate school

II. Expectations

- a. Overview
 - i. The program will last 5 consecutive days during the following time frames: July Program (7/8/2019 – 7/12/2019) and August Program (8/5/2019 – 8/9/2019). One applicant will be accepted per program date. Shadowers will spend the five days at MDACC observing cases, attending conferences/meetings, and interacting with genetic counselors.
 - ii. Each shadower is expected to attend the program uninterrupted for the duration of program.
- b. Clinic Shadowing/Observation
 - i. Shadowers will receive an unmatched opportunity for clinical observation in the many cancer genetic clinics at MDACC.
 - ii. Shadowers observational opportunities will be in most cases limited to clinical availability and while every effort will be made, this program

cannot guarantee that all five days will have full clinic volume for observation.

- iii. Shadowers are expected to exhibit professionalism in the clinic area at all times. Once the genetic counseling session is in progress, the shadower is expected to stay for its duration. Sleeping, texting, talking are not allowed when observing a genetic counseling session.
- iv. All shadowers must maintain the utmost confidentiality and privacy regarding patient medical records and sensitive information, whether in verbal, written, or electronic communication.
- v. Shadowers must abide by all MDACC policies (including, but not limited to dress code, use of computers, and protection of patient health information).

Selection Process

Applications are due on **May 24, 2019**. Applicants may be asked to participate in a short phone interview with a genetic counselor prior to acceptance. Candidates will be informed of their selection into the program no later than **June 1, 2019**. If selected, participants must secure their own travel arrangements and housing for the duration of the program.

Acceptance Requirements

Successful candidates selected for the program are required to complete a formal MDACC application. The details on this application will be communicated once a candidate has been accepted. Failure to meet any of these requirements in a timely manner will result in the forfeiting of placement in the program.

Clinical Cancer Genetics
Genetic Counseling Summer Shadowing Program
Application Form

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Last First M.I. (MM/DD/YYYY)

Current Mailing Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States? YES NO

Please select your preference in dates for this program:

July Program
(7/8/2019 – 7/12/2019) First choice Second choice Cannot attend

August Program
(8/5/2019 – 8/9/2019) First choice Second choice Cannot attend

Please note: only one applicant will be chosen for each program. Please select option "cannot attend" if you are unavailable during that program's duration

Education

High School: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Did you graduate high school? YES NO CURRENTLY ENROLLED

College: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Did you graduate college? YES NO CURRENTLY ENROLLED

Degree(s) completed and/or in progress: _____

Post graduate: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Did you graduate? YES NO CURRENTLY ENROLLED

Degree(s) completed and/or in progress: _____

Personal Statement

Please provide a brief statement (max 500 words) explaining your interest in the genetic counseling shadowing program. Why are you applying? What past experiences have shaped your interest in genetic counseling? What skills do you hope to acquire or improve on during this program? How will you integrate this experience into your career aspirations?

Please also submit an updated resume with this completed application form to ccg@mdanderson.org with subject line "2019 Summer Shadowing Program" by **May 24, 2019**.

Thank you for your interest.

Please navigate our website www.mdanderson.org/departments/ccg for more information about the Clinical Cancer Genetics program overview, clinical services and affiliated faculty and staff. For any questions or concerns regarding the status of your application, please contact the Clinical Cancer Genetics office at 713-745-7391 or ccg@mdanderson.org.