



American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC)

State of Credentialing

Presented by:

**Karen Powell, MS, CGC[®],
President-Elect**

**TAGC Conference
May 19, 2016**



Mission & Core Purpose

Mission

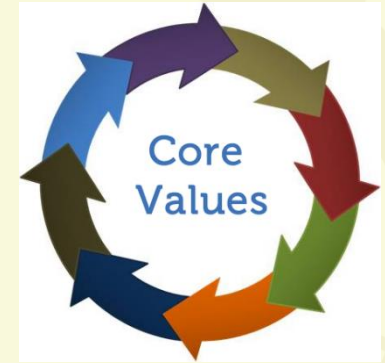
To protect the public by setting certification standards and providing leadership to promote the value of certified genetic counselors.

Core Purpose

Promote high standards in genetic counseling.



Core Values



Integrity:

Fair and objective decisions, transparency in interactions, and accountable stewardship.

Responsiveness:

Recognition of, and actions taken based on, emerging needs.

Excellence:

Delivering high value to the profession through rigorous evaluation standards.



Accredited Examination

ABGC is NCCA accredited

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) standards are consistent with The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA, APA, & NCME, 1999) and are applicable to all professions and industries.

Standards address:

- Areas of governance & autonomy
- Financial & human resources
- Examination development & scoring
- Maintenance of certification





NCCA Accreditation



Certification organizations that submit their programs for accreditation are evaluated based on the process and products and not the content.

Program content validity is demonstrated with a comprehensive job/practice analysis conducted and analyzed by experts, with data gathered from stakeholders in the occupation or industry.



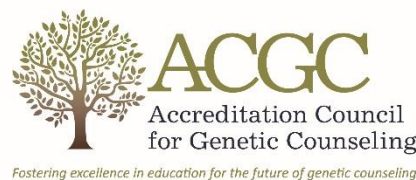
Eligibility Requirements

- Examinees must have earned a master's degree in genetic counseling from a training program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling.
OR
- Examinees must have been previously certified by ABGC and are sitting for the examination for recertification purposes.



Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling

- Accreditation is a process of external peer review in which a private, nongovernmental agency or association grants public recognition to an institution or specialized program of study that meets certain established qualifications and educational standards, as determined through initial and subsequent periodic evaluations.
- The Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC) is the specialized program accreditation board for educational training programs granting master's degrees or higher in genetic counseling.



ACGC Accredited Programs

33 Programs accredited in the United States

3 Programs accredited in Canada

Programs must comply with standards that address:

- Administrative structure,
- Curriculum specific requirements including mapping curriculum back to the Practice Based Competencies, and
- Program evaluation and improvement.



Entry to Practice in Canada/US

- After students graduate from accredited programs they are eligible to sit for the certification examination
- Certification or certification eligible is required by the majority of employers
- License to practice is required in 22 of 50 US states which requires ABGC certification
- Upon graduation and certification graduates are ready to practice without direct supervision





International Considerations



- ABGC currently does not have a mechanism in place that allows individuals trained internationally to sit for the examination.
- Charged a Taskforce to evaluate domestic and international eligibility requirements.
- Anticipate recommendations by end of 2016 or possibly Q1 2017.
- NCCA accreditation does not allow for reciprocity. Any international qualification that ABGC may recognize will still require completion of an examination.



US Genetic Counseling Workforce Study

- Consortium of genetic counseling professional organizations working together to direct a firm to complete a study of the US genetic counseling workforce. Participating organizations include:
 - American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC)
 - Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC)
 - Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors (AGCPD)
 - National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC)





US Workforce Study

- Final report is expected back later this month
- Study will address US supply and demand models over the next ten years
- Participating organizations will work together to develop action plan to address any areas of shortfall or concern identified in study





In Summary

How will the workforce study and the 2017 practice analysis results impact certification and accreditation in the US and Canada?

