

**International Genetic Counselling Credentialing: a Working Group of the TAGC**

**Template for Comparing Credentialing/Registration**

<b>Country</b>	South Africa
<b>Date of completion</b>	August 2016
<b>Name of Credentialing Body/Registration Board</b>	Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)
<b>Website/Address</b>	<a href="http://www.hpcsa.co.za">www.hpcsa.co.za</a> <a href="http://www.geneticcounselling.co.za/gcsa.php">www.geneticcounselling.co.za/gcsa.php</a>
<b>Is there a separate credentialing/registration process for nurses? If yes, please give details of nursing credentialing group</b>	Yes South Africa Nursing Council (SANC)
<b>Eligibility criteria to apply for certification/registration</b>	MSc (Med) Genetic Counselling 24 month internship training in an HPCSA accredited unit. Applicants from overseas need to provide proof of equivalent training and internship.
<b>Required criteria to apply for a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling</b>	Hons in a BSc, BA or Nursing. Genetics background may be assessed by entrance exam on a case by case basis dependent on background degree.
<b>If there is a Masters Degree in Genetic Counseling, is this accredited? If so, by whom?</b>	Two courses: University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand University degree comply with South Africa Qualifications Authority (SAQA) requirements
<b>Minimum length of time between completing the training requirements and applying for certification/registration</b>	Minimum 12 months Internship of 24 months needs to be completed in 4 years
<b>Number of cases used in Masters in Genetic Counseling course that can also be used in registration</b>	All cases seen during the second year of MSc degree training.
<b>Is there a written examination? Yes/no, please give details</b>	No. Internship portfolio (detailed below)
<b>Who is examination assessed and ratified by? Please give details or say if not applicable</b>	NA
<b>Portfolio of work submitted for certification/registration? yes/no</b>  (n.b. this question relates to certification/registration and not to a portfolio of work needed to complete a Masters degree in Genetic Counseling)	Yes
<b>Portfolio assessed by independent assessors? yes/no/not applicable</b>	Yes, two assessors and a moderator are assigned by the certification board
<b>Portfolio ratified by the Registration Board? yes/no/not applicable</b>	Yes

<p><b>Candidate has an interview as part of the credentialing/registration process? yes/no</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>What work is done for certification/registration?</b></p>	<p><b>Portfolio requirements:</b>  Section 1: Intern Programme  Section 2: Logbook  A summary of the patient logbook (minimum of 150 cases in a variety of settings should be seen.  Section 3: Discipline specific knowledge  Evidence should be provided regarding specific genetic, scientific, medical and counselling knowledge.  Section 4: Assignments  Specific assignments  Section 5: Ongoing Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling and block assessments</li> <li>• Three written case reports (2000-3000 words) highlighting an ethical, medical and psychosocial issue respectively.</li> <li>• A reflective piece (2000-3000 words) based on a recording (voice or video) with written by the counselling supervisor.</li> </ul> <p>Section 6: Research experience  An abstract of the research report and examiners' reports  Section 7: Final assessment by training facility  Section 8: Evaluation of the intern experience</p>
<p><b>Core competencies for practice as a genetic counselor, these are the skills that are assessed in the certification/registration process (and not only in the MSc course)</b></p>	<p>A. Discipline Specific Knowledge (Genetic, Scientific, Medical and Counselling knowledge)  B. Communication Skills  C. Critical-Thinking Skills  D. Interpersonal, Counselling and Psychosocial Assessment Skills  E. Professional Ethics and Values  F. Computer Literacy  G. Research Competency</p>
<p><b>Is Genetic Counseling Supervision required, <b>post-MSc completion</b>, in order to obtain certification/registration?</b></p> <p><b>Please see Clarke et al (2007)<sup>1</sup> for a definition of Genetic Counseling Supervision (i.e. this is different from clinical supervision with a geneticist, or peer supervision with another GC or manager, counseling supervision is with a counseling therapist/psychologist</b></p>	<p>Yes, at least one hour one-to-one supervision or two hours of group supervision involving 4 members or less, a month, with appropriately trained supervisor</p>

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Clarke A, Middleton A, Cowley L, Guilbert P, Macleod R, Clarke A, Tran V (2007) Report from the UK and Eire Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors (AGNC) supervision working group on genetic counsellor supervision. J Genet Couns. 16(2):127-42

<b>and focuses on counseling issues)</b>	
<b>Are certified/registered genetic counselors regulated? If so, by whom?</b>	Yes, by the HPCSA
<b>What requirements exist to maintain certification/registration? How frequently is certification/registration maintained?</b>	Continuous Professional Development according to the HPCSA regulations – 30 points per year which includes 5 Ethics specific points per year.
<b>Do you have an international policy on registration of genetic counselors trained outside your country? If so, please provide a link to this</b>	Recognised Genetic Counsellors from the UK, Europe and Australia will be assessed according to the reciprocity agreement. - work in South Africa for six months under the supervision of a registered genetic counsellor, have counselling supervision - The candidate should submit a condensed portfolio following this period consisting of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of previous internship/work experience</li> <li>• Evidence of 6 month work experience in SA</li> <li>• Evidence of counselling supervision</li> <li>• Written piece comparing genetic counselling practice between the home country and South Africa</li> <li>• Three references</li> </ul> - Candidates will only be able to practice in the public service sector in South Africa until they obtain permanent residency in South Africa, in which case they may be able to see private patients once due process has been followed with the HPCSA.
<b>Please briefly summarise what is required of international genetic counselors wanting to register/certify in your country</b>	Case by case basis. Candidates need to submit official documentary evidence of meeting the academic requirements and the internship training required for registration. Foreign applicants may be required to complete a 24 month internship or part thereof at an accredited facility in South Africa.

Please note that the regulations pertaining to the registration category in which genetic counsellors register within the HPCSA (Medical Scientist) is currently under review. Should any changes in the regulations affecting Genetic Counsellors occur, this document may be updated. (Dated 10/08/2016)