

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Masters in Genetic Counseling

Class of 2026



Norhafizah Binte Abdullah

Singapore

B.S. in Biomedical Science, The University of Western Australia

I am honored to be the first Singaporean Malay woman to be accepted into a Genetic Counseling program in the United States. As the first generation in the family to receive a scientific degree, I am determined to challenge societal norms and redefine my cultural definition of ideal womanhood. I aspire to serve as an example and inspire individuals in my community, demonstrating that Malay women can pursue their aspirations whenever they desire regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds.

I chose Mount Sinai as it reflects my mission to advance science, medicine, and healthcare for the betterment of humanity. I wish to be trained at a renowned facility with one of the largest genetics and genomics departments in the world and be associated with an institution of international standing that excels in research, education, and clinical care programs.

Tiffany Bondoc

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

BASc in Health with Honours, St. Francis Xavier University

In University, I worked as a teaching assistant for various courses and also created safe spaces for underrepresented students in my role as an Equity Representative. In my final undergraduate year, I investigated the disproportionately high rates of colorectal cancer in Atlantic Canada. Upon graduating, I worked as a Research Assistant for the Hospital for Sick Children and actively volunteered as a Cancer genetics assistant at Sunnybrook Hospital. I spend my free time traveling, attending concerts with friends, and painting!

I chose Sinai for its diverse opportunities – conducting research or working alongside exceptional faculty under one of the largest genetics/genomics departments in the world. I was also drawn to the program's dedication to DEI. The curriculum highlights the importance of looking at genetic counseling with an intersectional lens and improving care for culturally diverse communities.





Emerald Bosque

Passaic, New Jersey
B.S. in Biology, Montclair State University

During undergrad, I volunteered as a peer advocate at the Office of Health Promotion, where I began to develop counseling/advocacy skills. Postgrad, during the global pandemic, I became a crisis counselor for the Crisis Text Line. I virtually attended the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics Summer Seminar series and participated in two genetic counseling mentorship programs. Personally, I love hiking and exploring the outdoors! I also enjoy attending concerts and musicals, and watching movies.

I chose Sinai due to my desire to interact with a diverse patient population and find advocacy opportunities for under-represented communities. Sinai provides its students with numerous volunteer opportunities, some with the local school community. The program is uniquely integrated into one of the largest genetics/genomic sciences departments in the world.

Anjali Chauhan

Northern New Jersey
B.S. in Biology and Psychology, Stony Brook University

I was a member of SBU's Bollywood Fusion and Indian Classical Dance teams and volunteered at the Stony Brook Children's Hospital as a member of Project Sunshine. Since graduating, I've been working as a Medical Affairs Program Manager at the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a position that opened my eyes to many roles and experiences that a GC can pursue. In my free time, I enjoy doing crafts/puzzles, taking walks.

I'm passionate about becoming a well-rounded advocate for my future patients, which means learning and understanding the clinical and biological information needed to be a GC. I chose Sinai because I believed their comprehensive curriculum, diverse patient population, and various integrated extra-curricular opportunities would prepare me to achieve my genetic counseling goals.





Anne Mira Free

Palma de Mallorca, Spain
BSc in Genetics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

While in college, I was lucky enough to play professional volleyball in Barça, traveling country-wide while winning championships. I also interned at a fertility clinic, where I rotated through disciplines such as genetic counseling, gynecology, surgery, and psychology. I had the opportunity to work with patients from various countries, using translators and even learning bits of new languages! In my free time, I enjoy exploring new beaches with friends and trying new foods.

What drew me to Mount Sinai was its interdisciplinary class environment and the diverse patient population it serves. Sharing a classroom with students from various disciplines provides us with a range of perspectives and helps prepare us for the multidisciplinary team settings in the professional world. Working with a diverse patient population also creates cultural awareness that can only be gained outside the classroom.

Sarah Hutchison

Western Springs, Illinois
B.S. in Biology, Georgetown University

During undergrad, I worked as a research assistant at Georgetown's Cancer Prevention and Control Center, focusing on smoking cessation and cascade genetic testing. After graduation, I served as a scientific program analyst at the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH, where I helped manage large-scale research initiatives in genomic medicine and data science. In my free time, I love to bake, crochet, and play ultimate frisbee!

I chose Mount Sinai for its interdisciplinary program that combines cutting-edge science with a strong commitment to serving communities in New York City. I am also passionate about genetic counseling research and excited engage with Sinai's incredible research teams.





Ashley Johnson

Orange County, California
B.A. in Psychobiology, UCLA

While at UCLA, I ran Division 1 cross country and track and field for four years. I worked at a neuropsychiatric clinic that run social skills and behavioral training classes for children with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families. I also volunteered with Special Olympics and Crisis Text Line throughout undergrad. In my free time, I enjoy going to the beach, reading, running, and exploring new places!

I chose Mount Sinai because of the diverse patient population and rotation opportunities offered. Mount Sinai is a world renowned medical system and research center, so I knew it would be a great place to learn and grow. I am excited to take classes with other medical, PhD, and graduate students as well.

Soren Kernan

Austin, Texas
B.S. in Neuroscience, Wellesley College

My interest in genetic counseling began while working as a clinical research coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital, where I contributed to gene discovery studies and clinical trials. In my free time, I enjoy cooking and trying new fitness classes. I'm also an avid reader, especially of magical realism and literary fiction.

I applied to Mount Sinai because of its variety of rotations, emphasis on social work, and strong reputation for clinical research. I was also drawn to the opportunity to study in Mount Sinai's large, diverse health system. Living and learning in New York City was the cherry on top for me!





Danielle Lebowitz

Toronto, Canada

B.S. in Health Sciences, University of Waterloo

At the University of Waterloo, I completed a co-operative undergraduate program, gaining valuable work experience as a research assistant in a microbiology and DNA wet lab, a public health evaluation assistant, and a genetic counseling assistant. In my final year, I was honored with the Co-op Student of the Year award for my role as a genetic counseling assistant. Additionally, throughout my academic career, I volunteered as a Crisis Responder with Kids Help Phone and peer support volunteer at the University of Waterloo. Outside of academics, I love reading, watching movies in the theatre, travelling, seeing plays and going on walks.

I chose to pursue my master's at Mount Sinai because of their uniquely exceptional clinical rotational program. The program's rotational equity is unlike any other program, as it is located in a diverse population of New York City.

Danielle Niblock

Elmwood Park, New Jersey

B.S. in Biology & Psychology, Saint Joseph's University

During my time at SJU, I was a TA for the SEA PHAGES biology lab and completed research on my own bacteriophage, NoShow. In addition, I did some research in evolutionary genetics. I also coordinated and led APEX, which is a service immersion program in the Appalachian Region. I love to travel, try new foods, spend time in nature hiking, swimming, and on the beach. I also love to read, watch movies, explore new places, and spend time with family and friends, especially my identical twin!

I chose Mount Sinai because of its location in NYC, as well as the large offerings of clinical rotations. I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn from such a large hospital system and explore the city. I am excited to take classes with students and faculty from other disciplines as well as within the Genetic Counseling program.





Julianna Rufolo

Maplewood, New Jersey
B.S. in Biology, Lafayette College

At Lafayette, I worked as a tour guide for the admissions office and completed a course-based research project to explain racial survival differences in clear cell renal cell carcinoma. I also volunteered at the local nursing home, Crisis Text Line, and attended monthly support group meetings for people affected by Huntington's Disease. I love running, cats, going to the beach, and watching The Office.

I chose Mount Sinai because of its diverse patient population, affiliation with a reputable hospital, and variety of unique specialties. It was also apparent through conversations with the cohorts above that Mount Sinai fosters strong relationships amongst peers and with faculty.

Kayla Wypasek

Cleveland, Ohio
B.S. in Biological Sciences, Northern Kentucky University

In college, I was a member of the NCAA DI women's soccer team and President of the Peer Ambassador program at an interpersonal violence prevention agency on campus. I also worked in an environmental genetics neurotoxicity lab where we investigated the variability in the CYP1 family of genes to see what causes the highest risk of developmental delays from exposure to carcinogens found in air pollution. In my free time, you can find me doing anything active, shopping, bingeing a crime documentary, or hanging out with friends!

I chose Mount Sinai because I've always wanted to practice counseling in a city that values diversity. I hope to explore all of the different specialties this program offers. Having access to one of the world's best hospitals, with one of the largest genetic departments, provides so many opportunities for growth in the classroom and professionally.

