

## **Preamble**

The JHU/NIH Genetic Counseling Training Program 2021 strategic plan is intended to guide the Program Leadership and the Executive Committee in decision-making about all aspects of the training program. The document is also designed to communicate to applicants about the nature of our program.

Although we have articulated five separate domains that each inform specific goals, each of the five domains are inter-related, and there are inherently cross-cutting themes between them.

## **Mission Statement**

The JHU/NIH Genetic Counseling Training Program shapes genetic counseling services through student and faculty research and develops outstanding genetic counselors who are innovators and leaders in:

- psychotherapeutic genetic counseling,
- genetic counseling research and scholarship,
- applications of genomics and precision health
- transdisciplinary learning and practice, incorporating perspectives from public health, policy, ethics, and advocacy

## **Vision**

Genetic counseling clinician scholars transform evidence-based genomic healthcare.

## **Psychotherapeutic Genetic Counseling**

Goal 1: Train and support students' individual paths as they learn to employ a wide array of advanced psychotherapeutic counseling approaches to care for clients across genetic counseling contexts

Goal 2: Provide thought leadership and evidence related to the role of psychotherapeutic genetic counseling theories and techniques in optimizing client outcomes

## **Genetic Counseling Research and Scholarship**

Goal 1: Foster students' ability to contribute to the evidence base in genetic counseling by engaging in and actively mentoring students in genetic counseling research

Goal 2: Train and equip students to investigate a broad and cross-cutting array of key scientific questions that inform and transform the evolving field of genetic counseling

## **Applications of Genomics and Precision Health**

Goal 1: Enable students to become experts in genetics and genomic perspectives in diagnosis, risk assessment, prognosis, and treatment, including applications to Mendelian disease, common complex disease, and precision health

Goal 2: Equip students to become leaders in the development and implementation of innovative genomics and precision health initiatives

## Transdisciplinary Learning and Practice

Goal 1: Support students in developing and applying an understanding of a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including public health, policy, ethics, and advocacy, in their research and practice as genetic counselors

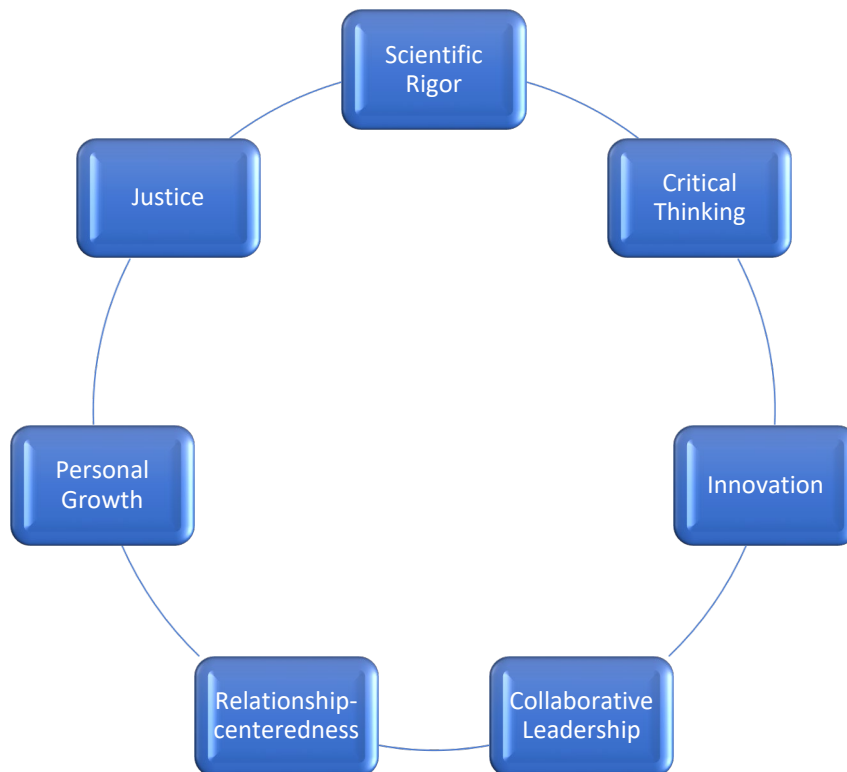
Goal 2: Provide students opportunities to explore one or more disciplinary topics beyond what is required in the formal curriculum

## Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Goal 1: Promote diversity and inclusion within the JHU/NIH Genetic Counseling Training Program and the broader genetic counseling workforce

Goal 2: Train students to recognize and address health disparities, health equity, and justice in their genetic counseling research and practice

## Values



## **Envisioned Future for Genetic Counseling**

In the next ten years, genomic testing will be a routine part of healthcare, and genetic counselors (GCs) will be integrated into healthcare teams and systems. GCs will play an integral role in optimizing how individuals and families improve health and well-being through appropriate use of genomic information. They will advocate for, develop, and implement tailored systems to enhance the personal and clinical utility of genomic data at individual, familial, and population levels. The genetic counseling community will represent the diversity in the nation and will be engaged in enhancing the equitable provision of genetic counseling services. Increasingly, GCs will work outside of traditional medical settings, including in research settings, laboratories, in private companies, and in positions providing guidance related to the delivery of genomic medicine. GCs will provide evidence-based, psychotherapeutically oriented, and client-centered care, and this care will improve cognitive, emotional, and behavioral outcomes for clients. GCs will lead efforts to study service delivery models and to develop evidence-based tools to supplement in-person genetic counseling. They will routinely consult with other care providers and healthcare managers.

Genomic information will become increasingly relevant to healthcare. Every person will interact with their genomic information at multiple points throughout life, and GCs will play a pivotal role in generating evidence supporting implementation of genomic data and translating that evidence into practice.

The JHU/NIH Genetic Counseling Training Program will transform future genetic counseling services through faculty and student research, mentoring, and training innovations.