

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Masters in Genetic Counseling

Class of 2025



Alfreda Blasingame

Decatur, Georgia
B.S. in Biology, Washington University in St. Louis

After graduating college, I had an accomplished career in Cytogenetics working in the healthcare industry. Becoming a genetic counselor will be the start of a second profession for me and I am extremely excited for this journey. I chose genetic counseling because it is the field that most closely aligns with my passions and skills.

Mount Sinai is an exceptional program with numerous specialty rotations, in a fantastic location with a diverse patient population. The ISMMS program is the perfect place for me to train as a genetic counselor who hopes to work with underrepresented populations to increase their access to equitable healthcare. I love traveling and doing small home renovation projects in my free time. I am the mother of an adult daughter and I have an adorable dog, Midnight.

Vivian Chen

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
B.S. in Psychobiology, UCLA

At UCLA, I was involved with the GC Student Interest Group and Bruin Club Tennis. In my gap year, I worked at USC Norris and LA General Medical Center recruiting for an oncology genetic research study and shadowing their cancer GCs. I loved the beach in SoCal and eating my way through Koreatown. Moving back to the East Coast, I'm excited to experience the seasons again, especially with how close Central Park is to campus for scenic walks and picnics.

I chose Mt. Sinai because of the robust clinical training we receive. We start rotations early and have the benefit to rotate in-house. For me, this puts the focus on learning rather than worrying about commuting, and continue to follow up with our patients post-rotation. Being able to live in Manhattan and enjoy NYC was another huge draw for me.





Claire Cinnamon

Sacramento, California
B.S. in Biological Science, B.A. in History, UCSB

While at UC Santa Barbara, I began working in clinical research, both as a Research Assistant and as a Clinical Research Clerk. After graduating, I continued my work in research as a Clinical Research Coordinator at DaVinci Research and volunteered for the Genetics Department at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, as well as Crisis Text Line. In my free time, I enjoy reading and sunsets in Central Park, traveling, and spending time with friends!

I chose the program at Mount Sinai because of the opportunity to take classes with, and learn alongside, students in other disciplines. There are a variety of clinical rotations available, and the program is located in the diverse and exciting city of New York.

Jen Dean

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
B.S. in Biology, Emory University

At Emory, I served as a teaching assistant in various courses and as a STEM mentor for middle and high school students. I also volunteered with Crisis Text Line and conducted research using CRISPR/Cas9 to model genetic mutations in the RNA exosome. After college, I took a year off and worked as a clinic coordinator in the Division of Human Genetics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I love running in Central Park, reading, eating ice cream, and cooking.

I chose Mount Sinai because of the variety of clinical experiences offered and the fact that genetic counseling students are able to take classes with students in other disciplines. I also wanted to learn from experts in the field while serving a large and diverse patient population.





Katie Galasso

New Jersey

B.A. in Child Development, Tufts University

MSEd Secondary Science Education, Johns Hopkins

Prior to attending Mount Sinai, I was a teacher in New Jersey where I taught middle school science for 10 years. In 2022, I was my school's Teacher of the Year! In my free time, I love to read, knit, be outside, and spend time with family.

I chose Mount Sinai for the opportunity to study in a health system that is on the cutting edge of medical science, the breadth of specialty rotations, and the program leadership!

Elise Kane

Maryland

B.A. in Psychology, University of Maryland

In my free time, I love to read, thrift shop, explore the city, and make soups.

I chose Mount Sinai for its unique patient diversity that you can only find in New York City.





Jessie Kinsley

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
B.A. in Biology, Brandeis University

Prior to starting Sinai's program I gained experience in the genetic counseling field by being a genetic counseling assistant at a genetic testing laboratory. I also worked in the OB/GYN department at Mount Sinai, in addition to volunteering for the Crisis Text Line. In my free time, I love getting lost on MTA bus routes and remaining undefeated in my kickball league.

I chose Mount Sinai due to its proximity to New York City, as well as its diverse patient population. In addition I appreciated the numerous rotational experiences available to students.

Marlee Krasin

Melville, New York
B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Tulane University

While at Tulane, I had the opportunity to gain a unique biology degree, as well as minor in two of my passions – Public Health and Graphic Design. During my time there, I fell in love with New Orleans and expanded my music and culinary tastes. I also remotely interned at JScreen, volunteered for the Long Island Crisis Center's Chat Line, and worked at a day camp for children with cancer. In my free time, I love trying new restaurants, traveling, and going to the beach.

I chose Sinai for the extremely clinical training environment affiliated with a major hospital. The unique focus on integrating graduate and medical students appealed to me, as did the immense rotational opportunities. Additionally, I was also looking to return home, and spend the next phase of my life in Manhattan closer to my family and friends – especially my 101-year-old great grandmother, whose genes I am itching to sequence to find the key to longevity!





Allison Milicia

Fairfield, Connecticut
B.S. in Biology, Purdue University

In my undergraduate career I was involved in the Panhellenic Association, serving as the president in 2022. I also worked as a teaching intern for multiple biology labs, and worked in the academic success center where I helped other students to be successful in all aspects of their time at Purdue. I love sports and am a huge Buffalo Bills fan. I am a huge dog lover and have one yellow lab named Winnie. In my free time, I love to bake, as well as workout and attend cycling classes.

I chose Mount Sinai because of the wonderful reputation the institution has. I felt that at Sinai I would get a great experience learning from the best in the field as well as be taking classes and interacting with a variety of students. I also love going to graduate school in NYC, as there is always so much to do in my free time.

Yoliann Mojica Algarin

Puerto Rico
B.S. in Biology, University of Puerto Rico

In my free time, I enjoy dancing and exploring museums.

I decided on Mount Sinai because the program provides a wide range of rotation opportunities for students within one of the largest genetics departments globally. Furthermore, I was drawn to their commitment to diversity and location in a multicultural city.





Talia Pearl

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

B.S. in Life Sciences, Queen's University

In undergrad, I organized events for children with the Canadian Association for Girls in Science and taught swim lessons with Swimming with A Mission. I researched at CReATe Fertility Centre on biomarkers of embryonic health. Post-graduation, I worked as a GCA in the Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics Program at Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto) and volunteered as a Direct Client Supporter at the National Eating Disorder Information Center. I have been working as a professional voice actress since high school, and in my free time I love to hike, try new restaurants/cafes and bake!

I choose Sinai for its supportive and esteemed faculty, diverse location and the opportunity to do clinical rotations in a renowned health system. I also loved how close the cohorts were, an important factor to me in moving far away from home.

Juliet Young

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

B.S. in Health Sciences, Western University

At Western, I volunteered at the Movement Disorders Clinic investigating the use of non-invasive spinal cord stimulation to improve gait function in Parkinson's patients. I was a crisis counselor at the Canadian Mental Health Association. Post grad, I worked for a hand tremor medical device company, and as a project coordinator at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute exploring the use of VR to improve communication in dementia patients. Most recently, I worked as a GCA on a GWA study, investigating the impact of genetic mutations on immune response function for COVID-19 patients. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with family and friends, sewing, painting, listening to music, exploring museums, and running in Central Park!

I chose Sinai because of the courses offered, as well as the unique ability for patient follow-up post-rotation. The faculty are warm, welcoming, and supportive and the students are amazing.

