



Scholarship Offerings 2024 Admissions Cycle

The UCSF Genetic Counseling Program is proud to offer three (3) separate scholarship opportunities to the Class of 2026.

Scholarship decisions will be based on information gathered from the application, interview, and supplementary documentation (if applicable). Applicants may elect to pursue more than one scholarship but will only be awarded one (1) scholarship. Both applicants and the UCSF Genetic Counseling Program will indicate their final decision when submitting their rank list. **Applicants will need to confirm their scholarship intent and preferences during the interview process.**

Funding:

- Each scholarship description lists the TOTAL amount of student funding.
- Distribution models are outlined below.
- Admitted students are welcome to pursue additional funding sources on their own.

Requirements

- See each description for requirements specific to that scholarship
- Any student receiving scholarship funding is required to maintain enrollment in the UCSF Genetic Counseling Program. Funding installments will not be made during a quarter(s) in which a student is not enrolled. Withdrawal from the Genetic Counseling Program will result in forfeiture of the remaining award.
- Awardees must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress.
- Academic and/or disciplinary probation may cause the scholarship to be rescinded.
- If for any reason, there is remaining money at the time of a recipient's separation from UCSF, the residual funds will be retained by the Genetic Counseling Program and used for future student scholarships.

Fresno position (\$20,000)

This scholarship will be awarded to one student who demonstrates interest in community care and has a strong desire to contribute to the San Joaquin Valley region. This student

will be placed in Fresno, CA during their 2nd year of graduate training. Qualifications will be evaluated during the interview process and specific interest in Fresno/San Joaquin Valley **must** be addressed in your personal statement.

The funding for this scholarship will be distributed over 3 quarters in the first year of the program. Funding is NOT awarded both years. For example, the student receiving this \$20,000 scholarship will receive a total of \$20,000 in financial support during the first year of the GC Program. Additional funding will NOT be awarded in that student's second year.

****International students (requiring a F-1 Visa) are not eligible for the Fresno position and therefore are not eligible for the Fresno scholarship. ****

Needs-based scholarship (\$15,000)

This scholarship will be awarded to one student who demonstrates financial need. Financial need will be evaluated by UCSF Student Financial Services and can be demonstrated by submitting the following:

- FAFSA Form
 - UCSF's school code is 001319. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- UCSF Finaid/COLS Application: <https://netpartner.ucsf.edu/>

Only applicants invited to interview should complete the UCSF FinAid/COLS application.

After receiving an interview invitation you will receive a mailed letter with information to access this application. Please be sure your preferred mailing address is up to date in the admissions portal.

****All of the above financial documentation must be received by the UCSF Student Financial Services office by March 1, 2024 to be considered for a Needs-based scholarship.*

The funding for this scholarship will be distributed over the 3 quarters in the first year of the program. Funding is NOT awarded both years. For example, a student receiving this \$15,000 scholarship will receive a total of \$15,000 in financial support during the first year of the GC Program. Additional funding will NOT be awarded in that student's second year.

Future Generation Scholarship [FGS] (\$150,000)

UCSF is the leading public university dedicated exclusively to the health sciences and our core mission is to advance healthcare. Students play a vital role in this effort and are encouraged to approach healthcare topics with a spirit of inquiry and innovation, humility, empathy, and a dedication to removing barriers to exceptional care. The Genetic Counseling Program believes that to successfully achieve UCSF's mission, the next generation of genetic counselors must reflect and understand the variety of life experiences, geographies, and perspectives represented in the people we serve. Our Future Generation Scholarship (FGS) is an opportunity aimed at helping an exceptional future genetic counselor achieve those ideals.

Access to high quality education is central to the Genetic Counseling Program's core values; especially increasing accessibility to those that graduate school has historically been unattainable. We recognize that financial pressures and external demands can distract from the academic experience and we aspire to provide an exceptional applicant, with high financial need, the opportunity to attain a graduate education with minimal student loan debt. In addition to high financial need, we are very interested in applicants who have experienced challenges to entering graduate school and can offer skills that meet the expanding needs of the genetic counseling profession. Examples of challenges include but are not limited to: first in your family to graduate from a four year college, attending under-resourced schools, working multiple jobs or long hours in high school or college, navigating life with a disability. Examples of skills meeting the future needs of the genetic counseling profession may include: critical language skills, identification with a group historically underrepresented in the genetic counseling profession, deep knowledge of regions underserved by genetic counselors. These examples do not encompass all challenges; there are many more. FGS applicants will be given the opportunity to discuss in an essay how their unique background, challenges experienced, perseverance, and perspectives contribute to and will advance the field of genetic counseling.

Financial Support

The FGS scholarship provides \$150,000 in guaranteed, non-loan aid. The funds will be equally distributed over the seven quarters of the program and may be used to cover tuition, university fees, UC student health insurance (UC-SHIP), books, housing etc. The funds are not available until after the beginning of the fall quarter, so will not be available to cover relocation expenses. Funds are only available if the recipient is continuously enrolled in the UCSF Genetic Counseling Program and maintains satisfactory academic progress. The recipient will be required to pay taxes on funding not used to cover qualified educational expenses - more details about qualified educational expenses may be found [here](#):

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/qualified-ed-expenses#:~:text=Qualified%20expenses%20are%20amounts%20paid,of%20the%20next%20tax%20year>

The Genetic Counseling Program is not able to provide financial or tax advice. Questions about financial and/or tax implications should be directed to your personal financial advisor.

Eligibility requirements

Candidates **must demonstrate high financial need** in order to be considered. The UCSF Student Financial Services Office will determine financial need based on data from the FAFSA and the UCSF FinAid/COLS.

To apply, you must:

- 1) Submit a complete UCSF admissions application by December 4, 2023.
- 2) Submit a FAFSA by December 31, 2024.
 - UCSF's school code is 001319 <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- 3) Complete this brief form confirming your intent to apply for the FGS scholarship:
https://ucsf.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cOnrBbYvsdl2fk2
- 4) Demonstrate a 3.0 minimum GPA from undergraduate coursework, including prerequisites.

- 5) Submit a 1000 word 'FGS' essay* by December 4, 2023.
The FGS essay is in addition to the personal statement required for the admissions application to the University.
- 6) International applicants are NOT eligible for this scholarship.
- 7) FGS applicants that do not submit all required elements will be withdrawn from consideration.

FGS APPLICANTS INVITED FOR AN INTERVIEW WILL ALSO NEED TO:

- 8) Submit the UCSF FinAid/COLS by March 1, 2024.
 - UCSF Finaid/COLS application: <https://netpartner.ucsf.edu/>
After receiving an interview invitation you will receive a mailed letter with information access this application. Please be sure your preferred mailing address is up to date in the admissions portal.
- 9) Applicants that do not receive an interview invitation do not need to complete the UCSF Finaid/COLS application.

***FGS Essay requirements**

Interested applicants are required to submit an essay, containing up to 1000-words, addressing the following:

Everyone has their own unique narrative. Please explain how your unique background and perspectives will enrich and advance the genetic counseling profession. Provide specific examples of obstacles or challenges you've encountered and how they may have shaped your interest in the field of genetic counseling. Highlight what you have already accomplished, what steps you have already taken to demonstrate leadership in this field and how you plan to make a positive impact on the profession. Outline your future career goals and explain how the FGS scholarship and the UCSF Genetic Counseling Program will help you to achieve your goals.

- 1) Essays should be limited to 1000 words maximum and should be double-spaced.
- 2) In the header, include your first and last name (as they appear in the UCSF admissions application) and FGS essay.
- 3) Essays must be converted to PDF format and saved with the following naming convention:
Last name _ First name. FGS essay
- 4) Essays should be emailed to: GCprogram@UCSF.edu by December 5, 2022.
- 5) Include FGS Scholarship Essay in the subject line of the email. We will connect your essay with your application.

Selection Process

The FGS review committee will read through your UCSF Genetic Counseling Program application packet, including personal statement, CV, letters of recommendation, and the required FGS essay. Finalists will be granted a standard interview for the program and also complete *another* interview with members of the FGS review committee. The second interview will occur on a different day than the standard interview. Both applicants invited for a FGS interview and the Genetic Counseling Program will indicate their final decision when submitting rank lists.

The FGS committee is considering four broad categories in selecting finalists:

- “Financial Need” – Financial need will be assessed by the UCSF Student Financial Services Office using the FAFSA/UCSF COLS. This scholarship is targeted towards an applicant with limited resources - financial and otherwise.
- “Distance traveled” (in the non-literal sense). How far have you come, and what obstacles have you faced, on your journey toward pursuing your degree in genetic counseling? How have those obstacles and experiences shaped your interest in the field of genetic counseling?
- “Potential Contribution” – How will you contribute to the UCSF community as well as the Genetic Counseling Profession? What do you see yourself doing with your degree? How will this scholarship benefit you in your pursuits?
- “Future Leader” – What type of impact do you hope to have on the field of genetic counseling? How will your perspectives advance the field of genetic counseling? How have you demonstrated your leadership potential.

Recipient Requirements

The individual awarded the FGS scholarship must:

- 1) Maintain continuous enrollment in the UCSF Genetic Counseling Program and
- 2) Maintain satisfactory academic progress (good academic standing) throughout the entire program.
- 3) Attend annual briefing meetings with the donor.
- 4) Provide annual outreach presentations on the field of genetic counseling to educational institutions located in regions historically underserved by profession.