

Q: What other resources are available to me for information on a career in public health genetics?

A: There are several resources online that will help you learn more about a future career in public health genetics. Here are some resources to get you started:

American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG): There are several resources on careers in genetics such as the career center, video interviews with professionals currently working in the field, and links to other associations within the field of genetics for you to explore www.ashg.org

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG): ACMG is focused more on medical genetics, but has a wealth of information and resources for anyone with a career interest in genetics. There is a student membership for the organization, student interest groups, and scholarship opportunities www.acmg.net

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) Careers in Genetics Series: A video series from the American College of Medical Genetics. The videos feature personal stories from geneticists and provide insight into various career paths, what a typical day looks like, rewards of a career in genetics and much more! Go to www.YouTube.com and search for the **ACMG Channel**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Genomics and precision health web page has general resources and information related to public health genetics www.cdc.gov/genomics/

International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG): Global nursing specialty organization that has educational resources available for nurses in the genetics specialty www.isong.org

National Coordinating Center (NCC): Did you know there is a week dedicated to public health genetics? It is May 26-29. Visit www.phgw.org to learn more.

National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSCG): Promotes professional interests of genetic counselors. The website has career resources and a student corner which is an excellent resource for students and new graduates www.nsgc.org

References & Acknowledgement

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2. American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG). *Careers in human genetics*. Retrieved from www.ashg.org/careers-learning/career-flowchart/
3. U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Occupational outlook handbook*. Retrieved from www.bls.gov/ooh/

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**Q&A:
Careers in Public
Health Genetics**



Q: What is Public Health Genetics?

A: Public health genetics is defined as the application of advances in genetics and molecular biotechnology to improve public health and prevent disease ¹.

Q: Have you considered a career in public health genetics?

A: If you answer **yes** to any of the following questions then a career in public health genetics may be for you.

- Are you someone who feels rewarded by helping others?
- Are you a creative person with excellent problem solving skills?
- Are you looking for a career with limitless growth opportunities?
- Do you want to promote health and wellness among your broader community?
- Do you like to explore new and emerging technologies?

This brochure provides you with information and resources on public health genetics careers.

Q: What types of jobs are there in public health genetics?

A: Public health genetics is a broad field with many opportunities to consider a career in. Some examples of job titles within the field include ²:

- Bioethicist
- Genetic Counselor
- Genetics Nurse
- Laboratory Scientist
- Physician/Geneticist
- Professor
- Program manager
- Public Health Program Evaluator
- Public Health Researcher
- Registered Dietician
- Researcher
- Science Writer

Q: What does the job outlook in public health genetics look like?

A: According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, most careers in genetics have a positive job outlook. The increasing number of new technologies and needs of a growing and aging population will require the services of many in the field of genetics.

Here are some examples of careers in genetics and the job outlook³:

- **Biochemist/ Biophysicist/ Geneticists:** Employment of all biochemists and biophysicists, including geneticists, is projected to grow 11 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations.
- **Epidemiologist:** Employment of epidemiologists is projected to grow 5 percent from 2018-2028, about as fast as average for all occupations.
- **Genetic Counselors:** Employment is projected to grow 27 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than average for all occupations. In fact, genetic counselors are listed as one of the 20 fastest growing occupations.
- **Genetic/Biomedical Engineers:** Employment is projected to grow 4 percent from 2018 to 2028, about as fast as the average for all occupations.
- **Genetics Nurses:** Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 12 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.



Resource Spotlight:

Visit the American Society of Human Genetics at www.careers.ashg.org/jobs/ to learn more about current career and internship opportunities.

Q: What type of education is needed for a career in public health genetics?

A: There are variety of educational paths to take if you want to pursue a career in public health genetics depending on what area you are interested in.

Here are some examples of careers in public health genetics and their associated degrees²:

- **Undergraduate (BA/BS):** Science writer, dietician, registered nurse, laboratory technician, quality control specialist, research associate.
- **Master's Degree (MA/MS):** Genetic counselor, community college professors, public health researcher, Public health program evaluator.
- **Law Degree (JD):** Bioethicist, Patent attorney
- **Medical Degree (MD/DO):** Physician/ clinical geneticist, independent clinical researcher.
- **Doctoral degree (PhD):** University Professor, Independent researcher, Consultant, Scientific editor
- **Medical/Doctoral degree (MD-PhD):** Clinical laboratory geneticist, Medical Science Liaison.

