

Stanford University's MS in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling Class of 2017



Alyssa Armsby is from Ontario, Canada, and received a bachelor's degree in Biology from McGill University in 2014. In preparation for becoming a genetic counselor, she completed independent research in developmental genetics has volunteered at a sexual assault center and a retirement community, and as a buddy for children with chronic illnesses. Alyssa gained exposure to genetic counseling observing at various clinics throughout London.



Stephanie Bivona is from New Jersey and will complete her bachelor's degree in General Biology at Washington & Jefferson College in 2015. As an undergraduate, she was a genetics and general biology lab assistant and a biology seminar mentor. She shadowed prenatal, pediatric, and cancer genetic counselors and gained counseling experience volunteering at Planned Parenthood.



Danielle Dondanville is from southern California and received her bachelor's degree in Human Biology and Society from UCLA in 2014. There, she was a community health mentor for at-risk youth, volunteered in rural Nicaragua health clinics and at the UCLA Santa Monica hospital, and served as a crisis counseling volunteer at a women's shelter. Danielle was a member of UCLA's GC student interest group and shadowed prenatal genetic counselors.



Ellie Harrington is from Washington state, and completed her bachelor's degree in Biology at University of Redlands (CA) in 2013. She is currently a post-baccalaureate IRTA research fellow at NHGRI in Bethesda, MD, participating in clinical research on patients with MMA. To help her prepare to become a genetic counselor she has participated in basic science research, been a health development volunteer, a Big Buddies mentor, a grief counselor, and shadowed genetic counselors.



Jessica Kianmahd is from southern California and received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Disability Studies from UCLA in 2014. As an undergraduate, she was a social caseworker and health educator, a crisis helpline volunteer, a developmental psychology research intern and course assistant, and a student organizer for the Jewish Genetic Disease Prevention Project. Jessica was the co-founder, president, and mentor for UCLA's Genetic Counseling Student Interest Group and a prenatal genetic counseling intern. She is currently a cancer genetic counseling intern and a research coordinator and clinical assessor in the ADHD and Development Lab at UCLA.



Karina Liker is from southern California and will complete her bachelor's degree in Human Biology from Stanford University in 2015. As an undergraduate, she has served as a resident assistant and academic student advisor, a volunteer peer counselor and peer health educator, and observed genetic counseling sessions. She has also done some basic science research as a developmental biology research assistant, and a summer research scholar.



Aiste Narkeviciute is originally from Lithuania and currently resides in the Bay Area. She earned her bachelor's degree in Biology from Boston College in 2007. She has worked in a healthcare consulting firm as well as a biotechnology company. Aiste has experience as a research assistant in various settings (including a genetic variant research project), with individuals with disabilities, and as a domestic violence counselor providing support in both English and Spanish. She gained exposure to genetic counseling as a research volunteer on a NIPT project and observing prenatal genetic counselors.



Megan Nathan is from southern California and received her bachelor's degree in Biology from University of Southern California (USC) in 2014. As an undergraduate, she served as a research assistant and traveled to Costa Rica to conduct research on sloths, and she can speak conversational Spanish. Megan shadowed prenatal and general genetic counselors and is currently working as a hiking guide and medic.



Julia Silver is from southern California and earned her bachelor's degree in Neuroscience with a minor in Gender and Health at the University of Michigan in 2013. To prepare for becoming a genetic counselor, she has served as an organic chemistry tutor and qualitative research assistant, volunteered at a local hospice, taught healthy living classes to diabetic and obese patients and shadowed prenatal genetic counseling sessions. She is currently a crisis hotline volunteer and a cancer genetics intern, and has conversational Spanish language skills.