Genetic Counselor

**Industry Demand of Genetic Counselor**

* A lot more people are now invested in personal health than ever before. Genetics plays an important role in knowing your personal health and thus genetic counselors are increasing in demand.
* A lot of hard to cure diseases like Alzheimer’s can be detected by genetics and thus genetic counselors are needed to help identify those with the possibility of having that particular disease.
* Innovation in genetic testing technology has also been increasing resulting in more job openings for genetic counselors.

**Salary (Range)**

* Entry Level Salary in the United States: $ 61,000/Year
* Mid Career Salary in the United States: $86,000/Year
* Average Salary in Indonesia: Rp 267.000.000,00/Year

**Core Tasks**

* Assessing family genetic history in order to understand risk of certain diseases or birth defects.
* Counseling sessions with patients in order to discuss the risks of certain diseases or birth defects. Apart from that, discussing the pros and cons of certain genetic testing.
* Writing the detailed genetic reports to provide information on complex genetic data for patients or for other physicians.

**Working Conditions**

* A lot of time on collecting and analyzing family genetic history.
* Spend a lot of time talking to patients who want to consult about a certain worry.
* Would occasionally need to deliver bad news to patients regarding genetic history which could be emotionally draining.

**Skills Required**

* Communication Skill
* Critical Thinking Skill
* Empathy
* Teaching Skill

**Career progression data**

* Pathways :
  + Earn a bachelor degree in Genetics, Medicine or Biology
  + Earn a master’s degree in Genetic Counseling or Genetics
  + Can be promoted further to Senior Genetic Counselor
  + Could open an independent clinic specializing in genetic counseling
* Need a master’s degree in order to be an genetic counselor

**Possible University Major**

* Bachelor’s degree in Genetics, Medicine or Biology
* Master’s degree in Genetic Counseling or Genetics

**School subjects required**

* Biology
* Maths
* Chemistry