

ABGC Update

The New Genetic Counseling Accreditation Body: An Overview of the [Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling \(ACGC\)](#)

By the ABGC Board of Directors



Several years ago, the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) Board of Directors was advised by legal counsel that it is a conflict of interest for the certifying body to also accredit training programs. With this in mind, the ABGC has been moving towards a formal separation between the credentialing body (which will retain the name the American Board of Genetic Counseling) and the accrediting body (which will be called the Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling or ACGC).

We are continuing with the final stages of planning and preparing for the official launch of the separate accrediting body for genetic counseling education and training programs. This article will review the structure and current status of the new ACGC organization.

Purpose of the ACGC

The ACGC shall provide leadership by establishing standards for graduate level genetic counseling education in order to protect the interests of students, the public and the integrity of the genetic counseling profession. More specifically, the organization will:

- Evaluate education programs to ensure compliance with the standards, and
- Accredit genetic counseling training programs that meet the standards established by the ACGC

Board of Directors

We are transitioning to the official composition of the ACGC Board of Directors (BOD), which will be comprised of nine board members, six of whom are certified genetic counselors, two educators or faculty members of genetic counseling training programs, and one public member. Board members will serve a three-year term and are eligible for one consecutive term.

The charter members of the ACGC BOD are the five elected ABGC Board members who have served on the ABGC Accreditation Committee, and four additional members who were appointed to serve on the Transition Task Force and then agreed to continue on as charter Board members.

The charter ACGC BOD members are:

Holly Peay, President
Janice Berliner, Past President
Lisa Amacker North, Secretary/Treasurer
Sarah Noblin, Accreditation Review Chair
Robin Bennett, Transition Director
Cecelia Bellcross, Director
Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Director
Kathy Valverde, Director
Meredith Weaver, Director

Committees

There are seven standing committees for the ACGC that include Nominating, Program Review, Site Visitor, Standards, Finance, Grievance, and Executive.

Current Status of the ABGC and ACGC

It is anticipated that ABGC and ACGC will be operating as two separate organizations by January 1, 2013. The ACGC board and its Transition Task Force have spent the past year reviewing processes and procedures, developing bylaws, updating the Accreditation Standards, and collaborating with the ABGC to update its Practice-Based Competencies. The Articles of Incorporation for the ACGC have been filed with the appropriate offices of the Secretary of State and have been accepted. Additionally, the ACGC has been issued an employer tax identification number. These steps are required to form any new corporation. An application for nonprofit tax status is being prepared, and will be filed in the near future.

The ACGC is in the process of finalizing a logo and collateral materials. Additionally, we are working on a contract for management services. The Board felt that stability during this transition to two separate organizations was critical to success; therefore, at least for the short term, management services will continue to be provided by Applied Measurement Professionals, the ABGC's current management firm.

Please attend the ABGC Business Meeting at the NSGC's Annual Education Conference in Boston in October to hear the latest news and updates!