

The Opportunity for the
**Program Director and Assistant/Associate
Professor of Genetic Counseling**
at **Dixie State University** in St. George, Utah

DSUTM
DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY



The Kenneth Graff Building

Program Director and Assistant/Associate Professor of Genetic Counseling Executive Search



Dixie State University, a comprehensive public university, has launched a national search for the **Program Director of Genetic Counseling**. The University is seeking an energetic and collegial faculty member with the desire and ability to help create one of the premiere Master's degree programs in Genetic Counseling in the nation. The Program Director will hold the rank of **Assistant/Associate Professor**, tenure-track. The preference is for this appointment to begin no later than January 2020.

The Opportunity

Dixie State University is a public, open-enrollment institution committed to student access, affordability, and success. Established in 1911 as a community college and in 2013 as a state university, DSU is located in picturesque southwestern Utah with its red rocks, desert climate, and over 300 days of sunshine annually.

Dedicated to rigorous learning and the enrichment of the professional and personal lives of its students and community by providing opportunities that engage the unique Southern Utah environment and resources, DSU has an instructional approach of "active learning. active life."

Students receive personalized and engaged learning experiences under the direction of skilled and devoted faculty and staff members. They are taught the importance of community through experiential, civic, and service learning within the local community.

DSU is strongly committed to the academic success of students, including those of color, of diverse sexual orientation and gender expressions, with disabilities, and with diverse socio-economic backgrounds, as well as veterans and students who are first generation to attend college.

The University enrolls nearly 10,000 students, with 39 percent being first-generation college students. Over 82 percent of the students are Utah residents, and more than 21 percent

are minorities. Only 16.3 percent of the students are 25 years old and older.

DSU has been expanding both its academic programs and facilities in recent years and is on the forefront of technology, health education, and business, incorporating cutting-edge learning practices. With more than 150 academic programs, the University currently offers 11 associate degrees, 45 bachelor's degrees, and 4 master's degrees through its 6 academic colleges: Education; Health Sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; Science, Engineering, and Technology; Business and Communication; and Arts.

The new Master of Science in Genetic Counseling Program will be part of the Department of Healthcare Diagnostics and Therapeutics of the College of Health Sciences. DSU's Health Sciences programs are taught by dedicated and supportive faculty in primarily small-class learning environments. The results have been excellent certification/licensure exam pass rates as well as outstanding graduation rates. Graduates are employed upon program completion.

The College is housed in DSU's new 78,519 square-foot, \$15.7 million Health Sciences Building. The beautiful state-of-the-art center is located adjacent to the Intermountain Healthcare Dixie Regional Medical Center (DRMC), which is part of Intermountain Healthcare, the largest healthcare provider in the Intermountain West.

What is "active learning. active life."

"active learning. active life." encourages the Dixie State University community to not passively exist but to actively live, learn, and connect with others. Active learning encourages students to take responsibility for their education by participating in the learning process in and out of the classroom to understand why things work, not just that they do. It invites them to be lifelong learners who shatter their comfort zones and embrace the future. Simultaneously, active living empowers students to become fully involved in their communities and blaze trails that improve the lives of others. It unlocks recreational opportunities around them and enables them to be innovative thinkers and doers.

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Dixie State University

Core Themes

- **Learning:** Preparing knowledgeable and competent learners, through effective, active-learning practices in a student-centered environment.
- **Engagement:** Maintaining active involvement and positive collaboration with the Southern Utah region to strengthen cultural, economic, and civic life.
- **Opportunity:** Valuing inclusion, access, diversity, and equity.

Values

- **Student-centered success:** providing an affordable education with experiences that develop the academic, professional, and personal lives of all students.
- **Academic excellence:** stimulating learning and critical thinking through rigor, student empowerment, and practical application.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** creating a community of diverse individuals, ideas, and beliefs; practicing open discourse and collaboration.
- **Accountability:** working with honesty, transparency, and respect for others while holding ourselves accountable for our actions.
- **Service leadership:** emphasizing civic, economic, and cultural engagement with the community.
- **Creative and innovation:** problem solving in learning, teaching, fostering new ways of thinking, and researching.
- **Local and global resources:** incorporating a variety of resources into the educational experience with a special emphasis on the unique local resources.



The Genetic Counseling program will benefit from this close proximity to DRMC. DSU and Intermountain Precision Genomics, which is a service of Intermountain Healthcare, have partnered to help lead the way towards biotech and medical genomics pathways for the surrounding communities.

In addition to the Graduate Genetic Counseling program, the two organizations collaborate in several ways:

- Undergraduate bioinformatics program
- Stanford Medicine/Precision Genomics/DSU summer student internship program
- Intermountain Healthcare/DSU pre-medicine program
- Intermountain Precision Genomics/

DSU student internship programs at the genomics laboratories

DSU's Genetic Counseling students will have opportunities for clinical rotations throughout the Intermountain Healthcare system.

The Program Director of Genetic Counseling is an exceptional opportunity to be a part of a fast-growing health sciences program while preparing students in best practices for counseling patients and clients in this important field of healthcare.

The Position

Reporting to Dean Eliezer Bermudez of the College of Health Sciences, the Program Director will be a full-time (11-month) tenure-track faculty position. This dynamic educator and director will have both a vision for inter-professional collaboration and a

Eliezer Bermudez, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor, College of Health Sciences



Dr. Eliezer (Eli) Bermudez has served as Dean of DSU's College of Health Sciences since July 2017. He joined Dixie State after a distinguished career at Indiana State University.

At ISU, Dr. Bermudez served as the Interim Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. He also was a tenured Professor and Department Chair of the Applied Health Sciences with more than 22 years of academic service. His scholarship includes peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, numerous professional presentations, and grants, all in the discipline of environmental health.

Dr. Bermudez earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico. He holds a doctorate in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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desire to embrace the DSU core theme of "active learning. active life."

This administrative faculty member will be responsible for the design, organization, coordination, administration, planning, development, and continual review of the Genetic Counseling program. This will include the curriculum, clinical, and research components:

Duties and Responsibilities

- Teach courses in Genetic Counseling per academic year as assigned and provide institutional service as defined by University Policy and the College of Health Sciences
- Seek accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC)
- Ensure the program remains in compliance with ACGC Accreditation Standards, including communicating with the ACGC about significant staffing, administrative, financial, and/or clinical site changes
- Lead and mentor instructional faculty, supervisors, and program and administrative staff in all activities that directly relate to the program

- Coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and supervise all aspects of clinical training/field work, either directly or through department collaboration
- Collaborate with other Program Directors in all activities that directly relate to the Genetics Counseling program
- Facilitate long-term planning to ensure program fiscal and educational stability
- Maintain and collaborate with the program Advisory Board
- Improve professionally and maintain currency in the field
- Develop and maintain supporting relationships with community and state organizations
- Fulfill faculty responsibilities including participating in department

events and committee meetings, holding regular office hours, and advising students

Qualifications & Characteristics

Candidate must have a master's degree in Genetic Counseling. A doctorate degree is preferred.

Other requirements include:

- Certification in genetic counseling by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) or American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG)
- At least five years of experience as a genetic counselor
- Knowledge of and experience in genetic counseling, teaching, clinical supervision, and other related subjects

In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire.

Employment is contingent upon successful completion and certification of required degrees and upon successfully passing a background check.

St. George, Utah

Dixie State University is located in southwestern Utah in the city of St. George on the northeasternmost part of the Mojave Desert. The family-friendly city has a population of

For More Information

- *Dixie State University:* <http://www.dixie.edu>
- *Department of Healthcare Diagnostics and Therapeutics and the DSU College of Health Sciences:* <https://academics.dixie.edu/health-sciences/>.
- *Intermountain Precision Genomics:* <https://intermountainhealthcare.org/about/transforming-healthcare/innovation/clinical-programs/oncology/precision-genomics/>.

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80,000, with the metropolitan area estimated to be nearly 172,000.

Named one of the fastest growing metropolitan area in 2018, St. George has been rated among the top 10 best small cities in the country for business and careers by *Forbes*.

The city has an active downtown, with fine and casual dining, an array of shops and stores, and entertainment venues. Architecture includes stately 19th-century buildings, such as the Pioneer Courthouse and Brigham Young Winter Home. Sixteen museums and galleries in or near downtown offer great historic value as well as amazing pieces of original art.

The area attracts many who want to live in Utah but don't like long winters – namely the cold and the snow. St. George's arid climate is significantly warmer on average than elsewhere in Utah. The abundance of sunny days, an average of an inch of snow annually, and an average daily high of 71 degrees allow year-around outside recreation. The weather has made the city a popular retirement destination.

State and national parks are within easy reach. Nearby Snow Canyon State Park offers trails, dunes, and red sandstone cliffs. Sand Hollow State Park features a large reservoir. Popular Zion National Park, with canyons and streams, lies northeast.

St. George is home to many public parks, several award-winning golf courses and recreation areas, as well as over 65 miles of urban trails. It's Thunder Junction All Abilities Park is a first of its kind in the western United States and is well-equipped for special needs children.

The city has a regional airport that is served by several major airlines Las Vegas is 118 miles southwest of the city, with Salt Lake City 300 miles north-northeast.



Application and Nomination Process

Confidential inquiries are welcomed; nominations are invited.

1. To Apply - Applications must include:

- Letter of interest
- Curriculum vitae
- Student Success Statement (approximately one page, single-spaced, about teaching or other experience, successes, and challenges in working with a diverse student population)
- At least five references with full contact information, including e-mail addresses (References will not be contacted without applicant's consent.)

2. Submit application (preferably as PDFs) to DixieState@myersmcrac.com. Application will be reviewed upon receipt. The search will remain open until the position is filled.

Submit nominations to DixieState-nominate@myersmcrac.com with individual's full contact information including e-mail address.

Kenny Daugherty, President of **Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting**, is assisting Dixie State University with this search.



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DSU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. The President and employees of Dixie State University are fully committed to Affirmative Action and to its policies of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in all programs, activities, services, and employment with regard to race / ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, age, status as a person with a disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, and protected veteran's status.

In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire.