



Post-Graduate Certificate in Precision Medicine

Stand-Alone Program - Informational Packet



General Information

Important Dates

- The deadline to submit your application is May 1st, 2026.
- The first quarter runs June 1st, 2026-August 2nd, 2026.

Submitting an Application

Applications can be submitted using the APPLY button on the program webpage:

<https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/post-graduate-certificate-in-precision-medicine>

If you have questions about submitting an application, please contact the Midwestern University Admissions Office on either campus.

Arizona campus students: admissaz@midwestern.edu 623-572-3215

Illinois campus students: admissil@midwestern.edu 630-515-6171

You can also contact the Program Director, Dr. Garilyn Jentarra, gjenta@midwestern.edu or the Associate Director, Dr. Kolla Kristjansdottir, kkrist@midwestern.edu.

Admission of Applicants

- Applicants are admitted on a rolling basis until the end of the admissions cycle – May 1, 2026
- The Program Admissions committee makes admissions decisions based on the strength of the application materials.
 - Previous academic history, including grades and the nature of previous coursework (minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA)
 - Short personal statement (see directions on application site)
- There are no interviews for entry into this program.

Eligibility

Professionals with an existing graduate-level healthcare degree or graduate-level biomedical/biological sciences degree from an accredited university/college are eligible to apply.

Professionals with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science are also eligible to apply, with documented biochemistry, molecular biology, or genetics coursework (or similar) or relevant work history.

The program Admissions Committee will evaluate applications to ensure that students have a background that would support their successful completion of the program.

What is the Program Curriculum?

Below is the typical course schedule. Students take 9 required core program courses plus 2 elective courses.

	Year 1		
	Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours
Summer	PMGCG 501	Introduction to Genetics and Genomics	2
Fall	PMGCG 502	Genomics of Rare and Complex Diseases	3
Winter	PMGCG 503	Introduction to Bioinformatics, Statistics, and Data Interpretation	2
Spring	PMGCG 504	‘Omics and Biomarkers	3
	Total quarter-credit hours		10
	Year 2		
	Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours
Summer	PMGCG 601	Application of Precision Medicine to Cancer	3
Fall	PMGCG 602	Pharmacogenomics	2
	Elective	Elective	1
Winter	PMGCG 603	Microbial Genetics, the Microbiome, and Infectious Disease	3
Spring	PMGCG 604	Ethical, Legal and Social Issues of Precision Medicine	1
	PMGCG 605	Counseling and Communication skills for Genomic/Precision Medicine	1
	Elective	Elective	1
	Total quarter-credit hours		12

Additional information, including course descriptions for core and elective courses, can be found on the program website.

<https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/post-graduate-certificate-in-precision-medicine>

Program Structure

- Quarters are approximately 10 weeks long with a 1-2 week break between quarters.
- Quarters are year-round (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer).
- Students take 2-3 credit hours per quarter.
- The program is designed to be completed in 2 years (but can be extended up to 6 years).
- Students typically take 10 credits the first year and 12 credits the second year.
- Students can take breaks for one or more quarters in consultation with the Program Director.

Program Location

- This program is fully online, students never need to be on campus.
- The program is housed on the Arizona campus of MWU, but open to all students regardless of location.
- Program faculty are located on both MWU campuses.

Program Tuition

- This program is billed quarterly, based on enrolled credit hours.
- Current tuition is \$944/credit hour.
- Annual tuition increases are typically 3-4%
- Total tuition for students starting in summer 2026 will be ~\$21,000 for the full two years of the program.

Paying for Courses

- Because students take less than 6 credit hours per quarter, they may not be eligible for Federal Financial Aid. For eligibility requirements: www.midwestern.edu/admissions/paying-college/financial-aid
- Students are encouraged to contact staff in the MWU Student Financial Services office to discuss loans or payment options: Downers Grove ilфинаid@midwestern.edu or Glendale azфинаid@midwestern.edu
- Many employers offer tuition reimbursement for educational programs such as this Post-Graduate Certificate. Check with your employer's human resources department.

Program Orientation

- Admitted students will attend a 2-hour virtual student orientation.
- Students will be notified of the date and time after admission to the program.
- Students unable to attend a virtual orientation will attend an individual virtual meeting with program faculty and may be asked to watch an orientation video.

Delivery of Courses through Canvas

- Program courses are administered using Canvas.
- All course materials are posted on Canvas.
- All assigned work is submitted through Canvas.
- The orientation sessions will show students how to navigate the Canvas courses.

Program Faculty

- There are currently 5 core program faculty specifically devoted to this program.
- Over 20 faculty from other departments on both campuses teach in the program courses.
- Adjunct faculty with specific expertise assist in teaching a few courses.

Accreditation

The State of Arizona Board of Private Postsecondary Education has approved all current degree and certificate programs at Northwestern University, Glendale - Arizona Campus. All degrees and certificates are conferred under the authority granted by the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education and The Higher Learning Commission, A Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Northern University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission/A Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC/NCA), 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1413; 312/263-0456; www.hlcommission.org.

How do the Courses work?

Course Materials

- Course materials include pre-recorded lecture videos, readings, and links to outside videos or databases.
- Course materials are organized into modules.
- Generally, all course materials for the entire course are posted when the course opens.
- Syllabi are provided for all courses.

Textbooks

- Four textbooks are required for the program and can be purchased through Amazon or other booksellers.
- Some of the required textbooks are available electronically through the MWU library.
- Students will be given information on required textbooks after admission to the program and as part of orientation.

Assignment Due Dates

- At the beginning of the course, students are informed of all due dates for the quarter.
- Late penalties are assessed for unexcused late work.
- If a student anticipates needing to turn in assigned work late, they should contact the course director.
- If an emergency occurs resulting in late submission of work, students should contact the course director as soon as reasonably possible.

Course Calendars

- In the first module of each course, a course calendar is posted showing all due dates for the assigned course work.
- Students should add the due dates to their personal calendars.
- Students can also adjust their individual Canvas settings to provide due date reminders.

Completion of Course Materials

- Lecture videos, readings, etc. are completed at your own pace.
- There are due dates for assignments, and students will want to make sure they have covered the relevant materials before completing the assignments.
- Students are free to work ahead in the course and turn in assignments early.
- Assignments will be graded after the specified due date.

Assignments

- Assignments will take many forms, including but not limited to:
 - Multiple choice or short answer questions based on course materials.
 - Questions based on medical/scientific journal articles that are required reading.
 - Visits to databases or websites to find specific information.
 - Reports or presentations.

Discussion Boards

- Some courses use Discussion Boards to foster student interaction.
- Discussion Board prompts are provided by the course faculty.
- There are due dates for postings and for responses to other students.
- All due dates are provided at the beginning of the course.

Examinations (Canvas quizzes)

- In Canvas, examinations are referred to as Quizzes.
- All quizzes are delivered remotely through Canvas.
- Quizzes are NOT monitored and are generally open book unless otherwise specified in the syllabus.
- The program avoids memorization and focuses more on applied use of information.
- Quizzes are administered in time windows (generally 72 hours) that usually overlap one or more weekend days.
- Once a quiz is started, it must be completed in a specified amount of time (usually 60-90 minutes).
- Students who haven't studied in advance will have difficulty finishing quizzes in the allotted time.
- Some courses do not have quizzes and are assignment-based.
- Students with approved accommodations should reach out to the course director to make appropriate arrangements.

More questions? Contact the Program Director, Dr. Garilyn Jentarra (gjenta@midwestern.edu), or the Associate Director, Dr. Kolla Kristjansdottir (kkrist@midwestern.edu).