College genetics gets personal

The following is an edited excerpt.

Classes that deal with personal genetic results are popping up on college campuses with backing from 23andMe, which tests for about one million genetic variants possibly linked to tens of thousands of conditions and traits. 23andMe has offered universities and high schools discounts on the testing for the classes, along with course materials.

[The ethical dilemmas of the personal genome are not going unnoticed, however.] University of Iowa professor Jeff Murray ... talked through the pros and cons of testing with students, and spent two class periods examining 23andMe's consent form. Murray encouraged students to consult with their parents, through their consent was not required — students were all 18 or older. Only a few opted out of the testing after they or their parents raised concerns.

View the original article here: At More Colleges, Classes on Genetics Get Personal