

2022 Genetic Counseling Program Admissions Guidelines

Overview

The AGCPD is using the Genetic Counseling Admissions Match (the Match), administered by National Matching Services, Inc. (NMS), to facilitate applicant placements into Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC)-accredited programs. The purpose of the Match is to place master’s-level genetic counseling applicants into genetic counseling programs, considering both the applicants’ and programs’ preferences. Terms for participation in the Match have been developed and are described in the *Rules and Important Considerations* section found on the next page and on the NMS website (<https://natmatch.com/gcadmissions>). Both applicants and programs are expected to abide by the terms of the Match.

Process

Registration. Applicants should register for the Match prior to applying to genetic counseling programs and must be registered for the Match prior to interviewing with genetic counseling programs.

Ranking. Once they have concluded all of their program interviews, applicants should rank programs in order of preference, first choice to last choice. Applicants should consider important factors, such as location, finances or unique characteristics of the programs, when preparing a Rank Order List. Some programs have two or more “tracks” which should be considered separately for inclusion on a Rank Order List. Questions about programs and tracks should be directed to the applicable Program Director. The Rank Order Lists submitted by applicants and programs are the sole determinants of their respective order of preferences for the Match, and **the results of the Match are binding**. Thus, applicants should spend time considering their rankings and should only rank programs they are willing and able to attend. Likewise, programs will prepare a Rank Order List of the applicants they interviewed in numerical order of preference, ranking only those interviewees they are willing to accept. **Failure to adhere to the binding results may lead to disciplinary actions and/or penalties.** Applicants and programs may begin submitting their Rank Order Lists to NMS on March 30, 2022. New submissions and changes to existing submissions are allowed until 11:59 pm ET on April 13, 2022.

Notification. Binding results of the Match will be released to both applicants and programs simultaneously by 12:00 noon (ET) on April 22, 2022.

Verification and Acceptance. Within 10 working days of the release of Match results (May 8, 2022), GC programs will provide a letter verifying admission to all applicants with whom they were matched. By May 17, 2022, matched applicants must return their program’s verification of admission letter, or otherwise formally accept their admission in accordance with the program’s guidelines. Failure to adhere may lead to disciplinary actions and/or penalties.

Summary of Important Dates	
March 30, 2022	Rank Order List submission opens.
April 13, 2022	Rank Order Lists submission ends. (No changes can be made after this point.)
April 22, 2022	Match Day! Results will be released by 12:00 noon ET. Unmatched Applicant Program/Post-Match Process opens after Match results are released. See “Unmatched Applicant Program” for further details.
May 8, 2022	Programs provide verification letters of admission to applicants with whom they were matched.
May 17, 2022	Deadline for matched applicants to formally accept their admission slot.

Rules and Important Considerations

Pre-Match Correspondence between Applicants and Programs. Programs and applicants may freely express a high level of interest in each other. A program may voluntarily inform an applicant as to whether or not it intends to rank the applicant, and an applicant may voluntarily inform a program as to whether or not the applicant intends to rank the program. However, both parties are prohibited from requesting such information from one another, and neither programs nor applicants may disclose to one another information about specific positioning of an applicant or a program on their Rank Order Lists. Additionally, neither a participating program nor an applicant is permitted to, respectively, make an offer of acceptance or commit to a participating program prior to the release of Match results except in extraordinary circumstances where an exception for a slot has been granted to a program by AGCPD.

Withdrawing from the Match. Applicants who choose not to participate in the Match for any reason must **both** officially withdraw from the Match as directed on the NMS website and **not** submit a Rank Order List for the Match.

Match Agreement Violations. Any alleged violations of the Match Agreement will be reported to the AGCPD Disciplinary Review Committee for investigation. Penalties for violating the Match Agreement may include revoking a current offer, being prohibited from participating in future Genetic Counseling Admissions Matches or other actions the Disciplinary Review Committee considers just and appropriate for the circumstances.

Withdrawing from the Match Placement. Neither an applicant nor a program can withdraw from the binding Match placement without mutual written consent, nor may a program make a post-Match offer to any applicant who has been matched with and not released from another program. Exceptions may be made by programs if an applicant falsified information on the application or does not meet eligibility requirements, including those resulting from unethical behavior.

Unmatched Applicant Program (Post-Match Process)

Genetic counseling programs accredited by the ACGC work together to try to ensure that as many qualified candidates as possible are admitted to programs each year. The AGCPD's Unmatched Applicant Program was designed to help connect qualified unmatched applicants with genetic counseling programs that still have open positions following the Match. **The Unmatched Applicant Program/Post-Match Process is only open to applicants who did not match with a program.**

Starting on April 22, 2022 at 12:00 noon (ET), after Match results are released, unmatched applicants can log into the NMS website to see a list of genetic counseling programs that have open slots. Unmatched applicants may then contact any programs to which they did not previously apply and which they have interest in attending. The list of programs may include both programs that participated in the Match who have open slots, and programs that obtained ACGC accreditation after March 15, 2022 that have chosen to participate in the 2022 Unmatched Applicant Program. While programs may reach out to unmatched applicants, applicants are encouraged to take the initiative in contacting programs in which they are seriously interested in attending. Program information will be updated in real time so that when a program fills a slot, it will no longer appear on the list. **The online unmatched applicant program will close on May 31, 2022.**

Programs are likely to request from unmatched applicants a complete application and associated materials. They may ask the applicant's permission to talk with programs in which the applicant previously interviewed, and an interview with the new program may also be required before an admittance decision is made. This process does not guarantee that unmatched applicants will ultimately be offered admission to a genetic counseling program. However, every year there are several applicants who match with programs through this process.

Should a slot come open at an AGCPD full-member program after May 31st and before the start of the academic year for that program, the program may request special consideration to fill a slot with an unmatched applicant. Thus while unlikely, it is possible for an unmatched applicant to hear from a member program in the summer.

If an applicant is not accepted into a program, many programs are amenable to inquiries about the process of reapplying.