

UAB Genetic Counseling Program Application Checklist

Applicants to the UAB Genetic Counseling Program are evaluated in a holistic manner based on multiple criteria. The list below details the components of the application to assist individuals in submitting materials that thoroughly represent their qualifications and experiences.

National Matching Services (NMS) Registration Number

Visit the [NMS website](#) to register for the match, review detailed information about the matching process, and to view a demonstration of the matching algorithm.

There is a **fee of \$100 USD** to register for the Match. The registration fee is non-refundable, non-transferable, and irrevocable. Match fee waivers are available. Those applying for a fee waiver must complete the necessary steps [outlined on the NMS website](#) **prior to registering** for the match.

Application Fee

The application fee is paid through the UAB Graduate School admissions portal.

- Domestic applicants and green card holders: \$50
- International applicants: \$60

Program Academic Prerequisite Requirements

- **Overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (A=4.0)**
- **BA or BS degree** at the time of matriculation
- **Coursework**
 - Biology I (with lab)*: 3-4 hours
 - Biology II (with lab)*: 3-4 hours
 - Biochemistry (with or without lab): 3-4 hours
 - Genetics: 3-4 hours
 - Statistics*: 3 hours
 - Psychology* (general, developmental, abnormal): 3-4 hours

*AP credit for Biology I and II, Statistics, and Psychology satisfy the prerequisite requirements.

Applicants must complete all prerequisites prior to matriculating into the program in the fall semester.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic

Sciences Admissions department at askcds@uab.edu for questions related to prerequisite requirements. To request a course review for determination if a course fulfills a requirement, please provide a course description, course schedule, and syllabus.

□ **Transcripts**

Unofficial transcripts will be accepted for application review. Applicants that are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program should submit transcripts that include their **most recent fall grades**. Applicants are required to provide official transcripts in accordance with the requirements of the [UAB Graduate School](#) prior to matriculation.

Transcripts can be submitted in 2 ways:

1. Electronically by choosing University of Alabama at Birmingham - Graduate Admission or using the email gradschool@uab.edu.
2. Mailed to:

UAB Graduate School
LHL G03, 1720 2nd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-0013

□ **Personal Statement**

A quality personal statement is a well-organized narrative that does not simply restate an applicant's resume or CV. Applicants are encouraged to focus on the lessons learned from formative experiences and highlight their individual identity. Personal statements should be **no more than 500 words** and emphasize:

- An applicant's motivation to become a genetic counselor.
- An applicant's prior and current experiences that have solidified their desire to be a genetic counselor and/or how these experiences will benefit the applicant in the profession.
- Any significant events that may have impacted the applicant's academic performance and/or ability to participate in recommended prerequisite activities.

For applicants that have previously applied to the UAB Genetic Counseling Program, the program will also review their previous personal statement. Re-applicants are encouraged to focus their current personal statement on formative experiences and personal development since the last application.

□ **3 Letters of Recommendation**

Each applicant must submit three (3) letters of recommendation. Individuals that can provide a strong letter of recommendation are those who know the applicant well. Recommenders should be familiar with the applicant's qualifications as a future genetic counselor, the applicant's ability to complete graduate level academic training, and/or the applicant's leadership experience.

Applicants are encouraged to meet with their recommenders to discuss their interest and career aspirations in the genetic counseling profession. Applicants are encouraged to provide their recommender with a copy of their resume or CV including all activities related to their preparation for graduate school.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all letters of recommendation are submitted on time. Applicants are encouraged to request their letters well in advance of the deadline and to follow up with their recommenders in advance of the deadline. Applicants can check the status of their letters in the UAB application portal.

□ **Resume or CV**

Applicants are required to provide a resume or CV that summarizes their academic credentials and non-academic experiences related to preparation for the program. Applicants are encouraged to highlight all recommended activities they have participated in on their resume or CV.

The suggested length for resumes or CV's is 2-3 pages, with formatting that is clean and simple. Section headers such as genetic counseling exposure, volunteer experience, teaching experience, and leadership experience could be utilized to organize an applicant's experiences.

Activities should include a brief description that is concise and factual, using bullet points instead of narrative accounts. Limit each description to 2-3 bullet points and highlight transferable skills that are applicable to genetic counseling. Include specific dates (month, year) and position title for each activity but omit contact information for supervisors. Applicants are encouraged to include all employment experiences, even if they are not directly related to genetic counseling. Activities and work experience from high school, specific academic coursework, and grades should not be included.

Recommended Activities:

Successful applicants have experiences across multiple recommended activity categories. The experiences summarized in this section are examples of possible activities applicants may engage in and is not comprehensive.

Exposure and experience with the field of genetic counseling is valuable in preparing for graduate education in the field. It is strongly recommended for applicants to speak with or meet with a genetic counselor and/or observe clinical genetic counseling activities prior to applying to the program. Additional activities included under "exposure to the field" include but are not limited to viewing recorded genetic counseling sessions, reading the literature, podcasts/online video content, attending informational sessions, or through genetic counseling professional organization websites.

Recommended Activities		
Counseling Experience	Advocacy and/or Patient Care Experience	Teaching Experience
<p>Peer counseling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peer support group ▪ Academic mentorship ▪ Big Brothers Big Sisters <p>Crisis counseling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suicide hotline ▪ Crisis text line ▪ Domestic violence shelters or hotlines 	<p>Genetic counseling assistant or other patient facing experiences in a medical setting.</p> <p>Work or volunteer with organizations advocating for or individuals with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Genetic conditions or risk ▪ Chronic illnesses ▪ Disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teaching assistant (TA) ▪ Tutor ▪ Instructor <p>Teaching in life sciences (ex: genetics, biology, physiology) or psychology is ideal.</p>
Research Experience	Campus and/or Community Involvement	Leadership Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research assistant or technologist ▪ Honors or other thesis work ▪ Research publications or poster presentations <p>Research in life sciences (ex: genetics, biology, physiology) or psychology is ideal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement in campus or community clubs or organizations ▪ Other volunteer experiences ▪ Undergraduate or post-graduate job ▪ Fundraising efforts for campus or community causes ▪ Undergraduate sports team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management or team leader experience at job ▪ Trainer for other employees or organization members ▪ Leadership role in organization ▪ Captain of undergraduate sports team ▪ Student government

□ Additional Requirements for International Applicants

Please review the UAB Graduate Schools' information for international applicants.

- International applicants are strongly recommended to **apply by December 1st**.
- International Students must submit a transcript evaluation from [World Education Services](#), [Educational Credential Evaluators](#), or [Josef Silny and Associates, Inc.](#)