University of Washington Genetic Counseling Graduate Program
Application Instructions
2021 Admissions Cycle

WELCOME!..................................................................................................................2
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS .......................................................................................2
APPLICATION CHECKLIST .....................................................................................3
DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ......................................................................................3
  Applicant Profile Pages .........................................................................................3
  Program Information Page ....................................................................................3
  Requirements and Deadlines Page .......................................................................5
  Report Prior Schools Page ...................................................................................5
  Submit Unofficial Transcripts Page .....................................................................5
  English Language Proficiency Scores ..................................................................6
  Submit Personal Statement Page .........................................................................6
  Submit GC Admissions Match Code Number Page ..........................................7
  Designate Recommendations Page .....................................................................7
  Submit Supplemental Application Page ...............................................................8
  Submit Short Answers Page .................................................................................11
  Checklist of Application Materials Page ............................................................13
  Verify, Pay, and Submit Application Page ............................................................13
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? .........................................................................................13
  Eligibility Screening ............................................................................................13
  Redaction to Reduce Bias ...................................................................................14
  Initial Application Review and Scoring ...............................................................14
  Selecting Applicants for Interview & Interviews ...............................................14
  Creating Our Rank Order List .............................................................................14
THANK YOU! ............................................................................................................15
WELCOME!
Thank you for choosing to apply to the University of Washington Genetic Counseling Graduate Program (UW GCGP). We’re thrilled that you’re interested in training with us. We want to be transparent about what we’re asking for and why, and how we evaluate applications.

In this document, you’ll find some general instructions, a checklist of materials required for your application, detailed instructions for each part of the application, and information about how we plan to review applications.

This document is long because we’ve tried to anticipate as many of your questions as we can. If you have questions that aren’t answered here or on the UW GCGP website, please contact us using the form on our website.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
Attention to detail is needed for many genetic counseling roles. Please review these instructions and the application carefully, ask us for clarification if you have questions, and then prepare and submit all of the required materials. We will not review incomplete applications. This includes applications that are missing only recommendations.

The application software has some features to help you make sure that you’ve included everything, but the automated system has limitations:
- It will alert you if you haven’t uploaded a required file, but it won’t check the file to be sure that a file you’ve uploaded is the right one.
- The application software allows you to submit your application before you’ve added all of your transcripts and the contact information for all of your recommenders. It also permits you to submit without reporting English language proficiency score (if this applies to your application). You’re still responsible for making sure these items (including recommendations) are submitted before the deadline.

The deadline for Fall 2021 admission is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, January 10, 2021. We will not review late applications.

Clear written communication is a skill that’s important in many genetic counseling roles. In addition to the content of your application, reviewers will assess clarity, completeness (e.g. you’ve responded to all parts of each writing prompt), organization, and elements expected for graduate-level writing. We suggest that you ask a trusted friend or colleague to proofread your materials before you submit them.

To request disability accommodation in the admission and application process, contact the Disability Services Office at 206.543.6450 (Voice), 206.543.6452 (TTY), 206.685.7264 (FAX), or dso@u.washington.edu.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST
You must complete the University of Washington Graduate School’s online application, including all of the following items:

- Applicant Profile
- Program Information
  - Grade Point Average
- Information on prior schools
- Unofficial transcripts (upload)
- Evidence of English Language Proficiency (non-native speakers only)
- Personal Statement (upload)
- Genetic Counseling Admissions Match Code Number
- Contact information for three recommenders
- Supplemental Application (upload)
- Short Answer responses (upload)
- Application fee or fee waiver information

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS
Here are detailed instructions for each section of the application. The application software is not specific to our program, and some fields and selections may not seem intuitive. We've given guidance below about what you should expect to help minimize any confusion. If you still have questions after carefully reviewing these instructions, please contact us. For many parts of the application, you'll upload files that you prepare outside of the software. You may want to gather all of these pieces before you start. You don't have to complete the whole application in one sitting!

Once you get past the Requirements and Deadlines page, you can use the navigation menu on the left-hand side of the screen to reach each page of the application process.

Applicant Profile Pages
This part of the application has several pages, which we hope are fairly straightforward. Be sure to remember your security answer! If you forget your password and don't remember the answer to your security password, you'll have to create a new profile using a different email address.

For the question about gender, international applicants who plan to have an F1 or J1 visa must select male or female in order to comply with federal requirements related to visa paperwork. The University of Washington does not discriminate based on gender identity or expression.

Program Information Page
This page will be slightly different for domestic and international applicants, and for applicants for whom English is not a native language. For many questions on this page, you can see additional guidance by clicking on the [Help?] link.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Appears for:</th>
<th>Guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application type</td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Select &quot;Graduate&quot; for your application type. Do not select &quot;Graduate Non-Matriculated&quot; or &quot;Visiting Graduate&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate program</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Select &quot;Genetic Counseling (MS)&quot; for your graduate program. If you don't see that option in the drop-down list, it means one of two things: either the application is not live yet (we're planning to publish the application in the second half of October) or we've temporarily taken it down to fix something.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quarter and year</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Select &quot;Fall 2021&quot;. We're accepting applications for Fall 2021 ONLY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ultimate degree goal</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Select “Master’s”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade point average</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Enter your GPA. See below for information on calculating your GPA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UW student status</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Answer accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New applicant—2 or more programs</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Answer accordingly. Please note that there are no formal dual-degree options for this program. If you’re interested in pursuing an informal concurrent degree, please contact us and the other program you’re considering/enrolled in so that we can talk through feasibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current graduate/professional student—concurrent degree</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Answer accordingly. Please note that there are no formal dual-degree options for this program. If you’re interested in pursuing an informal concurrent degree, please contact us and the other program you’re considering/enrolled in so that we can talk through feasibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UW student number</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Only applicants who have been registered at UW in the past will have a student number. If you have not been previously registered or are not able to find your student number, please leave this blank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>English language proficiency</strong></td>
<td>Non-native English speakers only</td>
<td>Select the option for how you intend to satisfy the English language proficiency requirement. Please see below for further information on this requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Washington State Residency</strong></td>
<td>Domestic applicants only</td>
<td>Answer accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veteran status</strong></td>
<td>Domestic applicants only</td>
<td>If yes, answer accordingly. Otherwise leave blank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current visa status</strong></td>
<td>International applicants only</td>
<td>Answer accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expected visa status</strong></td>
<td>International applicants only</td>
<td>Answer accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent/guardian educational attainment</strong></td>
<td>All applicants</td>
<td>Answer accordingly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calculating Your GPA
Past academic performance, including grade point average (GPA), is one metric we use to evaluate your application. As required by the University of Washington Graduate School, we ask for your GPA from the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of your studies. (This is approximately equivalent to two years of full-time study.) You should include in your calculation as many courses as you need to, starting from the most-recent graded course, to reach 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, even if that means you include some but not all classes from a semester/quarter.

Please see the Graduate School’s GPA Calculating Assistance for guidance on how to calculate the value to enter in Question 5 on the Program Information Page.

We understand that many factors can influence a person's GPA. If there are circumstances you’d like the Admissions Committee to consider when reviewing your application, you'll have a chance to describe them in Part A of the Supplemental Application (see below for details).

Requirements and Deadlines Page
There's nothing you need to fill out on this page, but here are a couple of things to note:

• We don't use the GRE as part of our admissions process. Please do not send us GRE scores, even if you've taken the GRE.
• Please submit all materials online via this application. Please do not mail any hard copy materials or email documents to program.

Report Prior Schools Page
Please report information about the colleges and/or universities you have attended. You must report on ALL of the following:

• The school where you received/will receive your Bachelor's degree
• Any school where you took any of your required prerequisite courses, even if you didn't earn a degree from that school.
• Any school where you took a portion of your last 60 semester/ 90 quarter credits that you included in your GPA calculation.
• Any school where you took courses you included in the “Other Relevant Coursework” table in Part B of the Supplemental Application.

From this point on, you can use the navigation menu on the left-hand side of the screen to move through the application.

Submit Unofficial Transcripts Page
For each of the prior schools you reported, please upload an unofficial transcript. Please note the following requirements:

• The file format must be .doc, .docx (new Word documents (.docx) do work even though they're not listed among the acceptable formats), .pdf, or .rtf
• The file size cannot be larger than 2 MB.
• The transcript must be legible.
• If you earned a degree from a school, the transcript must show the degree with the award date.
• When uploading unofficial transcripts from schools outside of the United States, please include the school's explanation of the grading scale or grading system. This explanation is sometimes referred to as the "key to the transcript" or the "transcript legend".
• If your transcript is in a language other than English, you must also submit (within the same file) an English translation.
• **After you upload your file, please click the “view” option to double-check that you uploaded the correct file! You can replace it with a different file if you made an error.**

**English Language Proficiency Scores**

This page of the application will only appear if you indicated in your applicant profile that you are a non-native speaker of English. If you are a non-native English speaker and you are using a method OTHER THAN test scores to demonstrate your English language proficiency (see below), you can disregard this page.

Non-native speakers of English, regardless of citizenship, must show proof of English language proficiency as required by the UW Graduate School.

There are five ways that non-native speakers of English can demonstrate proficiency. Three of these relate to having a previous degree where all of the instruction was in English, one is by submitting documentation that you've completed an intensive English language program at UW, and the last is by submitting official English language test scores. All of the details about the ways that you can demonstrate English language proficiency are in [Memo 8: Graduate School English Language Proficiency Requirements](#).

If you are a non-native English speaker and you're planning to demonstrate English proficiency using test scores, here are a couple of things you should know:

• Because of testing restrictions related to COVID-19, the Graduate School has temporarily expanded the list of acceptable language tests. You can read more about this in [Memo 8](#) and in the [COVID-19 Admission FAQs](#).
• If you took the IELTS prior to June 1, 2017, our program will accept the score.

**Submit Personal Statement Page**

The faculty and staff of the UW GCGP want nothing more than for our students to succeed, both while they're training with us and afterwards. We're looking for applicants who have carefully considered genetic counseling as a career, and who have reflected about why they think they would be a successful genetic counselor.

**Writing prompt:**
The personal statement is your opportunity to tell us your story. In reflecting on your journey to genetic counseling, please address all of the following questions:

1. Why do you want to pursue a career in genetic counseling?
2. What steps have you taken to ensure that this profession is a good fit for you?
3. What strengths do you possess that will help you be a successful genetic counselor?
4. Why do you want to train at the UW GCGP?

Word limit: 700 words

Please save your Personal Statement as a PDF and upload it on the “Submit Personal Statement” page of the application. Please note that this file cannot be larger than 500 kb.

Submit GC Admissions Match Code Number Page
Admission to all genetic counseling training programs in the United States and Canada happens through a match process. All applicants to the UW Genetic Counseling Graduate Program must register with the National Matching Service before applying.

When you register for the match, you will receive a 5-digit Code Number. Please enter this Code Number in your application.

There is a known quirk in the application software that we want to warn you about: if you go to the “Verify, Pay, and Submit Application” page before you have finished your application, you may get a confusing message if you have not submitted your Match Code:

Verify, Pay and Submit Application
All required application materials have not been submitted. Please see list below and continue:
Please return to the sections listed below and complete before attempting to submit:
Supplemental Application is not complete yet - please complete first.
Return to Supplemental Application to enter information.
Submit Supplemental Application is not complete yet - please complete first.
Return to Submit Supplemental Application to enter information.

Clicking on the links in these error messages will bring you to the correct page for each piece of missing information.

Designate Recommendations Page
Choose three (3) people to complete a recommendation on your behalf, and include their contact information in your application. Family members and friends with whom you have no academic or employment relationship aren’t eligible. Recommendations will be most powerful if they are current (within the last two years). See www.uwb.edu/careers/recommendation for guidance on choosing and working with your recommenders.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Decide when to add the recommenders to your application:
  - Requests to recommenders are sent immediately when you click “Save and Continue” on the Recommendation Detail page.
Be sure to give your recommenders enough time to submit their recommendations. We’ll only review applications that are complete (including all recommendations) by the application deadline (11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, January 10, 2021). You’ll be able to log back into your application to check on the status of your recommendations.

- **Be sure the email address you enter is correct!**
- For Question 9, please choose “Yes, the system should send an email.” Do not choose the other option to do recommendations via postal mail.
- Waiving the right to review your recommendations: You may answer this however you prefer. Your recommender will see your response, and this may impact their willingness to submit a candid recommendation.
- All recommendations must be in English
- All recommendations must be submitted online rather than mailed.

Your recommenders will be sent an email requesting that they complete an online form. We will ask them:

- How long and in what capacity they've known you
- In making this evaluation, what group are they comparing you to?
- Whether they recommend your admission (strongly/recommended/recommended with reservations/not recommended/unable to respond)
- They'll be asked to rate you on the following criteria: academic potential, self-motivation, maturity, receptiveness to constructive feedback, organization and time management skills, and ability to work collaboratively.

They'll also be asked (1) to describe their experience with you and why they think you would be successful in a master's degree program for genetic counseling; (2) what are your strengths; and (3) what you would contribute to the genetic counseling profession. They'll be able to type this directly into the form or upload it as a separate document in Word, PDF, or RTF format with a maximum file size of 2 MB.

**Recommenders should submit all materials online. They should NOT mail hard copies.**

Submit Supplemental Application Page

You'll need to download the Supplemental Application (a fillable PDF) from the [Admissions page on our website](#), fill it out, save the completed version, and upload it as part of your application.

To save your responses, you'll likely need to complete the Supplemental Application using free [Acrobat Reader](#) software from Adobe. If you try to fill out this form within a browser (such as Chrome, Firefox, Edge, etc.), your responses might not be saved.
After you've saved your responses, please be sure that everything is clearly legible. If you put a lot of text in some of these boxes, the font size may become very small. In such cases, it may be better to edit your response to say things more succinctly.

Part A
This part of the application provides further details about how you meet the basic admission requirements for the program.

**GPA Context**
In the Program Information page of the application, you're asked for your GPA for the last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits from college/university. The University of Washington Graduate School generally requires a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale. The UW GCGP may consider applicants with a lower GPA, but we would have to submit a petition to the Dean of the Graduate school to get approval to admit such an applicant.

We understand that there may be many factors that impact your GPA. If there is additional context that you'd like us to consider when reviewing your GPA, please provide that information in the box in the Supplemental Application. **It's okay to leave this field blank.**

**Prerequisite Coursework**
If you're accepted to the UW GCGP, you'll need to have completed all the prerequisite coursework with a passing grade before you start the program. **You don't need to have completed every prerequisite course at the time you submit your application.**

We require all students complete the following prerequisite coursework:
- One semester or quarter each of Genetics, Biochemistry, Psychology, and Statistics
- Two semesters or quarters of laboratory coursework

Completion of these courses will be verified from your transcripts. To ensure that reviewers are able to quickly verify that you've completed each prerequisite course, we ask you to provide the following information:
- Whether you have completed the course, are in progress, or have a specific plan to take it before you would start our program
- The course title as it appears/will appear on your transcript
- The name of the institution where you completed the course
- The term (quarter or semester) and year when you took/will take the course. For example, Spring 2017.
- The final grade you earned for the course (if you've already completed it)

We know there are situations that prevent students from focusing only on coursework. Please use the box at the bottom of this page of the Supplemental Application to briefly describe any unusual circumstances that might have kept you from doing your best work in a particular class, or anything else you would like our reviewers to know about your prerequisite coursework.
Completing the entire table is required (except for final grades for any classes that are in progress/planned). The box at the bottom where you can provide additional information is optional.

Part B
This part of the application gives you a chance to tell us more about yourself beyond the basic admissions requirements.

Other Relevant Coursework
People come to genetic counseling via many different academic paths, and each has different strengths and relevance. This is a place for you to tell us about other classes you've taken that have prepared you for a career in genetic counseling. For example, have you taken several upper-level science courses? Taken several psychology courses? Traveled down an academic path that gives you a unique perspective? Please use the “Comments” column to elaborate on how a specific class may be relevant to genetic counseling, if it's not obvious from the course title.

It's okay to leave some (or all) of this table blank, but this is a good chance to showcase your accomplishments!

Other Relevant Experience
A wide array of experiences can help prepare you for a career in genetic counseling. Some may give you insight into the challenges that other people face and help teach you empathy, such as volunteering with advocacy organizations or crisis hotlines. Others, such as job shadowing, research, and teaching experience, might expose you to aspects of your future career. Using the table in the Supplemental Application form, list the experiences that have influenced your decision to be a genetic counselor and/or helped you prepare to enter the profession.

Here's some guidance on what to put in each column of this table:

- **Experience Type:** Describe the type of experience with a very brief (1-2 word) description, such as “research”, “shadowing”, “volunteering”, “job”, etc.
- **Setting:** Describe the setting where you had the experience (e.g. the name or type of organization)
- **When:** We'd like to know about how long ago you had this experience. In what year(s) did this take place?
- **Duration:** This can be approximate. We'd like to know about how long you were involved in this experience. Some experiences (e.g. shadowing) might be short-term. Others, like a job, might be longer-term.
- **Brief Description:** Tell us a little bit about what you did as part of this experience (e.g. duties, responsibilities, activities). If you have further detail to share about some of these, consider elaborating in your personal statement and/or short answers.
It's okay to leave some (or all) of this table blank, but this is a good chance to showcase your accomplishments!

**Language Proficiency**

Being able to communicate in multiple languages is a skill that can be immensely useful to a genetic counselor. If you're proficient in any language(s) in addition to English, please list them in the Language Proficiency table in the Supplemental Application. **We're particularly interested in knowing about languages that you know well enough to use effectively in a professional setting.**

This table has columns for four different ways that you might know a language:

- **Speaking/Signing Proficiency:** Your ability to communicate in this language in real time by speaking/signing
- **Writing Proficiency:** Your ability to communicate in this language in writing (for languages that have a written component)
- **Listening/Visual Comprehension:** Your ability to understand people speaking/signing in this language in real time
- **Reading Comprehension:** Your ability to understand the written version of this language (if the language has a written version)

For each language you list, we'd like to know your level of skill in each of these four areas. We're asking for your honest self-assessment; you don't need to provide supporting evidence like test scores for languages other than English. Please choose from the following options, based on the [Interagency Language Roundtable scale](#):

- **Native/Bilingual:** Equivalent to ILR Level 5. Your proficiency in this language is equivalent to that of an educated native user of this language.
- **Full Professional:** Equivalent to ILR Level 4. You're able to use this language fluently in all ways pertinent to your professional work.
- **Minimum Professional:** Equivalent to ILR Level 3. You're generally able to use this language in a professional context, with some significant limitations.
- **Limited:** Equivalent to ILR Level 2. You can use this language in a social context and in a limited way in a work setting.
- **Elementary:** Equivalent to ILR Level 1. You have a very basic grasp of this language for things like minimum courtesy requirements and very simple conversations.
- **Not Applicable:** You have a level of proficiency less than ILR Level 1, or this domain doesn't apply to the language you're describing (e.g. languages that don't have a written version)

It's okay to leave some (or all) of this table blank.

**Submit Short Answers Page**

We've selected three characteristics that are especially important to our program and created short answer questions to give you an opportunity to describe how each applies to you. Here's some guidance that may help as you craft your responses.
Question 1
The UW GCGP values building a diverse, anti-racist, and equitable community of students, educators, scientists, and healthcare providers. Diversity has many dimensions, including but not limited to nationality, immigration and citizenship status, being (one of) the first in the family to go to graduate school, military status, socioeconomic status, race, religion, age, ability or disability, culture, ethnicity, language(s) spoken, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Diversity has been shown to improve group innovation and problem-solving, and patient satisfaction increases when care is provided in a culturally-sensitive environment with patient-centered communication strategies. As you answer this question, consider what diversity, anti-racism, and equity mean to you or how these have influenced you, as well as experiences that have shaped your journeys through school and employment.

Writing prompt:
How will you contribute to or support the diversity of the genetic counseling profession? What unique perspective(s) would you contribute to the genetic counseling profession? How have you shown a commitment to diversity, anti-racism, and equity?

Word limit: 500 words

Question 2
Resiliency will be useful in graduate school and as a genetic counselor. The UW GCGP is a fast-paced program, and to thrive and succeed, students will need to be both flexible and proactive. Genetic counselors sometimes work in teams of providers, in departments, or on committees in which they are the only genetic counselor. They may find themselves advocating for ideas, policies, or practices not uniformly agreed to by other members of the group.

Writing prompt:
Tell us about a significant challenge you have faced. How did you respond to this challenge and how has that experience impacted you?

Word limit: 200 words

Question 3
Empathy is an essential skill for genetic counselors. In order to effectively help others, you must be able to put yourself in their shoes. There are countless ways to show empathy; consider school settings, work and other professional environments, and spiritual or personal spaces.

Writing prompt:
Describe a time when you experienced the importance of showing empathy and compassion to someone. How did showing empathy make a difference?

Word limit: 200 words
Please save your Short Answers as a single PDF with each answer clearly labeled and upload it on the “Submit Short Answers” page of the application. Please note that this file cannot be larger than 500 kb.

Checklist of Application Materials Page
There’s nothing you need to fill out on this page. It’s a good place to check if there are any parts of your application that you still need to complete. You can navigate to each part of the application from this page.

Verify, Pay, and Submit Application Page
The last step to your application is to pay your nonrefundable $85.00 application fee or submit the required information if you qualify for a fee waiver.

Application fees must be paid online using a MasterCard or Visa credit or debit card.

Please note that all fee waiver requests should be submitted at least seven (7) days before the application deadline. If your request is approved, you'll receive notification via email, and you'll need to return to your application to complete the verification process. If you don't complete this step, your application will remain unsubmitted and won't be reviewed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
We're striving to be transparent about how our admissions process works. This is our first admissions cycle, so we're still developing some of the details of the process.

We're using a holistic review process, which means we consider all aspects of your application. We're also committed to reducing bias in the process wherever we can.

Here's what will happen after you submit your application:

Eligibility Screening
The first thing we'll do is screen your application to see if it's eligible to be reviewed in our admissions process. Your application won't be reviewed if:

• Your application is incomplete (i.e. is missing any of the required elements including recommendations).
• Your application was submitted after the deadline.
• You don't have (or are not on track to have before you would enroll in our program) the equivalent of a bachelor's degree.
• You haven't demonstrated English language proficiency if English is not a native language for you.
• You haven't completed, or demonstrated a clear plan to complete before enrollment, one or more of the required prerequisite courses.
You may have noted that we mentioned only two of the Graduate School’s three Minimum Admissions Requirements in the list above. Although the Graduate School generally requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale for the most-recent 60 semester or 90 credit hours, we have the option to petition the Dean to permit us to admit a student whose GPA is lower than this.

Your past academic performance (of which GPA is one element) is something we'll consider as part of our admissions process, but we know GPA by itself doesn't tell us very much about whether you would succeed in our program or as a genetic counselor. Therefore, we are NOT using GPA in our eligibility screening, nor will we consider it in the initial review and scoring of applications.

Redaction to Reduce Bias
There can be bias related to applicant name, GPA, and the educational institution(s) applicants attended in the past. So if your application makes it through the eligibility screen described above, the next thing we'll do is redact (hide or remove) these pieces of information to prepare your application for initial review and scoring.

Initial Application Review and Scoring
Your redacted application will be assigned to two reviewers for the initial review. All reviewers will use a rubric to assess your application, so we can be as consistent as possible. If your two reviewers assign you significantly different scores on the rubric, we'll have a third reviewer assess your application. We're also going to track how each reviewer is scoring all the applications they review, so we can correct for any overarching differences among reviewers.

Selecting Applicants for Interview & Interviews
After the initial review and scoring, our Admissions Committee will decide which applicants to invite for interviews. If you're invited to interview, we'll contact you with all of the details you'll need to prepare. Here are a few things to know about our interview process:

- We don't know the interview dates yet, but we anticipate that they'll probably be in February and March.
- For this admissions cycle, all interviews will be virtual, whether or not you live in the Seattle area. We want an equitable process for all interviewees.
- We'll also be using rubrics for the interviews to help us ensure a consistent and fair process.
- Interviews will be a two-way street—you'll have a chance to ask us questions, too!

Creating Our Rank Order List
After the interviews are complete, our Admissions Committee will use all the information we've learned to decide which applicants we'll include on our Rank Order List, and the order in which those applicants will appear. We'll submit our Rank Order List to the National Matching Service by April 14, 2021, which is the same deadline that you'll have to submit your Rank Order List of programs.
THANK YOU!
We know that applying to genetic counseling training programs is a lot of work. Even reading all of these instructions was a significant undertaking! Thank you for all of the thought and effort you are investing into applying to our program.

We're expecting a lot of applications, so we know there are many of you we won't get to meet in interviews or later in our first cohort of students. Nonetheless, we wish you well in preparing your application. Please let us know if we can help you navigate the process.