



Genetic Counseling Match Walkthrough

By: Casey Ellis

Introduction

Q: What is the National Matching Service?

A: The Genetic Counseling Admissions Match (GC Admissions Match) has been established to place applicants into positions in masters-level genetic counseling programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC). For many years, similar matching programs have been used throughout North America in the annual recruitment of trainees in medicine, psychology, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, and other professions.

Advantages of the Matching Service

- The Match simplifies the process of making and accepting offers of admissions. Since all offers, acceptances, and rejections occur simultaneously, the Match is an effective and fair means of implementing a standardized acceptance date. The Match guarantees that each applicant and program will get the best possible result that is available to them.
- The Match allows programs and applicants to evaluate each other fully before determining preferences, so there is no pressure to make premature decisions based on incomplete information. Applicants and programs can list their desired placements in order of their true preference, without worrying about how they will be ranked by the other party.
- The Match ensures that programs will not overfill their positions. It also eliminates unfair behavior that occurs in many typical recruitment processes, like programs issuing extremely time-limited offers, applicants hoarding multiple offers, and programs or applicants renegeing on a prior acceptance because a more preferred option has become available.

When & How Do I Register?

- Registration opens on September 4, 2024.

You will want to review the registration rules, look through the participating programs, and pay the registration fee.

Registration Rules

- Click [here](#) to see the full list of rules that both programs and applicants agree to.

List of Participating Programs

- Click [here](#) to see an updated list of participating programs.

Timeline

- It is recommended that you register for the Match by December 11, 2024. You must be registered for the Match for your applications to be considered by participating programs, to submit your Rank Order List, and to be ranked by programs.
- **Rankings Open:** Applicants and programs may begin to submit Rank Order Lists for the Match using the NMS Match System.
- The final possible date to register is April 8th 2025. However, most programs consider applications, conduct their interviews, and submit their Rank Order Lists well before that date. Therefore, you should register well before the final date listed above.
- **Match Result Day:** April 16, 2025. Programs must send letters of confirmation to their matched applicants within 10 working days of the release of the results. Matched applicants must return the letter in accordance with the program's instructions within 17 working days of the release of the Match results, not later than May 9, 2025.

Schedule of Dates

- To see a list view of dates that you can print click [here](#).

Fees & Fee Waivers

Fees

Fee Waivers

- The applicant registration fee is \$100 USD.
 - The fee is non-refundable (even if you subsequently decide not to participate in the Match) and not transferable to future Matches or other applicants.
- GCPD will offer a limited number of waivers for the \$100 USD registration fee for the 2024 GC Admissions Match. Prospective students who demonstrate financial need AND have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater can apply for a match fee waiver. Prospective students should apply for a fee waiver BEFORE registering for the GC Admissions Match.
 - Prospective students who are applying for a match fee waiver will be required to write a short essay and to upload at least one of the following documents demonstrating financial need:
 - A copy of a letter on official letterhead from a government agency verifying that you or your family have qualified for public assistance based on low-income criteria anytime within the past 5 years
 - A copy of your financial aid award letter from another / previous institution dated within the past 5 years
 - A copy of your approved GRE fee waiver (for tests taken within 5 years of the application deadline)
 - A copy of your federal Student Aid Report (SAR) that verifies you qualified for financial aid within the past 5 years based on a family contribution of:
 - Not more than \$1,500 if the student is a dependent student
 - Not more than \$1,900 if the student is an independent student
 - Verification of receipt of unemployment benefits within the last 2 years

After Registration

Confirmation and Match Code Number

- When your registration is completed, you will be provided with a confirmation that includes the 5-digit Code Number that uniquely identifies you in the Match. Use your Code Number in all future correspondence pertaining to the Match.
- You should record your Match Code Number for future reference. You should also provide your Code Number to the programs to which you apply. Only applicants who are registered for the Match will have their applications considered by participating programs.

Step 2: Apply & Interview

Applying

- Applicants must apply directly to programs in which they are interested, and applicants and programs interview and evaluate each other independently of the Match. Applicants must be registered for the Match for their applications to be considered by participating programs.

Interviewing

- No offers are made to applicants by programs during the interview period. Applicants and programs can evaluate each other fully before the programs must decide on their preferences for applicants, and before applicants must decide on their preferences for programs.

Step 3: Submit your Ranked Order List of Preferred Placements

- Each program will offer one or more tracks in the Match. A track refers to a type of position or stream of training at a program (e.g., positions with different financial support, or positions with different start dates, may be offered as separate tracks).
- After all interviews are completed, each applicant confidentially submits a Rank Order List in the NMS Match System on which the applicant lists the tracks they desire at each program of interest, in numerical order of preference (first choice, second choice, etc.).
- Similarly, each program confidentially submits a Rank Order List in the NMS Match System for each of its tracks on which the program lists the desirable applicants for that track, in order of preference. Each program also indicates the number of positions available in each track.
- Programs offering more than one track can rank the same applicant on different Rank Order Lists and assign a different preference ranking to the applicant on each track's list, if desired.

Step 4: The Matching Algorithm is Run

National Matching Services

Let's Run A Match



Results

- The result of the Match is that each applicant is placed with the most preferred track on the applicant's Rank Order List that ranks the applicant and does not fill all its positions with more preferred applicants. Similarly, each track offered by a program is matched with the most preferred applicants on its list, up to the number of positions available, who rank the track and who do not receive positions in tracks at programs they prefer. Results are available by email and online in the NMS Match System.

Unmatched Applicant Program

- It is possible that all of a particular program's positions will not be filled in the Match, and that some applicants will be left unmatched. When the results of the Match are released, information regarding positions that remain available is provided by NMS to applicants who are not matched. Similarly, information regarding unmatched applicants is provided by NMS to programs with unfilled positions.
- These unmatched applicants and programs with unfilled positions are free to contact each other and to negotiate directly with each other, independently of the Match, to fill available positions. NMS is not involved in the filling of positions in the Post-Match Process.

Common FAQ

Q: If multiple applicants rank a program their #1 choice, how does the algorithm decide who gets placed with that particular program?

A: If the applicants all rank the same program as their #1 choice, the algorithm uses the program's Rank Order List to determine who gets the position. The algorithm will give the position to the applicant that is most preferred on the program's Rank Order List.

- If you've ranked a program #1 and the program also ranked you #1, you will be matched to that program.
- If you've ranked a program #1 and they have ranked you within the number of positions they have available (e.g., within the top 2 in a program with 2 positions), you will be matched to that program.
- If you've ranked a program #1 and the program has ranked other applicants as more preferred than you, you will get the position if the program cannot fill all its positions with applicants it prefers to you.

Similarly, if many programs rank the same applicant as their #1 choice, the algorithm uses the applicant's Rank Order List to determine which position the applicant will accept. The algorithm will match the applicant to the program that is most preferred on the applicant's Rank Order List.

Q: Is there a ranking strategy?

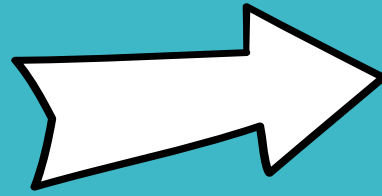
A: No. The algorithm is specifically designed to give each participant their best result if they rank their choices in order of true preference. Using any other strategy may cause you to get a worse result. If you decide to order your preferences in another way (e.g., by how likely you think it will be to match to a program or applicant), you may not get the best possible result.

More information can be found [here](#)

Common FAQ

Q: Can the order in which applicants rank programs cause the applicant to be unmatched?

A: No, whether or not an applicant matches with a program is based on the program's preference on its rank order list. If an applicant can match to only one program, they will be matched regardless of where the school is on their rank order list.



Want to practice running a test match before doing the real thing?

<https://natmatch.com/gc/admissions/demo-algorithm.html>

2024 Statistics

Applicants

Participation

Applicants Registered in the Match 1860

Applicants Who Withdrew or Did Not Submit Ranks 827

Applicants Participating in the Match 1033

Match Results

Applicants Matched 610 (59.1%)

Participating Applicants Not Matched 423 (40.9%)

Programs

Participation

Programs Participating in the Match 58

Positions Offered in the Match 613

Match Results

Programs: Filled in the Match 55 (94.8%)

With Unfilled Positions 3 (5.2%)

Positions: Filled in the Match 610 (99.5%)

Remaining Unfilled 3 (0.5%)

**. NHS Matching Service Contact
Information:**

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Thank You!

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[https://ppao.uga.edu/
about/advisors/](https://ppao.uga.edu/about/advisors/)