



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 reneging on a prior acceptance because a more preferred option has become available.

When & How Do I Register?

- Registration opens on September 7, 2023.

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

Timing

- It is recommended that you register for the Match by December 13, 2023. 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.

The final possible date to register is April 9, 2024. 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.

Schedule of Dates

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

Fees & Fee Waivers

Fees

- **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.

Fee Waivers

- 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



Run Your Own Test Match

Use the link below to practice using the match to understand how it works!

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

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.

2021-2022 Data

Applicants

Participation

Applicants Registered in the Match	2067
Applicants Who Withdrew or Did Not Submit Ranks	1002
Applicants Participating in the Match	1065

Match Results

Applicants Matched	547 (51.4%)
Participating Applicants Not Matched	518 (48.6%)

Programs

Participation

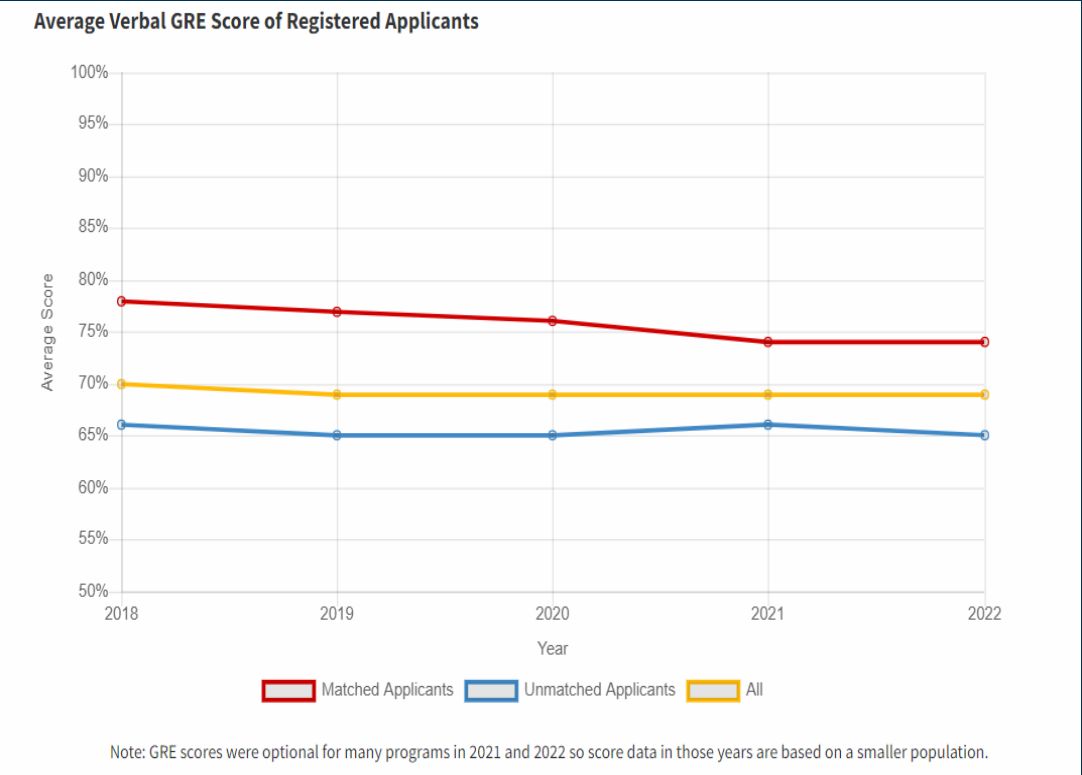
Programs Participating in the Match	54
Positions Offered in the Match	547

Match Results

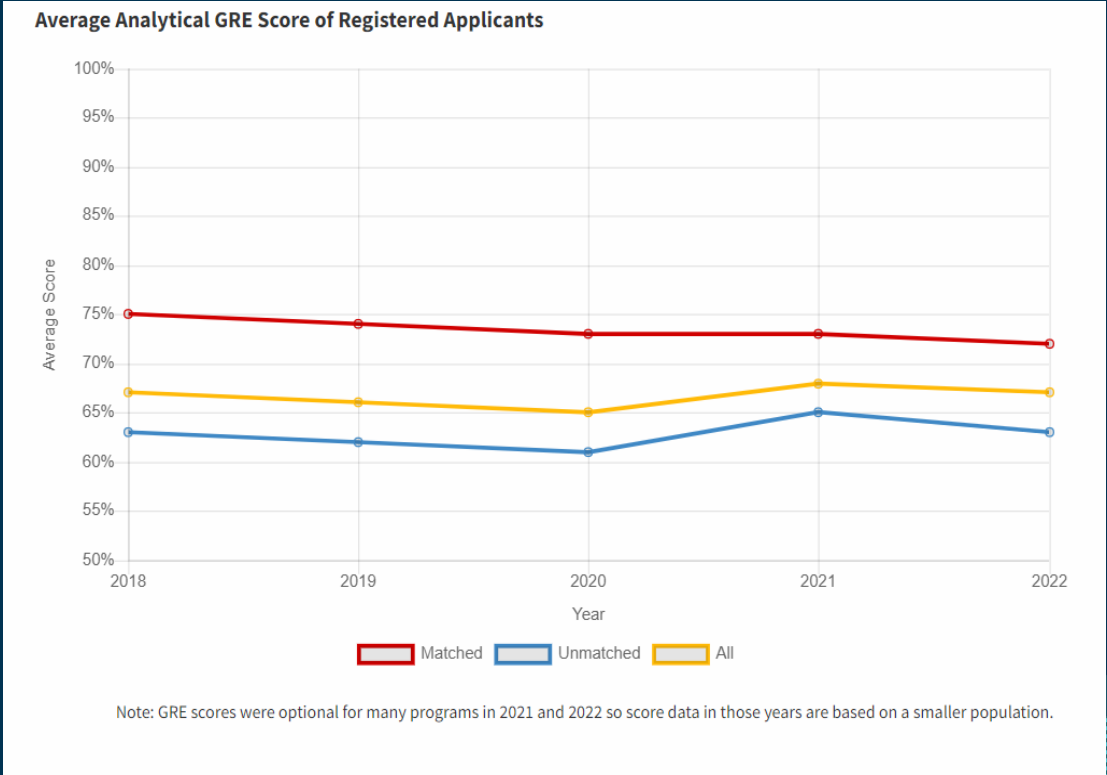
Programs:	Filled in the Match	54 (100.0%)
	With Unfilled Positions	0 (0.0%)
Positions:	Filled in the Match	547 (100.0%)
	Remaining Unfilled	0 (0.0%)

2021-2022 Data

Verbal GRE



Analytical GRE



Ranking Strategy

In order to get your best possible result, you should rank your choices in order of your true preferences. Do not rank any choice that you would not want to be matched to, even if it was the only option available to you in the Match.

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.

Remember to apply to a good number of schools. I suggest no less than 7 schools.

. NHS Matching Service Contact Information:

Email: gcadmissions@natmatch.com

Phone: 800-461-6322

Thank You!

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