



# Xavier University of Louisiana Genetic Counseling Program

## Application Checklist

The Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) Genetic Counseling Program (GCP) application opens each year after Labor Day, and the deadline for submission is January 16.

All application components are evaluated holistically and anonymously, with all identifying characteristics of the applicant removed. Each part of the application is scored using a competency-based rubric to determine interview invitations. The items below outline the application components to help individuals submit materials that effectively represent their qualifications and experiences. The application process has many parts, so we recommend that applicants start early. Progress will be automatically saved, allowing applicants to complete it in stages.

To learn more about applying to a genetic counseling program, [click here](#).

### National Matching Services (NMS) Registration Number

Only applicants who have registered with the Match will be considered. Visit the [NMS website](#) to register for the match, review detailed information about the matching process, and view a demonstration of the matching algorithm.

Registering for the Match costs \$100 USD and is nonrefundable, nontransferable, and irrevocable. Match fee waivers are available. Those applying for a fee waiver must complete the steps [outlined on the NMS website before registering](#) for the match.

All hardcopy documents submitted, including recommendation letters submitted by others, must include your **NMS number in place of your name**. This is part of the process of reviewing an application holistically. The only exception is your official transcript, which is submitted directly from a degree-granting university.

### Application Fee

- No application fee

### Program Academic Prerequisite Requirements

- Overall grade point average (GPA) of **at least 3.0** (on a 4.0-point scale)
- Minimum of a BA or BS degree at the time of matriculation

**Required Coursework - must be completed with a "C" ( $\geq 2.0$  on a 4.0 GPA scale) or better**

- Genetics (Human or Molecular)
- Biochemistry
- Statistics or Calculus

**Strongly Recommended Coursework - must be completed with a "C" ( $\geq 2.0$  on a 4.0 GPA scale) or better**

- Psychology
- Cell Biology
- Microbiology
- Anatomy and Physiology



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Applicants do not need to complete coursework before submitting their application; however, they must fulfill **all required prerequisites** before enrolling in the program for the fall semester.

## Transcripts

**Unofficial** transcripts will be accepted for application review and can be uploaded to the application portal. Applicants in an undergraduate program should submit transcripts, including their **most recent fall grades**.

Applicants are required to provide **official transcripts** before matriculation.

**Official transcripts** of all undergraduate and graduate credits from college or university awarding degree(s), can be sent by mail directly to:

Genetic Counseling Program  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
1 Drexel Drive, Box 175  
New Orleans, LA 70125

Or they can be sent electronically through  
<https://tsorder.studentclearinghouse.org/school/select>

Please specify **Admissions** and enter [geneticcounseling@xula.com](mailto:geneticcounseling@xula.com) as the email recipient.

## GPA Statement

If an applicant's GPA is **below 3.0**, to be considered for the program, they must submit a short statement (maximum 500 words) explaining **why their GPA is below 3.0** and **what steps they have taken to improve their academic performance** in graduate school.

An applicant's **NMS number must be used in place of their name**.

## Personal Essay

All applicants must upload a personal essay about why they are interested in genetic counseling or what inspired them to become a genetic counselor, how their relevant prior experiences have contributed to their interest in genetic counseling, and their desire to obtain their graduate degree specifically at Xavier University of Louisiana (a maximum of 600 words, 12 pt. serif font). Essays over 600 words will not be reviewed.

An applicant's **NMS number must be used in place of their name**.

## Experiences

Applicants will be asked on the application to provide information about their experiences shadowing and conducting informational interviews with genetic counseling professionals, engaging in advocacy work, and more. This section of the application **does not** replace the student's CV, **nor does** the CV replace this information. It is crucial that this section is fully completed, as it contributes to the rubric that will determine whether our program invites you for an interview.

## Curriculum Vitae

All applicants must upload an up-to-date resume or curriculum vitae (CV).

An applicant's **NMS number must be used in place of their name**.



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### 3 Letters of Recommendation

Each applicant must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from instructors, employers, undergraduate advisers, volunteer supervisors, or academic/research mentors. Letters cannot come from peers or family members. Recommendation letters should explain why an applicant has the potential for academic success in a genetic counseling program. When choosing individuals to write recommendations, they should be able to discuss past academic performance and how it reflects the applicant's potential as a graduate student, as well as the types of experiences they have had, such as counseling, advocacy, volunteering, research, and/or experiential learning (all as appropriate).

In the **Recommendations** section of the XULA GCP **Application Form**, applicants will be asked to include their reference's name, email address, and title. An email will automatically receive an email with a link to upload the recommendation.

**An applicant's NMS number must be used in place of their name.** Gender-neutral pronouns should also be used in these letters, such as the singular **they/them/their** pronouns.

Applicants must ensure that all letters of recommendation are submitted on time. They are encouraged to request their letters well in advance of the deadline and to follow up with their recommenders before the due date. Applicants can check the status of their letters in the XULA application portal.

### Video Question

Each applicant will be asked to record a brief video directly in the application portal. This video will allow the applicant to tell us something about themselves that is not in their application, which will help us remember them and make them stand out. You will have two minutes to record your video and **unlimited attempts**.

As part of a holistic application process, this video will not be screened during the initial review of applications; however, it will be seen once the candidate selection is made for interviews.

### International Applicants

If you are an international student and English is not your first language, you must provide TOEFL or IELTS scores. [Learn more here.](#)

For questions or Issues in the application portal, contact [geneticcounseling@xula.edu](mailto:geneticcounseling@xula.edu) for assistance.