# Application FAQs

## What are some important dates in the application process at Emory University?

- **Application Open Dates**: September 5th, 2019
- **Application Deadline**: December 18th, 2019 to be considered eligible for Fall 2020 admission
- **Transcripts**: Official transcripts for past semesters/degrees must be received by the application deadline. For the current semester, at minimum, unofficial transcripts must be received by **1/6/20**. Official transcripts are required by **1/24/20** to be eligible for an interview offer.
- **Application Fee**: $75 – The fee must be paid by credit card when you submit your application by the deadline of December 18th, 2019 to be considered for an interview.
- **Pre-Term Fall 2020 ( Incoming Students)**: Aug 17th - Aug 21st (Program Specific); **Fall Term 2020**: Aug 26th - Dec 18th; **Spring Term 2021**: Jan 11th - May 10th.

## How do I apply to the Emory University Genetic Counseling Program?

All prospective students for the Genetic Counseling Training Program must apply through the Emory University Office of Graduate Admissions at http://genetics.emory.edu/gc_training/admissions/application-materials.html

## Do I have to participate in the NMS Match?

Yes. All applicants must first register for the Match with NMS (https://natmatch.com/gcadmissions) before applying to participating genetic counseling graduate programs

## When is the application deadline?

To be considered for an interview, prospective students must meet all admissions requirements and complete all required application components. The deadline for submitting an application for 2019 entry is **December 18th, 2019**. Prospective students will be informed when their application packet is complete, and notification of applicant selection for the interview process will occur by **January 31st, 2020**.

## Do you offer Skype interviews?

Yes. We do offer Skype interviews for highly qualified candidates who live outside the US or Canada.

## What is the institution and department code to use when applying for the GRE’s?

Our institution code is 5187, Emory University Allied Health Programs. You will not need any other code for this application.

## What is the GPA admission is based on?

A GPA of 3.0 or greater (on a 4.0 scale) is required.
If I have applied in the past, am I required to start a new application?
Yes, you must create a new application, provide a new narrative and submit at least 2 new letters of recommendation. If we have your official transcripts and GRE’s on file, you do not need to have them resent.

Will Canadian applicants need to also submit an official credential evaluating report?
No. Canadian applicants do not need to submit an official credentialing report unless their transcripts are not available in English.

What degree do graduates earn?
Our graduates receive a Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling from the Emory University School of Medicine and are qualified to sit for the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) certification examination.

Is the program full-time or part-time?
The Emory Genetics Counseling Training Program is a full-time program and consists of a minimum of 75 credit hours taken over 21 months. Students start in the fall semester of the first year, attend through the summer semester between the first and second year, and typically complete the program at the end of the spring semester of the second year. Click here for our full curriculum overview. Requests for part-time attendance will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What is the success rate of your graduates on the ABGC board examination?
Over 95% of Emory graduates taking the ABGC boards have passed on their first try.

In regards to the Focus Internship part of the program, what is the difference between the Clinical Genetics Practice/Research Emphasis and the Laboratory Practice.
The clinical would involve working directly with patients in clinic and/or research settings. The laboratory would be addressing clinical genetic testing results, protocols, and provision of laboratory genetic counseling. However, the laboratory focus would not involve actually doing the bench lab work itself.

What is the application fee and how do I pay it?
There is a $75.00 non-refundable application fee payable only by credit card. The payment link is in the online application and must be received by the deadline of December 18th, 2019.

Will Emory offer an application fee waiver?
We regret we’re unable to offer an application fee waiver at this time.

Are GRE Scores required and do they ever expire?
We do require GRE Scores (General required, Specialty optional). We do not accept MCAT scores in lieu of the GREs. The test must have been taken within the past five years and should be taken early enough so that official scores are received in the Genetic Counseling Training Program office by the application deadline.

Testing information may be obtained from: Educational Testing Service, Graduate Record Examination, Rosendale Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6004, 609-921-9000, www.gre.org. When applying to take the GRE, please specify Code No.5187, Emory University, Allied Health Programs.

If I have attained a PhD or prior Master's degree, can the requirement for GRE scores within the past 5 years be waived?
Yes, we will waive this requirement pending receipt of transcripts documenting successful degree completion at an accredited University/College in Canada or the US. Official or unofficial copies of the prior GRE scores are required.
What if I have not completed the prerequisite courses prior to the application deadline?
Genetics must be completed no later than fall semester of the year of application. One other prerequisite can be taken the following spring, but applicants will be required to demonstrate proof of enrollment and satisfactory progress to be considered for admission.

Do I have to have a science background to enter the program?
No. All students must have successfully completed the prerequisite coursework to enter the program, but many successful applicants have undergraduate degrees in other disciplines such as psychology, social work, or education.

Will I need to submit all transcripts?
Yes, we will require official transcripts from all higher institutions attended, even if you only took one class.

Do you allow electronic transcripts?
Yes. Higher learning institutions may send the transcript by secure email to: gcprogram@emory.edu.

What address should official transcripts be mailed to?
Emory Genetics Counseling Training Program, 615 Michael Street, Suite 301, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Will you allow unofficial transcripts with my online application?
Yes. During the application period, you may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts. However, we must receive official copies of your transcripts before you will be considered for an interview.

Would it be possible to submit my application and then send an updated official transcript once the grades have been added for the current semester?
Yes. If you are matriculating in the fall of the application year, unofficial transcripts will be accepted for that semester until the official transcripts are received. Official transcripts are required by 1/24/20 to be eligible for an interview offer. If you are taking a spring course that is a prerequisite, you will be required to demonstrate proof of enrollment and satisfactory progress to be considered for admission.

International Students
International students are welcome to apply to the Emory Genetic Counseling Training Program. Applicants who attended undergraduate or prior graduate programs outside of the United States must submit an official Credentialing Evaluation report from each institution attended. The TOEFL or IELTS (or equivalent) is also required - specify Code No. 5187, Emory University, Allied Health Programs. Please visit www.emory.edu/isss/ for more information about attending Emory as an international student.

Are TOEFL or IELTS scores required of International applicants who have attended college or university in the United States or other English speaking countries?
If you have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or a graduate degree in an English-speaking county, TOEFL or IELTS scores are not required, but are preferred.

What is the tuition for the Emory Genetic Counseling training program?
Tuition and fees for each year are announced in the Spring. Tuition for Fall, Spring and Summer (2019/20) for 1st year students is $37,800 ($12,600 per semester). Click here for the estimated 12-month budget for our graduate program. 2nd-year students only pay for fall and spring semesters.

Do you have any scholarships available?
Scholarships that are available for incoming students include the $5000 Paul M. Fernhoff Genetic Counseling Training Program Scholarship - one-time, merit based, application required; a $5000
Emory Department of Human Genetics Needs-based Scholarship - one-time, application required; a $2000 one-time merit based scholarship; and a $2000 one-time under-represented student scholarship. In addition, each student receives a minimum $4000 per year associated with their Focus Internship.

There are various other scholarships and loans awarded through the Office of Financial Aid for graduate students in allied health. Please refer to: http://www.emory.edu/FINANCIAL_AID/health_professions/allied_health/types-of-aid.php

The Emory Genetic Counseling Program also provides funding for all 2nd-year students to attend the National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Education Conference.

**What financial support is there for international students and what is the difference in tuition fees?**
Tuition is the same for all students. You must be a U.S. citizen to qualify for federal financial aid.

**Is there a difference between in and out of state tuition?**
Since we are a private school, there is no in-state and out-of-state tuition. The tuition is the same for all students.

**Will you accept high school advanced placement (AP) credits for the prerequisite courses?**
We do not accept AP credits for the prerequisite courses. If an AP credit allowed you to skip to a higher level versus a basic course in college, those course credits are acceptable.

**Do I need to take all the prerequisite classes at a four year college or university versus a community college?**
Our prerequisite requirements are intended to ensure our students are well prepared for the rigorous science curriculum of our program. The best prepared students will have taken the science prerequisites at the highest possible level. Sciences classes at a four-year university that are intended for science majors offer the best opportunity for students to be prepared for graduate level work. That being said, we will accept community college classes for the psychology and biostatistics prerequisites. However, taking similar upper level courses is suggested.

**Are online courses permitted as prerequisites?**
Yes, but they must be taken for credit at an accredited school of higher education, and a course syllabus must be pre-approved.

**Can prerequisite courses be taken pass/fail?**
No, letter grades are required for all prerequisite courses.

**Is a lab component required for all undergraduate science courses?**
Some laboratory educational experience is expected of all applicants. However, a lab component does not need to be taken with every science course.

**How can I arrange to shadow a genetic counselor or meet with a genetic counselor to get more information?**
Please visit the “Genetic Counselor Contact, Shadowing and Internship Opportunities in GA” link on our home page. You can also search for genetic counselors by speciality and location at: https://www.nsgc.org/page/find-a-genetic-counselor.

**Can I make an appointment to talk to or meet with one of the program directors?**
Yes, we welcome prospective student contact. Contact Cathy Jackson at gcprogram@emory.edu to arrange an appointment.
Can I contact graduates of the program or students that are currently in the program to inquire about the program?
Yes, please visit http://genetics.emory.edu/gc_training/program/students/index.html for a listing of our past and present students and their contact information.

How may I check the status of my application?
Please allow our office 2 to 3 weeks to receive and process all your application materials. Once your application materials are processed, we will contact you if we are missing any of your required items or documents. If you submit your application on or around December 18th, we will contact you by January 18th.

If my recommenders are having problems accessing the link or have misplaced the email to fill out their recommendations, what should I do?
In most cases, you’re able to send a reminder. To do this, log back into the Application, click on the Recommenders section, then from there click the “Notify” button again to send (or resend) the email to the recommender. This email contains the link as well as the Recommender’s unique login information. Because it’s a system generated email they may need to check their junk/spam folder to see if it was sent there.

Recommenders may also email recommendations to: gcprogram@emory.edu, or mail to: Emory Genetics Counseling Training Program, 615 Michael Street, Suite 301, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Emory Genetic Counseling Training Program?
Cathy Jackson, Administrative Assistant
404-727-2931 - gcprogram@emory.edu