

Master of Genetic Counseling Vanderbilt Applications Instructions/Tips

Go to <https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply> and create an account. If you have applied to Vanderbilt previously you may use your previous log in.

Program Tab

To access the MGC application on the first page called “Program” select the following:

Area of Study: Medicine-Non MD
Program: Master of Genetic Counseling
Degree: MGC
Term: 2025 Fall

The screenshot shows the 'Program' tab of the application portal. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with options: Home, Program (highlighted), Personal, Genetic Counseling, Academics, Experiences, Recommendations, Test Scores, Statement of Purpose, Video Essays, Signature, Review, Need Help?, and Email Contact List. The main content area is titled 'Program' and contains a section 'Program to which you are applying' with four dropdown menus: 'Area of Study' (Medicine-Non MD), 'Program' (Master of Genetic Counseling), 'Degree' (MGC), and 'Term' (empty). Below these is a 'Continue' button and a disclaimer: '*If the term you want to apply to is not available, then that term is not an option or the application deadline for the program has passed. Please contact the program/department for questions.'

There is no fee to apply for the MGC at Vanderbilt. However, you must apply to the Genetic Counseling (GC) Admissions Match through National Matching Services (NMS) at <https://natmatch.com/gcadmissions/index.html> as part of your application to any Genetic Counseling training program.

After registering for the GC Admission Match, please provide your GC Admissions Match Number on the “Genetic Counseling” tab of our application.

Personal Tab

Please ignore the “Financial Awards Section”.

Scholarship funds are not available to MGC students at this time.

Genetic Counseling Tab

When entering the prerequisite courses, please enter the most relevant course for each prerequisite. If you are currently enrolled in the course, please enter your most recent grade. If you have questions regarding a course you have/are taking counting as a prerequisite, please contact mgc@vanderbilt.edu.

Applicants must upload a copy of your Resume/CV. Please include your prerequisite courses on this document. If you have taken additional courses that fill the prerequisites, you may include them here as well.

Academics Tab

When entering the institution(s) you have attended please designate the state your institution is located which will prompt further specifics (ex. "United States- Tennessee" will then allow you to select a Tennessee city in the City section).

If you are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program, please enter your expected degree and most recent GPA.

Applicants must upload an unofficial copy of transcripts from current or prior undergraduate and graduate work as part of their online application for admission. This will be used to pre-screen for completion of prerequisites.

Students in the MCG program are required to submit an official transcript before February 28th, documenting completion of their prerequisites and degrees.

To be considered official, a transcript must be sent directly from the institution to Vanderbilt University. Official transcripts can be emailed through the school's secure electronic service to the email: CDM@vanderbilt.edu or mailed to Vanderbilt Center for Data Management. All other transcripts are considered unofficial.

Email:
CDM@vanderbilt.edu

Mailing Address:
CDM
PMB 407833
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37240-7833
United States of America

Please be sure that any document you upload contains your full name and, in the case of transcripts, the name of the institution.

Under "Publications or Presentations of Original Work," please list any publications or presentations. In the experience tab you have the opportunity to upload a copy of your original work, if desired.

Experiences Tab

Please use this section to highlight experiences you have had that make your application unique and robust by demonstrating your knowledge of the field of genetic counseling. We are most interested in the experiences which have driven your desire and preparation for becoming a genetic counselor. There are four categories of experiences 1) Paid Employment, 2) Research | Publication | Presentations, 3) Volunteering | Advocacy | Internship, Crisis, or 4) Other Counseling Experience. Use your best judgement as to how to categorize your experiences and only use the "Other interaction" if necessary. You do not need experiences in each category. We will be evaluating the info holistically and seeking to better understand your exposure and understanding of the field of genetic counseling as well as the necessary foundational skills to be a genetic counselor (e.g., academic rigor, leadership, exposure to research, cultural understanding, open communication, compassion, accountability, self- motivation)

Recommendations Tab

The required minimum number of recommendation letters is three, and maximum is five. Make sure that your recommenders know you well enough to sell the "you" that exists beyond what your scores and grades might tell us. These letters should tell us information that cannot be gleaned by looking at other pieces of your application.

The preferred method for receiving recommendations is through the online process. The recommender's URL contains a short recommendation form that is only available online. After filling out this short form, the recommender can upload a recommendation letter. You can submit your application before we receive your recommendation letters.

If your recommender has some impediment to using the online process, and you feel strongly about using this recommender, a recommendation letter may be mailed or emailed. Please contact the program for instructions at mgc@vanderbilt.edu.

Test Scores Tab

GRE test scores are not required. Please do not upload the scores.

We do not have a minimum GPA or GRE scores for admission to the MGC. We take a holistic approach to ensure applicants are academically equipped to succeed in the MGC. Please note that the Association for Genetic Counseling Program Directors (AGCPD) report following characteristics of successful candidates:

The average (mean) GPA of admitted students is approximately 3.5 with GRE scores in the 65-75% range (based on most recent data). As these are just averages, some successful applicants have higher and lower GPA's and GRE scores than these.

Technical Support

For questions about the graduate admissions web-based system, please contact apply@vanderbilt.edu

For questions about the program, please email mgc@vanderbilt.edu

Status page

Once you have submitted your application, you will be able to view your status page to check if the transcripts and letter of recommendation have been received.