

# FAQS

## About the Program

### **When was the program established?**

The Xavier University of Louisiana Genetic Counseling Program (XULA GCP) was recently established. The first cohort of students will begin in Fall 2025.

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### **Is the program accredited?**

Yes, the XULA GCP is





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## **What is the atmosphere of the campus?**

Xavier University of Louisiana offers a supportive and inclusive campus atmosphere that fosters both academic and personal growth. The university is known for its strong sense of community, where students, faculty, and staff work together to create a ~~vibrant~~ and collaborative environment.

The campus is vibrant, with a rich history of academic excellence and social responsibility, particularly in serving underrepresented and minority populations. Students can engage in a variety of extracurricular activities, from cultural events to ~~academic~~ and student organizations, which enrich their college experience.

Located in the heart of New Orleans, the campus is just minutes away from the city's dynamic cultural scene, offering students the chance to experience the unique energy and heritage of the area while maintaining a ~~close~~ campus environment. Whether ~~through~~ student events, service opportunities, or community engagement, the atmosphere at Xavier encourages personal and professional development in a diverse and inclusive setting.

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## **How are students supported during the program?**

Each student in the Genetic Counseling Program at XULA is assigned a faculty advisor, typically the Program Director (PD) or ~~Assistant~~ Program Director (APD). Advisors meet with students at least once per semester (twice during the first semester) to plan their course of study and provide guidance. Students are encouraged to consult their advisors regularly throughout the program for ~~academic~~ and professional support.

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## **What can I expect in terms of balancing school, work, and personal life as a genetic counseling student?**

The program curriculum is rigorous, designed to provide a comprehensive education that integrates coursework, fieldwork rotations, and professional development activities. Courses and fieldwork schedules are structured to maximize learning opportunities, ~~but the~~ workload can be demanding. Balancing work commitments alongside academic and clinical responsibilities may be challenging and requires careful time management.

We encourage students to prioritize their health and ~~well~~ throughout the program. If the workload becomes overwhelming, we recommend taking advantage of resources like our [University Counseling Services](#) and mentorship opportunities. Faculty and staff are here to support you in maintaining a healthy balance and achieving success in the program.

## Applying to the Program

### What are the prerequisites for the program?

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, ideally with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and coursework in genetics, biology, and statistics or calculus, completed within the last 10 years. Biochemistry, chemistry, and psychology are strongly recommended. Students with a GPA of < 3.0 may apply but are asked to submit a short statement explaining why their GPA is below 3.0 and what steps they have taken to ensure a better academic performance in graduate school. Applicants also have experience with genetic counseling through shadowing, volunteering, or related work, alongside skills such as advocacy, crisis counseling, and all candidates must have strong verbal and written communication skills.

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### What are the main components of the application?

Applicants must submit:

- National Match System (NMS) Number
  - Transcripts (unofficial for review, official for matriculation)
  - Personal Essay (600 words max)
  - Curriculum Vitae (CV)
  - Three Letters of Recommendation
  - Video Question (2 minute video)
  - GPA Statement for individuals with a GPA <3.0
  - Evidence of exposure and understanding of genetic counseling, volunteering, or advocacy activity.
  - TOEFL/IELTS scores for international students
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### What is the application deadline for the XULA Genetic Counseling Program?

The application deadline is **January 2, 2025**. Click [here](#) to find the application.

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### How much does it cost to apply to the XULA Genetic Counseling Program?

The application is free.

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## **What is the National Matching Service (NMS) and how do I register?**

The National Matching Service (NMS) is a centralized system used by accredited genetic counseling programs



## **Where do genetic counselors work?**

Genetic counselors work in a variety of healthcare and research environments, including:

1. **Hospitals and Medical Centers:** Genetic counselors often work in specialized clinics within hospitals, providing counseling in areas such as oncology, prenatal genetics,