

Admissions FAQ

Genetic Counseling

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, my institution allowed students to receive a “satisfactory” or “pass” as a grade. Will this be accepted?
 - We will accept a “satisfactory” or “pass” on prerequisites if that is the way they were being offered at the time d/t the pandemic. There is an optional area in the application for applicants to explain any academic shortcomings in their transcripts. This area can be used to explain why any prerequisites were not letter graded. It would not be acceptable, though, for a student to **choose** to take a course as Pass/Fail or S/U that was otherwise letter graded.
- What colleges/universities do you accept prerequisite courses from?
 - Prerequisites can be taken within or outside of the institution at which an applicant received their degree(s). Prerequisites must have been taken at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university and the course must have been taken for credit with a letter grade (or, as above, P/F or S/U d/t pandemic).
- How long of a time gap is acceptable from the time during which prerequisite coursework was completed and an application is submitted to your program?
 - In general, prerequisites should have been taken no more than 3 years ago **unless** the applicant has continued studied or has been employed in a science/healthcare related capacity. Instances where there is a longer time lapse since courses were taken will be judged on an individual basis.
- What courses fulfill the Biochemistry prerequisite?
 - We are looking for a course that focuses on the structure of the main biomolecules, emphasizes the classic metabolic pathways by which these many of these biomolecules are created and degraded, and the overall function of these biomolecules in the human body. A “Cellular Biology”, “Molecular Biology”, or “Organic Chemistry” courses typically do not fulfill this prerequisite.
- Can I take a prerequisite through Coursera or a similar online educational tool?
 - Courses taken through Coursera and similar online offerings do not fulfill the prerequisites. Coursera is not an accredited undergraduate nor graduate institution and courses taken through them are not taken for qualifying credit hours. Prerequisite courses can be taken online or in-person; however, each prerequisite course must be at least a semester (or the equivalent) in length and taken for credit with a grade issued upon completion.
- What courses fulfill the Statistics prerequisite?
 - We require at least one semester (or equivalent) from an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university course that covers the fundamentals of research statistics, such as common tests used in research (Chi-square, Anova), how and when to use particular tests, understanding the limitations of statistics, etc.
- Should I submit syllabi from my prerequisites?”

- If our Admissions Committee has questions about whether a submitted course fulfills the prerequisite, we may request the syllabus from that course. Please do not submit syllabi if we have not requested them.
- I will not have completed one or more of the prerequisite courses at the time of application submission because:
 - 1) I am currently enrolled in said course(s) but the semester ends after your application deadline or 2) I will be taking said course(s) in an upcoming semester. Can I apply with this/these prerequisite course(s) currently incomplete?
 - Yes, we will accept your application even if one or more prerequisites are not complete, as long as the following steps are taken:
 - Ensure that the incomplete course(s) will be completed no later than Spring semester of the admissions cycle for which you are applying. For example, if you are participating in the Admissions Match in 2023, the course(s) must be complete by the end of Spring semester 2023 (typically May or June). Prerequisites that will be taken during a summer semester in the year of the Admissions Match in which you are participating will not be accepted.
 - In your application, in the “Course History” section, in the “Grade” prompt, please write TBD with the expected month and year the course will be completed. You must also complete the name of the college or university at which the courses are to be completed as well as the course title and the course number (e.g. BIOL 402).
 - If you are currently enrolled in prerequisite course(s) at the time of application, please ensure that the transcripts you upload with your admission show course(s) as in progress.
 - If you are not yet enrolled in the prerequisite course(s) at the time of application submission because registration for Spring semester happens after our application deadline, please email your transcripts showing your enrollment in said course(s) as soon as you can provide them by emailing documentation to geneticcounseling@wustl.edu.
 - Transcripts showing grades for all completed prerequisite courses must be emailed to our program at geneticcounseling@wustl.edu as soon as they are available as long as the applicant is still an active candidate for admission (e.g. applicant has not been informed they will not be receiving an interview, applicant interviewed with the program but Match has not yet occurred, or applicant matched to our program).