

# The Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors (AGCPD) *2009 Admissions Guidelines*

## *Purpose*

The purpose of these guidelines is to clarify the acceptance process for applicants to ABGC accredited graduate programs in genetic counseling within the AGCPD.

## *Acceptance Notification Date*

For students accepted to start in the fall of 2009, the acceptance notification date is **Friday, April 24, 2009**. Programs have agreed to notify all candidates of their acceptance status on this date (acceptance, wait-list, and rejection). Programs differ in how this is done but most do it by e-mail and/or phone.

## *Time-limited offers*

Offers made on the acceptance notification date are time-limited and expire on **Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 3pm Eastern Time**. After this time, any outstanding offers of acceptance are no longer active. For this reason, candidates must respond to any acceptances received on or before this date/time or risk losing the offer.

## *Contact information*

All candidates should provide programs with current phone and email information before the acceptance notification date. If a candidate needs to make special arrangements regarding contact information on this date (for instance, if the candidate is traveling and difficult to reach), this should be addressed with the program(s) beforehand.

## *E-mail/Voicemail Notification*

If an acceptance or wait-list status has been relayed by e-mail/voicemail or via an answering machine message to a candidate, it is professional courtesy to acknowledge receipt of the information to the program by phone or email by the end of the business day.

## *Candidate's Notification to Programs*

If an offer of acceptance has been made and a candidate has, in turn, accepted the offer, he/she should make a verbal commitment to the program of choice by phone and follow up with an email or confirmation letter as soon as possible. In addition, it is professional courtesy for the candidate to notify all other programs that have either made an offer of acceptance, or that have the candidate on a wait-list, that he/she has accepted elsewhere. This should be done as soon as possible (within the hour) by e-mail or phone.

## *Binding acceptance*

Candidates who have accepted a program's offer for admission are bound to their choice. It is not appropriate to renege on an acceptance once it is made. For this reason, candidates should only accept a program offer that they will abide by.

## *Wait-list (alternate list)*

If a candidate is wait-listed at a program of choice, it is appropriate for him/her to contact the program periodically regarding his/her status. Typically, the Monday after the acceptance notification date is a time when programs may have more information for candidates who are on their wait lists.

## *Not accepted*

If an applicant is not accepted into a program, many programs are amenable to talking with the applicant about the process of reapplying.