

Rubrics for Applications for Certified Genetic Genealogist
1 July 2025

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INDICATOR	MEETS STANDARDS	PARTIALLY MEETS STANDARDS	DOES NOT MEET STANDARDS	NOT APPLICABLE
Requirement 2—Development Activities				
DA1. Engagement in development activities Standards 89–90 ¹	The associate has engaged in development activities aimed at improving genealogical standards attainment, including using DNA evidence in genealogy.	The associate has engaged in development activities aimed at improving genealogical standards attainment, including using DNA evidence in genealogy, but the variety of activities is limited.	The associate's activities are not targeted at improving genealogical standards attainment including using DNA evidence in genealogy; or, development activities are missing.	
Requirement 3—Work Samples Each work sample will be evaluated using the following rubrics.				
GG1a. Extent of documentary research Standards 12, 14, 17, 19, 41, 58 (bullets 1–2), Standard 52 (bullet 8)	The research extends beyond the person of interest to include all relevant individuals. It extends to sources that might illuminate or challenge other findings, and it covers all relevant jurisdictions and all potentially relevant sources appropriate for the research problem.	The research extends beyond the person of greatest interest but overlooks some relevant individuals, disregards some sources that might illuminate or challenge other findings, or bypasses a relevant jurisdiction or a potentially relevant source for the problem.	The research focuses largely on one person; or it disregards many sources that might illuminate or challenge other findings; or it overlooks several relevant jurisdictions or two or more potentially relevant sources appropriate for the problem.	
GG1b. Extent of genetic evidence Standards 51(intro), 52 (bullet 6), 53 (a) and 53(b)	The selected DNA tests, test takers, companies, and analytical tools address the genealogical problem. A sufficient number of test takers support genetic relationships and eliminate competing hypotheses.	Some selected DNA tests, test takers, companies, and analytical tools address the genealogical problem, or additional tests, test takers, or analytical tools are needed to address the genealogical problem and eliminate competing hypotheses.	Selected DNA tests, test takers, companies, and analytical tools do not address the genealogical problem.	

¹ For more information about the standards, see Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, second edition revised (Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry.com, 2021).

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GG2. Adequacy of source citations Standards 1–8, 22, 54, 63	Statements of fact, including every parent-child relationship, are cited fully and consistently. Lapses of any kind are few and generally minor in consequence. The work sample includes evidence of a best effort to provide sufficient information for others to verify or dispute that DNA test results support conclusions.	Some statements of fact, including parent-child relationships, are cited fully and consistently. The work sample includes evidence of an effort to provide information for others to verify or dispute that DNA test results support conclusions.	Many statements of fact, including parent-child relationships, are cited incompletely, inconsistently, or not at all. The work sample includes no evidence of any effort to provide information for others to verify or dispute that DNA test results support conclusions.	
GG3. Quality of evidence Standards 35–39, 44, 51 (a,b,c), 58 (bullet 3)	Evidence is drawn from reliable sources and information and the use of any weak evidence is logically defended. DNA evidence is drawn from testing companies' original comparisons and not companies' interpretations. DNA test takers best able to address the research question are prioritized and their selection explained.	Some evidence is drawn from reliable sources and information, but items of low quality are not recognized or justified, or some DNA evidence is drawn from testing companies' original comparisons and not companies' interpretations; or some test takers are prioritized without explanation.	Much evidence is drawn from unreliable sources or information without explanation; or DNA evidence is drawn from companies' interpretations or and selected test takers are poorly prioritized.	
GG4. Analysis, correlation and assembly of evidence Standards 40, 42–43, 45–47, 52 (bullets 1–5, 7), 53(c), 60–61 64, 66	The most significant connections and contradictions are presented and any conflicting evidence is presented fully and accurately. Valid analytical tools, statistical data, and reasoning sufficiently interpret DNA test results to reach conclusions or intermediate conclusions. All relevant factors to determine a genetic relationship are considered. Alternative hypotheses are convincingly mitigated, addressed, or eliminated.	A few significant connections or contradictions are overlooked or insufficiently presented; pedigree problems are only partially recognized and mitigated; the use of DNA outliers as evidence is used without justification; or the possibility of multiple common ancestors is poorly addressed.	Many contradictions are overlooked or not presented; data analysis does not support conclusions; pedigree problems are not recognized or mitigated; or the possibility of multiple common ancestors is not considered.	
GG5. Resolution of conflicting evidence Standards 48, 53(d)	All conflicting evidence is convincingly resolved, including conflicts between genetic and documentary evidence.	Some conflicting evidence is not resolved or convincingly addressed.	Most or all conflicting evidence is left unresolved, or most conflict resolutions are unclear or unconvincing.	No conflicting evidence.

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GG6. Soundness of conclusions Standards 49–50, 55, 56, 59	The final conclusion and all intermediate conclusions are consistent with reliable and sufficient evidence. DNA test results and documentary evidence are assessed and correlated to arrive at a sound conclusion. Genetic relationships are correctly described and rely on a combination of documentary and genetic evidence.	Some intermediate or final conclusions are not consistent with reliable and sufficient evidence; genetic and documentary evidence is only partially assessed and correlated; or some genetic relationships are insufficiently described or rely on insufficient evidence.	Many conclusions rely on insufficient or unreliable evidence; genetic and documentary evidence are not correctly assessed and correlated; or key genetic relationships are insufficiently described or rely on insufficient or misinterpreted evidence.	
GG7. Clarity of writing Standards 69–71	Writing throughout the project is clear, organized, and largely free from grammar, spelling, punctuation, and typographical errors.	Writing throughout the project is sometimes unclear or disorganized or has occasional grammar, spelling, punctuation, and typographical errors.	Writing throughout the project is frequently confusing or disorganized or has many grammar, spelling, punctuation, or typographical errors.	
GG8. Format and presentation Standards 65–68, 72, 74	The work follows standards for assembled genealogical results. Appropriate charts, tables, and figures present DNA and other data in a logical, reader-friendly format.	The work's format generally follows standards but contains minor deviations or inconsistencies; or some DNA and other data are presented in an illogical or confusing format.	The work does not follow standards for assembled genealogical results, or DNA and other data are presented in an illogical or confusing format.	

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GG9a. Respect for privacy—Client work Code of Ethics, “To protect the client (paying or pro bono),” bullet 10	If applicable, the work sample includes written permission from the client to share with BCG for credentialing purposes.	Permission to share is acknowledged but not documented.	If applicable, the work sample does not include written permission from the client to share with BCG for credentialing purposes.	The work sample is not work done for a client.
GG9b. Respect for privacy—DNA permissions Code of Ethics, “To protect people who provide DNA,” bullet 2	The work sample confirms permission from <i>all</i> living owners of DNA match lists referenced in the work sample to share with BCG for credentialing purposes.	The work sample confirms permission from <i>most</i> living owners of DNA match lists referenced in the work sample to share with BCG for credentialing purposes.	The work sample <i>omits</i> confirmation of permission from <i>most or all</i> living owners of DNA match lists referenced in the work sample to share with BCG for credentialing purposes.	All owners of DNA match lists are deceased.

Overall Evaluation		
Overall evaluation	SUFFICIENT FOR CGG CERTIFICATION	INSUFFICIENT FOR CGG CERTIFICATION
	The work samples demonstrate competence using genetic evidence to solve complex genealogical problems while meeting all relevant genealogy standards. Any partially met or unmet standards are easily remediable.	The work samples do not demonstrate competence using genetic evidence to solve complex genealogical problems while meeting all relevant standards; or work samples demonstrate most standards, but at least one partially met or unmet standard is not easily remediable; or the applicant did not follow <i>Application Guide</i> directions closely enough to provide the evidence needed to evaluate many indicators.