



Boston University School of Medicine
Division of Graduate Medical Sciences



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY



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Program Overview

The M.S. in Forensic Anthropology trains individuals in the theory, practice and methods of biological and skeletal anthropology that are utilized in medicolegal death investigations. While there are many aspects of the program that make it unique, it is one of the only graduate forensic anthropology programs in a department of anatomy at a major medical center. This setting provides faculty and students access to extensive resources and facilities including the following:

- Human Gross Anatomy Laboratory
- Forensic Anthropology Outdoor Research Facility
- Center for Biomedical Imaging
- Boston University Donated Skeletal Collection
- Faculty and Resources in the Department of Radiology, Anthropology and Archaeology and the Biomedical Forensic Sciences program

Boston University's medical campus, home to Boston's largest research park, is in close proximity to several local and state law enforcement laboratories and facilities. Students will have to complete internships, observe autopsies and will benefit from field-based research and learning experiences at a 32-acre outdoor research facility.

Program Highlights:

- Only program of its kind that confers a Master of Science; similar programs offered by other schools confer a Master of Arts
- Full-time, 42-credit program begins in September and is designed to be completed in two calendar years
- Significant opportunities to work with, and learn from, law enforcement personnel, Board Certified Anthropologists and several Board Certified Forensic Pathologists
- Access to state-of-the-art laboratory equipment including NMR Spectroscopy, Cryo-Electron Microscopes, X-ray, CT and MRI scanners, and 3D printers
- Access to skeletal remains collections housed at other Boston University School of Medicine and other universities and museums in the Boston area
- Coursework in Expert Witness Testimony and Crime Scene Investigation
- All classes are taught by faculty who are experts in physical and biological anthropology, anatomy, osteology, pathology, crime scene investigation, expert witness testimony and forensic sciences
- Field experiences build skills in forensic anthropology field methods, outdoor crime-scene investigation, forensic photography, recovery of skeletal remains, and total station mapping techniques
- Students complete a graduate level research project that culminates into a full-length thesis
- Students may pursue internships at various state and federal crime laboratories and agencies
- Graduates have pursued careers at government or private crime laboratories, state or federal law enforcement agencies, in academic settings or have enrolled in doctoral programs, law school and medical school
- The degree is awarded by the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences at Boston University School of Medicine



CURRICULUM

Classes are lecture and laboratory based and the program provides opportunities for internships and directed studies. Completion of the degree requires students to earn a minimum of 42 credits.

REQUIRED COURSES

Fall Year 1:

History, Methods and Theory in Biological Anthropology	3 credits
Human Anatomy and Osteology	4 credits
Professional Skills and Thesis Research Development	3 credits
Special Topics in Forensic Anthropology - Outdoor Crime Scene Awareness	3 credits

Spring Year 1:

Forensic Anthropology Techniques	3 credits
Bioarchaeology	2 credits
Experimental Design for Forensic Anthropology	2 credits
Zooarchaeology	4 credits

Summer Year 1:

Research in Anthropology	2 credits
Homicide Investigation	2 credits

Fall Year 2:

Mortuary Archaeology	3 credits
Advanced Human Osteology	4 credits
Taphonomy	3 credits

Spring Year 2:

Expert Witness Testimony	2 credits
Applied Forensic Anthropology	3 credits

Elective Courses in Forensic Anthropology

Field Methods in Forensic Anthropology	3 credits
Forensic Pathology	3 credits
Advanced Crime Scene Investigation	2 credits
Forensic Entomology	2 credits

Elective Courses in Anthropology and Archaeology

Students are strongly encouraged to complete a course in the departments of Anthropology and Archaeology on Boston University's Charles River campus

Elective Courses in Biomedical Forensic Sciences

Students may complete selected courses in the Biomedical Forensic Sciences program



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Program Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree in anthropology (preferably physical or biological anthropology) or archaeology. Completed coursework in some or all of the following topics is preferred:

Anatomy	Experimental Design	Chemistry
Biology	Osteology	Statistics
Biological Anthropology	Writing, especially Scientific Writing	

Admissions

Applications must be received by March 1 to be eligible for early admission. All applications received after March 1, up until the June 28 application deadline, will be considered on a rolling admission basis until the incoming class reaches full capacity. Application requirements include:

- An official transcript of each college or university attended
- Official test results for the GRE or MCAT Examinations
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members who know you well
- A written personal statement describing your qualifications and educational objectives

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a writing sample, in addition to the personal statement, as the Admissions committee places a significant emphasis on a student's writing ability. Students are also encouraged to submit a proposed thesis topic with their applications.

To apply to the program, please visit bu.edu/gms and click on Admissions.

International students

In addition to the above listed requirements, international students must submit TOEFL scores (if your native language is not English), and the International Student Data Form. International applicants must also submit documentation of all sources of financial support for a minimum of one year, along with the Financial Sponsorship Certification for International Students.

Tuition, Financial Aid and Student Resources

For the most up to date information on tuition and fees please visit www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/students/financing-options. The Financial Aid Office at Boston University School of Medicine is available to assist students in identifying sources of financial support including Women's Guild Scholarships and Teaching Assistantships.

The BU Office of Housing Resources provides information regarding housing, transportation, and Boston neighborhoods. For more details, visit www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr.

For more information about the M.S. in Forensic Anthropology program please contact:

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