



Boston University School of Medicine
Division of Graduate Medical Sciences



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELING



CURRICULUM

Semester 1:

Professional Issues in Genetic Counseling	3 credits
Embryology, Teratology, and Prenatal Genetics	3 credits
Clinical Applications in Human Genetics	4 credits
Genetic Counseling Seminar	2 credits
Counseling Techniques and Helping Relationships	3 credits
Genetic Counseling Fieldwork I	2 credits

Semester 2:

Genetic Diagnosis and Laboratory Methods	3 credits
Professional Issues in Genetic Counseling	Continued
Clinical Genetics	3 credits
Genetic Counseling Seminar	Continued
Social, Cultural, and Ethical Issues in Genetics	3 credits

Summer:

Genetic Counseling Fieldwork II	2 credits
---------------------------------	-----------

Semester 3:

Cancer Genetic Counseling	3 credits
Genetic Counseling Seminar	Continued
Genetic Counseling Fieldwork III	2 credits
Advanced Genetic Counseling	4 credits

Semester 4:

Genetic Counseling Seminar	Continued
Genetic Counseling Fieldwork IV	2 credits
Advanced Genetic Counseling	Continued
Metabolic Genetics/Advanced Risk Assessment	3 credits
Advanced Topics in Medical Genetics	3 credits

Electives: 5 credits or more

1 BU Graduate level course in research design, research methodology and/or statistical analysis
1 BU Graduate level course in counseling, public health, and/or education
Students may choose from a wide variety of related elective courses offered through the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELING

Program Highlights:

- The program has received Full Accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC)
- Courses are delivered at Boston University's Medical Campus in Boston's historic South End, providing a dynamic learning environment and unique clinical training and laboratory research opportunities
- In addition to being the first program of its kind to be located within an academic medical center in New England, the program is also unique in its inclusion of courses from other graduate programs like Mental Health Counseling & Behavioral Medicine and Medical Sciences
- Fieldwork experiences are offered in a broad range of settings, including Boston Medical Center's prenatal, pediatric, and cancer genetic clinics; there are also fieldwork opportunities in labs, research, public health, and advocacy
- Students in this program are exposed to more than 120 genetic counselors in Boston's world-class health-care settings
- The 48-credit full-time program can be completed in two years and culminates with a Capstone research project
- Those who successfully complete the program will have met the educational requirements to be eligible for Certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC)

Admissions Requirements:

You must have a 4-year baccalaureate degree and undergraduate coursework in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, genetics, statistics, and psychology. In addition, applicants will need to do the following:

- Submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Examination
- For international students, submit scores from the TOEFL Examination, unless you received your undergraduate degree at an English speaking institution; IELTS scores can be submitted in place of the TOEFL
- Submit transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions you have attended
- Obtain three letters of recommendation
- Write a personal statement addressing the academic, interpersonal, and extracurricular experiences that led to your interest in the field and the personal characteristics that will contribute to your success as a genetic counselor (3-4 pages, double-spaced)



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELING



Boston University School of Medicine
Division of Graduate Medical Sciences

Admissions Requirements (cont.):

- The following experiences, while not mandatory, significantly increase your chances of being invited for an interview:
 - Advocacy experience working with individuals who have a genetic condition or disability
 - Counseling experience
 - Teaching experience
 - Job shadowing and speaking to genetic counselors to demonstrate that you have explored the field and are familiar with the requirements of the profession; you can find counselors in your area by visiting www.nsgc.org
 - Research and laboratory experience

Application Timeline

Applications to the program can be submitted online starting in September. Applicants will be notified if there are outstanding application documents by the mid-December deadline. In early February, all applicants will be notified about the status of their application. Candidates who are selected for an interview will be scheduled to visit our program throughout March and April, at which time they will meet with our students and faculty. Notices of acceptance will be provided by telephone on the national acceptance date designated by the Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors (typically in late April or early May). To apply to the program, please visit bu.edu/gms and click on Admissions.

Tuition, Financial Aid and Student Resources

The Financial Aid Office at Boston University School of Medicine is available to assist students in identifying sources of financial support and tuition remission, including graduate and research assistantships, fellowships, and federal loans

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

Eligibility

Although many applicants do apply directly from undergrad, just as many come with several years of working experience prior to pursuing this degree. Like all genetic counseling programs, we are committed to improving the demographic balance of our profession. We encourage individuals from underrepresented groups, including male and minority students, to apply.

For more information about the M.S. Genetic Counseling program please contact:

Kathleen B. Swenson, M.S., M.P.H., C.G.C.
Program Director, Genetic Counseling Program
85 E. Newton St., Room M913
Boston, MA 02118
617-638-7170
kbb2010@bu.edu

www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/m-s-genetic-counseling-program