

To prospective thesis mentors in the MA in Medical Sciences Program:

The MA in Medical Sciences program at Boston University School of Medicine has a 28 year history of helping students gain entrance to medical and other professional schools. Students complete a rigorous academic year taking many of the same courses as first year students at BU School of Medicine. Following the two semesters of coursework, students are required to complete either a research or literature based thesis project.

Most students opt to pursue a research-based project where the research can be basic, clinical or public-health related. Students conducting a research project are expected to spend approximately 6-9 months on the project, working 20-40 hours per week.

While many students complete their projects at BUSM, others choose to conduct their research outside the institution. In such cases, the participating mentor will serve as the Second Reader on the thesis and will assume full scientific responsibility for the work conducted. This includes the design of the project as well as providing the student with any required training in laboratory practices, the use of experimental animals or Human Subjects research. In addition, the mentor and his/her institution retain all rights regarding publication and the use of the data obtained. The level of compensation, if any, is also determined by the mentor. Students entering into a thesis project with an outside mentor will request that the mentor be granted a Special Service Appointment at BUSM and will need to submit a copy of the mentor's CV.

A faculty member at BUSM will serve as the First Reader. The First Reader assumes no control over the scientific conduct of the project, but will be responsible for ensuring that all institutional (BUSM) standards for the final document are met.

The research will be documented in a formal thesis which averages 35-50 pages. Comprehensive guidelines describing content and formatting are provided to all students. Students completing a research thesis are eligible to receive a grade of "A" for their work (up to 8 academic credits). As their primary mentor, you may recommend that the A grade be awarded by including a brief letter of support with the final thesis document.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have, either now or during the project period.
Thank you for considering one of our students for a research opportunity under your guidance.

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