Boston University School of Medicine
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
- Cancer Genetic Counseling: 3 credits

**Summer:**
- Genetic Counseling Fieldwork II: 2 credits

**Semester 3:**
- Metabolic Genetics/Advanced Risk Assessment: 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
- Social, Cultural and Ethical Issues in Genetics: 3 credits
- Advanced Topics in Medical Genetics: 3 credits

**Electives:**
- 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 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 the School of Public Health.
- 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, advocacy, and industry.
- Students in this program are exposed to more than 100 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).
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. Applicants are required to register with the National Match System as per admissions guidelines set forth by the Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors to consider an application complete. Match Day occurs at the end of April. To further understand the match process, please see details posted on www.agcpd.org.

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