



Boston University School of Medicine
Graduate Medical Sciences



MASTER OF ARTS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING & BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE PROGRAM



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Program Overview

The Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine master's degree program is the only accredited counseling program in the United States that is housed in a medical school. Our emphasis on behavioral medicine and neuroscience makes us unlike any other counseling program. The two-year intensive program prepares graduates for counseling licensure as mental health counselors in Massachusetts and in other states. The Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Our counseling program offers unparalleled clinical training opportunities in and around greater Boston, including placements at the Veteran's Affairs, college counseling centers, trauma counseling and refugee centers, integrated primary care, emergency departments, forensic settings and prisons, treatment centers for substance use and eating disorders, inpatient settings, and clinical research teams, to name a few. Students receive rigorous training in mental health assessment and diagnosis, counseling theory and application, and are exposed to a wide array of client populations and career paths. Our passionate and caring faculty and staff deliver a counseling curriculum that incorporates coursework in behavioral medicine, neuroscience, and psychopharmacology.

Esteemed and Exceptional Faculty

All core faculty members are also active clinicians who infuse their instruction with real world examples of clinical service, patient descriptions and psychiatric presentations. We are passionate about your learning, and invested in your success as a future counselor and colleague. Many faculty are also actively involved with research that contributes to the scientific understanding of a variety of mental and behavioral health issues.

Program Outcomes

Each year, graduates of the Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine program are exceptionally well-prepared for employment in mental health counseling positions across the United States and internationally. Between 2016 and 2018, graduates who responded to our survey achieved the following outcomes:

- 87% worked in mental health counseling positions after graduation
- 100% passed the counseling licensure exam. 88% passed first time
- 81% of those who applied were accepted and awarded scholarships in prestigious PhD programs.

In addition, each year our graduates are accepted into and awarded scholarships within prestigious PhD doctoral programs in Counselor Education and Supervision, Clinical and Counseling Psychology, and MD programs.



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Curriculum

The program prepares students to provide effective and ethical counseling for a variety of populations and disorders, and in a broad array of settings. First semester coursework is designed to support on-site clinical training in the second or summer semester. The first year practicum experience varies by site and setting, but all students benefit from close supervision and mentoring while on site. In the second year, students can build on areas of interest through a choice of electives and the setting for their internship.

The typical curriculum outlined below, although there is some variability depending on clinical site schedules and other circumstances.

Fall Semester Year 1

- Orientation to Professional Counseling
- Counseling Techniques
- Assessment
- Psychopathology
- Research & Evaluation
- Group Dynamics

Spring Semester Year 1

- Neuroscience for Mental Health Professionals
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Theory & Practice of Child & Adolescent Counseling*
- Psychopharmacology
- Practicum Supervision
- Counseling Theory

Summer Semester Year 1 (Summer sessions not required)

Course offerings rotate each year. Recent courses include Addictions, Research & Evaluation and Human Growth & Development.

Fall Semester Year 2

- Human Growth & Development
- Behavioral Medicine & Applied Health Psychology
- Psychological Trauma Across the Lifespan*
- Internship Supervision
- Addictions

Spring Semester Year 2

- Career and Vocational Counseling
- Internship Supervision
- Human Sexuality*

**Program Elective*



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Admission Requirements

In addition to completing the program's online application, prospective students must also submit:

- An official transcript from each college or university attended
- As of November 2018, standardized test scores (including the GRE and MCAT) are no longer required. However applicants from countries where English is not the language of instruction must submit official TOEFL or IELTS scores
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the likelihood of your academic and career success
- A written personal statement that describes your qualifications and objectives for the program

While it is not mandatory, most students accepted into the program have majored in a mental health related field or the basic sciences, and some experience (volunteer or otherwise) in human service settings.

We are committed to improving the diversity of our profession and encourage individuals from under-represented groups, including male and minority students, to apply.

Tuition, Financial Aid and Student Resources

For the 2018-19 academic year the cost to enroll in the program full time is \$52,816.

The Financial Aid Office at Boston University School of Medicine is available to assist students in identifying sources of financial support.

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

Visit our Website

<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/mhcbm>

For more information about the M.A. in Mental Health Counseling & Behavioral Medicine program please contact:

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