



**Boston University** School of Medicine  
Graduate Medical Sciences




**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN GENETIC COUNSELING**



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## 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
Fundamentals of Counseling in Genetics	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
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### 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.



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### 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:

- For international students, submit scores from the TOEFL Examination, unless you  ceived 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)



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### Admissions Requirements (cont.):

- Many professional experiences offer transferable skills to the field of genetic counseling. Some examples of transferable skills include:
  - Advocacy experience
  - Counseling experience
  - Teaching experience
  - Experience in connecting with professions who work within the field of genetic counseling, such as interviews, webinars, in person experiences, etc.
  - Research experience (social science based or basic science based)

### Application Timeline

Applications to the program can be submitted online starting in September. 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 interview with 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](http://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/student-financial-services/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/students/student-financial-services/)

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](http://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.

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

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[www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/genetic-counseling/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/genetic-counseling/)

