



Boston University School of Medicine
Graduate Medical Sciences



STUDENT GUIDE 2021-2022



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INTRODUCTION TO THE ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM

Welcome to the Oral Health Sciences Program in Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) at Boston University School of Medicine. This guide, in addition to the GMS Student Handbook that can be found on the [Policies, Procedures & Handbook](#) page, will provide you with a wealth of information that will enable your success here in OHS.

The OHS program has a rigorous, graduate-level, curriculum that will provide you with the opportunity to improve your academic preparedness for dental school admission. It is extremely challenging, and you will need to devote 100% of your energy and focus. The DMD and graduate level coursework will challenge you to improve your study and test taking skills as well as learn how to assimilate the large amount of material taught by not memorizing facts but learning to integrate concepts at a much higher conceptual level.

Oral Health Sciences Mission Statement

The mission of the Oral Health Sciences program is to prepare students to become strong candidates for future admission to dental school and other health-related professions. Through immersion in a rigorous graduate biomedical sciences curriculum, students develop essential critical thinking and research skills. The program fosters an environment of high standards for professionalism, integrity, and collegiality where students build upon their abilities to enable future success.

Program Overview

The Program: As an Oral Health Sciences student, you will take courses at [Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine](#) (BUGSDM) as well as [courses offered through Graduate Medical Sciences \(GMS\)](#) at the [School of Medicine](#). Two of the DMD classes – Physiology and Biochemistry - will be in a 50:50 live-stream format. In addition, optional course work is available in a variety of disciplines, including public health, evidence-based dentistry, and clinical research. The M.S. program takes four semesters to complete. Due to the unique summer calendar at Boston University, it is possible to complete the degree in one full calendar year commencing in the fall semester (which starts in early August). Students must complete 32 credits, attend 4 semesters (over 1 or 2 years) and complete a Thesis or a Capstone project.

Our History: The OHS Program was initiated in 2005 as a track within the well-established Medical Sciences program. Since the Program's inception, over 300 students have completed the Program and over 90% have been accepted to the US dental schools. Due to its great success and increased recognition, the OHS track was approved in 2013 as an independent M.S. degree program.

 **90% OF GRADUATES MATRICULATE TO DENTAL SCHOOL**

Our Success: [OHS graduates have been accepted to the following dental schools:](#)

Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health
Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine
Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine
Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine
Creighton University School of Dentistry
Dalhousie University of Faculty of Dentistry
East Carolina School of Dental Medicine
Howard University College of Dentistry
Marquette University School of Dentistry
Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry
Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine
New York University College of Dentistry
Temple University-Kornberg School of Dentistry
Touro College of Dental Medicine at New York Medical College
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

University of Maryland School of Dentistry
University of California San Diego School of Dentistry,
University of California San Francisco School of Dentistry
University of California Los Angeles School of Dentistry
University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine
University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry
University of Florida College of Dentistry
University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry
University of Michigan School of Dentistry
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine
University of Southern California, Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry
University of Tennessee College of Dentistry
University of Washington School of Dentistry
Western University of Health Sciences, College of Dental Medicine

Please see the website for [Student Testimonials](#).

Program Contact: Director and Advisors:

Theresa A. Davies, Ph.D., Program Director, Assistant Dean, Graduate Medical Sciences and Assistant Professor of Medical Sciences & Education. Dr. Davies can be contacted by phone at 617-358-9546, by email at tdavies@bu.edu, or in her office located in GMS office, Room L317 at BU School of Medicine.

Shinichiro Kurosawa, M.D./Ph.D., Assistant Director, Associate Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Course Director DMD Pathology. Dr. Kurosawa can be contacted at 617-358-2681 and kurosawa@bu.edu.

Christina Bowley, M.A., Program Manager can be contacted at 617-358-9505 or cbowley@bu.edu or in her office located in the GMS office, Room L317 at BU School of Medicine.

Course Directors for Core Courses

[Theresa A. Davies, Ph.D.](#), Course Director Evidence Based Dentistry and Co-Course Director, Biomedical Information; Instructor, DMD Biochemistry

[William Lehman, Ph.D.](#), Professor and Chair of Physiology & Biophysics, Course Director, DMD Physiology

[Stephanie Oberhaus, Ph.D.](#), Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Course Director, DMD Microbiology and Immunology

[Barbara Schreiber, Ph.D.](#), Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Biochemistry, Course Director, DMD Biochemistry

[Shinichiro Kurosawa, MD / Ph.D.](#) Associate Professor and Director Graduate Studies, Department of Pathology & Laboratory of Medicine, Course Director, DMD Pathology

[David Flynn, M.S., LIS](#) Head of Library & Information Management Education, Co-Course Director, Biomedical Information

[Raul Garcia, DMD, CAGS](#) Chair of Health Policy & Health Services Research; Director of CREED (Center for Research to Evaluate & Eliminate Dental Disparities); ; Co-Course Director, DMD Prevention and Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry

[Corinna Culler, RDH, DrPh](#), Director of School Based Programs Goldman School of Dental Medicine; Assistant Professor of Health Policy & Health Services Research; Co-Course Director, DMD Prevention and Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry

[Maura Kelley, MD](#) Assistant Professor of Medical Sciences & Education, Course Director and Advisor, Fundamentals of Head & Neck Anatomy and Infectious Diseases: Pathogens and Clinical Manifestations

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the M.S. in Oral Health Sciences (OHS) are required to complete a minimum of 32 graduate credit hours, including a final Capstone or Thesis project. All MS students must be registered for 4 semesters including the final semester during which their Thesis or Capstone is submitted.

The first 2 semesters (fall and spring year 1) students are full-time students and pay full-time tuition. The final 2 semesters (summer I/II or fall/spring year 2) students pay the continuing student fee, equivalent to only two credits, and are certified with full-time student status while completing their Thesis or Capstone project.

The Program consists of 19 required credits (DMD Biochemistry, DMD Physiology, GMS Prevention and Oral Health Promotion and GMS Biomedical Information). DMD Biochemistry and Physiology are taught in a live-stream format where 2 weeks a month, students attend classes with the dental students and 2 weeks students watch live streaming classes in our newly renovated streaming classroom. The remaining credits are fulfilled with electives as well as your research related to your Thesis or Capstone project. In the spring semester, you will be allowed to choose between DMD Pathology and Microbiology, and you will attend the class 'live'. All DMD courses are recorded. GMS courses are not recorded, and attendance is expected

Up to 8 credits can be used towards a Thesis whereas the Capstone is equivalent to 2 credits. Students completing the Capstone must enroll in an additional course(s) to meet the 32 credit MS requirement.

Coursework

Required Courses

DMD COURSE GMS OH 751 BIOCHEMISTRY, 1ST SEMESTER

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the basic principles of modern biochemistry. The topics to be covered include proteins, enzymes, DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis, metabolism, lipids, connective tissue, and hormones and second messengers. [6cr] This course is taken with the DMD I students and will be in a blended 50:50 live stream format. (Schreiber)

DMD COURSE GMS OH 730 PHYSIOLOGY, 1ST SEMESTER

This course presents the physiology of cells, tissues, organs, and integrated body functions, including the physiological basis for the understanding of clinical conditions. An integrated approach is taken to endocrinology and reproduction. Hormonal aberrations and their end results in humans are presented in clinical correlations. [6cr] This course is taken with the DMD I students and will be in a blended 50:50 live stream format. (Lehman)

DMD-COURSE GMS OH 731 PHYSIOLOGY, 2ND SEMESTER

This course is a continuation of GMS OH 730. Students will be given the same grade for each course upon completion of both courses. [2 cr] This course is taken with the DMD I students and will be in a blended 50:50 live stream format. (Lehman)

GMS OH 750 PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION IN DENTISTRY, 2ND SEMESTER

This course introduces the concepts and techniques of dental public health, disease prevention and health promotion in dentistry and health. The course emphasizes caries, periodontal diseases, and oral cancer prevention in the individual and community. [3 cr] This course is taken at the dental school and taught by GSDM faculty. (Kaye)

Other Required Courses Offered Through GMS Include:

GMS MS 640 INTRODUCTION TO BIOMEDICAL INFORMATION, 2ND SEMESTER

This course teaches how to find, use, and contribute to biomedical literature while supporting the graduate thesis through lectures and hands-on instruction. Topics include the retrieval, evaluation and management of information, Evidence Based Medicine, and the ethical use of research. [2cr] (Davies & Flynn)

GMS OH 971 / MS 972 ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH, 1ST, AND 2ND SEMESTER

Capstone Project [2cr] or Thesis research [Maximum 8 cr].

Elective Courses

Fall

GMS OH 770 EVIDENCE BASED DENTISTRY, 1ST SEMESTER

Prereq: Consent of Instructor; must be in the Oral Health Sciences program. This course consists of lectures and online modules as well as student presentations and discussion sessions. Topics will range from basic study design, research methodology and statistical analysis to dental ethics and critiques of evidence-based research articles. The focus will be on evidence-based dentistry and both reasoning and critical thinking skills will be challenged. [2 cr] (Davies)

GMS CI 670 BIostatISTICS WITH COMPUTING, 1ST SEMESTER

This course is designed for students with no prior experience with statistics who want to utilize computer software in performing statistical analysis. Topics include the collection, classification, and presentation of descriptive data; the rationale of hypothesis testing; t-tests and chi-square tests; correlation and regression analysis; sample size calculations, and analysis of contingency tables. Computer Laboratory course. [4cr] (Travison)

GMS MA 640: CULTURAL FORMATION OF THE CLINICIAN: ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE 1ST SEMESTER

This course will provide a context for exploring and reflecting on one's own cultural formation in relation to such topics as gender, sexual orientation, race, class, religion, body size, and other areas where there are the greatest risks for health disparities through unexamined bias. [3cr] (Barnes)

GMS MS 750 Fundamentals of Biostatistics Using R

The goal of this course is to provide students a fundamental knowledge of Biostatistics and practical experience in coding using the R software. This course familiarizes students with the basic concepts of Biostatistics, with the goal of understanding the study design and the appropriate statistical methods that are appropriate to use to evaluate their research hypotheses as well as different tools for data reporting. This course will be taught by a trained Biostatistician with extensive expertise in study design and data analysis. The course is enhanced by including dedicated sessions in R so students can learn the basics of coding with the R software, providing them with hands-on experience and the opportunity to apply the theoretical concepts they were taught in previous sessions so they are able to conduct their own research. [2cr] (Xanthakis)

Spring

DMD COURSE GMS OH 740 MICROBIOLOGY, 2ND SEMESTER

The overall goals of this course are to provide students with: (1) a basic background in microbiology, including the nomenclature, structure, physiology, genetics, mechanisms of pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations associated with the major pathogenic microorganisms (bacteria, fungi and viruses); (2) an understanding of how the basic principles of microbiology are integral to effective diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious disease, and (3) a basic background in immunology including the functions and disorders of the immune system. [4 cr.] This course is taken with the DMD I students. (Oberhaus)

DMD COURSE GMS OH 700 PATHOLOGY, 2ND SEMESTER

This course covers the fundamental concepts of modern pathology and explains how to apply the process of differential diagnosis in the major human diseases. Pathologic mechanisms and principles of most organs and systems of the body are discussed, with emphasis on those most relevant to oral health and care of dental patients. The course includes lectures by the School of Medicine Pathology faculty and Integrated Problem Sessions presented by students. [4 cr.] This course is taken with the DMD I students. (Stearns-Kurosawa/ Kurosawa).

GMS OH 771 FUNDAMENTALS OF HEAD AND NECK ANATOMY, 2ND SEMESTER

This course is a fundamental course in head and neck anatomy taught using a regional approach rather than the systems approach. We begin with the history and specialized terminology, then proceeding to anatomic concepts in the oral cavity, palate, and pharynx. We proceed with the osteology of the skull, then to regional anatomy, the brain, the spinal cord, and the cranial nerves with their associations to the autonomic nervous system and their distributions in the head and neck. Clinical considerations will also be incorporated. [3 cr] (Kelley/Davies)

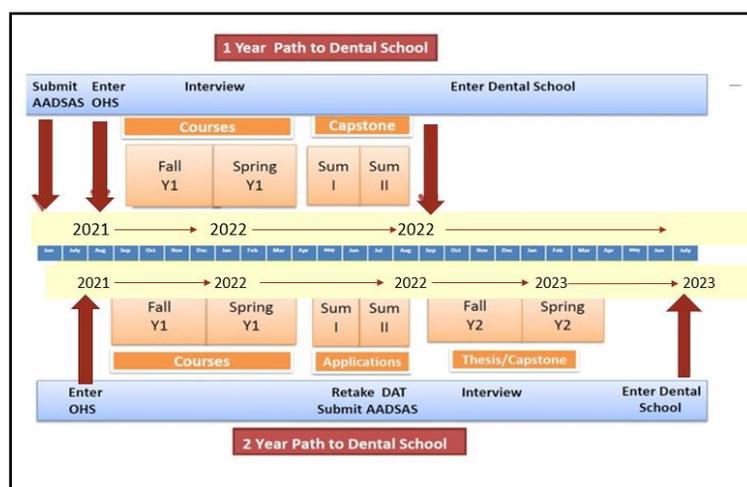
GMS MS 585 INFECTIOUS DISEASES: PATHOGENS AND CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

Infectious Diseases course explores principles of infection, host factors, epidemiology, treatment, prevention, and clinical approach to infection of different organs and systems as well as basic description of medically important infectious agents, i.e. bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. [3cr] (Kelley)

GMS MS 700 BIostatISTICS, 1ST, AND 2ND SEMESTER

This course introduces the concepts and techniques of biostatistics. [2cr] (Joseph)

Sample Program Timeline



Sample Curriculums

* **NOTE:** DMD I courses | *Required Courses

Most Common Curriculum, 1-year completion

August ('21) to August ('22) with graduation in September 2022

<i>Complete AADSAS and secondary applications in June/July prior to matriculating to OHS</i>	
Fall 1	Spring 1
* *OH 751 Biochemistry (6cr)	**OH 731 Physiology (2cr)
* *OH 730 Physiology (6cr)	*MS 640 Biomedical Information (2cr)
OH 770 Evidence Based Dentistry (2 cr)	*OH 750 Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry (3cr)
	OH 771 Head and Neck Anatomy (3 cr)
	*OH 740 Microbiology (4cr) or *OH 700 Pathology (4cr)
	PA 600 Pathology (4cr)
Summer I	Summer II
OH 971 (Capstone) (2cr)	MS 986 Continuing Student (Capstone)

Sample Curriculum, 1.5-year completion

August ('21) to December ('21) with graduation in January 2022

Fall 1	Spring 1
**OH 751 Biochemistry (6cr)	**OH 731 Physiology (2cr)
**OH 730 Physiology (6cr)	*MS 640 Biomedical Information (2cr)
Electives (2-4 cr)	*OH 750 Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry (3cr)
OH 770 Evidence Based Dentistry (2 cr)	Electives (8-10 cr)
MS 750 Fundamentals using Biostatistics R (2 cr)	OH 771 Head and Neck Anatomy (3 cr)
MA 640 Cultural Formation of a Clinician (3cr)	MS 700 Biostatistics (2cr)
MS 793 Fundamentals of Biotechnology (2cr)	*OH 740 Microbiology (4cr)
CI 670 Biostatistics with Computer (4cr)	*OH 700 Pathology (4cr)
Summer I	Summer II
<i>Complete AADSAS and secondary applications in June/July and retake DATs if needed</i>	
Fall 2	
MS 985 Capstone or OH 971 Thesis (2cr)	MS 986 Capstone or OH 972 Thesis (2cr)

Sample Curriculum 2-year completion

August ('21) to April ('22) with graduation in May 2022

<i>Fall 1</i>	<i>Spring 1</i>
* *OH 751 Biochemistry (6cr)	* *OH 731 Physiology (2cr)
* *OH 730 Physiology (6cr)	*MS 640 Biomedical Information (2cr)
Electives (2-4 cr)	*OH 750 Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry (3cr)
OH 770 Evidence Based Dentistry (2 cr)	Electives (8-10 cr)
MS 750 Fundamentals using Biostatistics R (2 cr)	OH 771 Head and Neck Anatomy (3 cr)
MA 640 Cultural Formation of a Clinician (3cr)	MS 700 Biostatistics (2cr)
MS 793 Fundamentals of Biotechnology (2cr)	*OH 740 Microbiology (4cr)
CI 670 Biostatistics with Computer (4cr)	*OH 700 Pathology (4cr)
Summer I	Summer II
Complete AADSAS and secondary applications in June/July retake DATs if needed	
<i>Fall 2</i>	<i>Spring 2</i>
MS 985 Capstone or OH 971 Thesis (2cr)	MS 986 Capstone or OH 972 Thesis (2cr)

THESIS AND CAPSTONE

A thesis (up to 8 cr) or capstone project (2 cr) is required to complete the OHS program.

Thesis Information

A thesis is scholarly work that must be approved by two faculty members in the field of study. The project must be hypotheses driven, well-conceived, of modest scope and have an original conclusion. The thesis may be literature based or research based (laboratory, clinical, survey, retrospective) and is eligible for a grade of 'A' if recommended by research mentor. Note that some students choose to complete a thesis while completing the OHS program in one year; however, most students choosing the thesis option complete the program in 1.5 or 2 years.

Research-based theses are quite variable and do not necessarily need to be traditional bench research projects. Many students do perform these types of projects and gain valuable research exposure; however, other types of projects are also available. These "other" thesis opportunities include but are not limited to (i) clinical research, (ii) retrospective studies of previously collected data including statistical work-up, (iii) public health or oral health education related, and (iv) the development of a survey eliciting information on topic of interest followed by data collection and analysis.

Thesis Requirements

- Students must submit the Thesis Title Form and the Thesis Agreement Form if completing a research-based thesis for a grade. If a student has a mentor outside of BU or who is NOT a BU – GMS faculty member they must also submit the special service appointment form. All forms can be found on the [GMS Forms page](#). Deadlines for all form submissions are found on the [Graduation calendars here](#) .
- Length:
 - 45 pages minimum for Literature-based
 - 35 pages minimum for Research-based
- Grade
 - Literature – Pass/Fail
 - Research – Grade of A eligible (Students completing a research-based thesis can be recommended by their primary thesis mentor to be eligible for a grade of “A”).
- Readers
 - Two faculty readers with the First Reader being a BU faculty
 - Non-BU faculty can serve as second reader provided a Special Service Appointment form is completed and approved. All forms can be found on the [OHS Student Forms page](#) on the website.
- Research thesis should include a thorough literature review, methods, results, and discussion.
- Literature-based thesis should include a literature review, published studies, and discussion.
- Additional thesis information available on the [Thesis and Capstone Webpage](#) and through MS 640 Biomedical Information.
- All theses must be checked on Turnitin to confirm their similarity index is below 20% and all students must submit the thesis Checklist. More information can be [found here](#).

Capstone Information

The 15-page Capstone project is a culminating paper whereby students choose a research topic that is relevant in the field of dentistry. This project is overseen by a faculty mentor, who has expertise in the topic chosen, either at the School of Medicine or the Goldman School of Dental Medicine. The project is completed over the summer, will be graded as Pass/Fail, and is designed for students completing the MS in 12 months.

The topic chosen is open-ended but should be a reasonable scope keeping in mind the required length. Your Capstone mentor must approve the topic prior to writing. Following topic approval the [Capstone Project Form](#) must be submitted. The paper should provide a thorough review of the field chosen. The format of the paper should include the background needed to understand the topic followed by a presentation of published results. A discussion should follow with your personal insights.

Capstone Requirements

- **Submission of Capstone Form by March 1st (if walking in May Commencement)**
All forms can be found on the [Student Forms page](#) on the website.
- Page length: 15 pages (including title page but not including the citations).
- References: Minimum of 15 peer-reviewed references should be used (APA format)
- Due date for submission of the final paper is 2 weeks before general thesis deadline (~July 15, Dec 1, April 1).
- Grade of Pass/Fail will be posted at the end of the summer (or Jan or May depending on your program completion date).

- Format includes a Title page (CAPSTONE TITLE, NAME, Graduation date (September 20##, January 20## or May 20##) then ABSTRACT
- Abstract (not to exceed 300 words) – Brief summary of the paper on the title page.
- Literature Review of chosen topic (10-12 pages)
- Discussion (including your personal insights) (3-5 pages)
- References (APA style recommended) (minimum of 15)
- Paper must meet all format requirements, be checked for plagiarism on Turnitin and be submitted along with the Capstone Checklist. Please see the [website for additional details](#).

Program Completion and Commencement

- We encourage all students to review the Thesis and Capstone forms, GMS guidelines and deadlines and associated paperwork early to assure completion of the program in a timely manner.
- Students must be *registered for any regular semester or summer* term during which a degree requirement is completed, or University facilities are used.
- Students must register for a total of *4 semesters* with the last 2 being consecutive. Students working on their Capstone or Thesis who have completed course requirements register as a continuing student, certified fulltime, with or without classes for Thesis and Capstone, respectively.
- A student, who is registered for 0-11 credits but is engaged in full-time research related to the completion of degree requirements, may be certified as a full-time student. Such a student *must pay tuition on a per credit basis as well as full-time student fees*. A student desiring full-time certification must submit to the Registrar a *completed Certification Full-Time (CFT) Form* (which can be found on the [GMS Student Forms](#) page). The advisor and department chairperson or program director must approve this form during the official registration period. Continuing Student fees are equivalent to 2 credits. This form must include specific details on how you will be spending your 35-40hr/week if you are not in classwork (i.e. 25 hr. capstone research, 5 hr. shadowing, 10hr DAT studying).
- Payment of the Continuing Student fee each semester entitles the student to appropriate access to and use of the libraries, research laboratories, academic staff, and other academic facilities of BU.
- M.S. in Oral Health Science degrees are awarded in September, January, and May. Commencement exercises are held in May only. Students planning to receive their degrees at the May commencement must submit diploma applications by January 5. For September and January graduation, students must submit the diploma application by May 25 and October 3, respectively. The diploma application is valid only for the graduation date specified; a *new application must be filed if the student does not graduate as planned*. Please see the [Calendars and Important Dates](#) for specific deadlines.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Advising

Upon entry into the program, each student is assigned a faculty advisor who will assist the student throughout the program with course selection, study skills, AADSAS application questions, selection of a thesis or capstone topic as well as overall dental school advising. Advising is a very strong part of the OHS program and students are encouraged to meet with their advisor regularly.

Students choosing to submit an AADSAS application prior to matriculation into OHS in August are encouraged to arrange to speak with Dr. Davies in June for advice on how OHS can provide the most support during the application process. Additionally, students will choose a thesis advisor and reader or a Capstone mentor with the help of the Program Director.

Disability & Access Services

Boston University takes great pride in the academic and personal achievements of its many students and alumni with disabilities. The University is committed to providing equal and integrated access for individuals with disabilities to all the academic, social, cultural, and recreational programs it offers. This commitment is consistent with legal requirements, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") of 1990, and embodies the University's historic determination to ensure the inclusion of all members of its communities.

Dr. Theresa Davies, Assistant Dean for Master's Programs, serves as the liaison between GMS and the Disability & Access Services. Please contact her (tdavies@bu.edu or 617-358-9546) with any disability services questions and visit the [GMS Disability and Access Services Webpage](#) for information on how to start the accommodation process.

The goal of BU's [Disability & Access Services](#) is to provide services and support to ensure that students are able to access and participate in the opportunities available at Boston University. In keeping with this objective, students are expected and encouraged to utilize the resources of Disability Services to the degree they determine necessary.

AADSAS Support

The Graduate Medical Sciences Office will make every effort to assist you in the AADSAS application process providing support in the follow areas:

- Personal Statement Critique
- Preparation of Letter Packet
 - [Dental School Letter Submission Process for OHS Student](#)
 - [OHS Recommender Instructions](#)
 - [OHS Letter Request Form](#)
 - Potential letter to be included are from the: Program Director, Core Science Faculty, Research mentor and other Post-undergraduate mentors and/or supervisors.
- Interview Preparation
- School Selection

We strongly encourage accepted students to speak with Dr. Davies, Program Director, before submitting AADSAS in June prior to August matriculation.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

DMD Course Review Sessions

- Review sessions are provided by a TA/Group Tutor on Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout both semesters for the DMD courses for all OHS. These sessions are optional. Sessions are taught by an OHS alum who is a D1 student at BUGSDM.

Tutoring

- One-on-one tutoring is available 2hours/wk. for any OHS student who struggles in a course. This is covered by OHS and continues throughout the semester.
- Occasionally group tutoring is also provided for students who need work on test taking or work on larger conceptual content that is better studied in small groups led by a tutor.
- All tutors, are current D1 students who are OHS alumni who received advanced standing in a particular course

Peer Mentoring

- Near-Peer Mentoring is a large part of the success of the OHS program. OHS students who have completed the program and matriculated to BU's Goldman School of Dental Medicine are excited to give back to current OHS students. Current mentoring opportunities includes programs like DentMent which helps students adjust to the rigor of the OHS program by providing guidance with time management, test taking and study skills while also helping with adjusting to Boston as well as Big Sib program which is similar but more social. These mentors along with the tutors serve to support current OHS and provide invaluable resources whether social or academic.



ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

GMS Academic Policy and Procedures

All students should familiarize themselves with the general [Policies of the BU's Graduate Medical Sciences](#) that can be found on the GMS website as well as the program-specific requirements set forth below.

Grades

- To receive credit towards graduation requirements, students must receive grades of B- or higher in all required and elective courses.
- To successfully complete the program, students must receive a grade of C or higher in all required courses, even though credit will not be given for grades lower than B-.
- When course requirements have not been met during the semester of registration due to extenuating circumstances, a grade of Incomplete (I) may be assigned at the discretion of the Course Director. Please note that a grade of I can only be given if the student is passing the course (grade of B- or higher). Students should complete the course as soon as possible or within one calendar year.

- Please see the [GMS website for Policies & Procedures](#) and the OHS Program’s Policies & Procedures (above) for additional information.

Academic Probation

- If a student receives grades of C+ or lower in 6 or more credits in each semester, the student will be notified and placed on Academic Probation. Students on Academic Probation must meet with the Program Director to develop a plan for academic improvement.

Course Remediation

- The option to remediate courses is dictated by the OHS Promotions Committee on a case-by-case basis at the end of the spring semester. The committee will determine whether a student is eligible for remediation of a course(s) based on their performance throughout the OHS Program. If remediation is recommended, the student will contact the Course Director of the relevant course(s) for information on the format and content of the exam/project, and criteria for a passing grade. Remediation of courses will be administered by the relevant Course Directors and must be completed by the end of June of that same academic year. No additional tuition will be charged if remediation is successful.
- Students who remediate any course are not eligible to receive a grade higher than a B- in that course.
- No more than two courses may be remediated in an academic year.
- Students must enroll in additional coursework, and pay tuition, to reach the 32 credits required for program completion for courses where remediation is not offered or where students failed to earn a passing grade on remediation.

Academic Probation

- If a student receives grades of C+ or lower in 8 or more credits in each semester, the student will be notified and placed on Academic Probation.
- The option to remediate is dictated by the Course Manager with some courses not permitting remediation.
- Students who remediate any exam are not eligible to receive a grade higher than a B-.
- Please see the [GMS Policies, Procedures and Handbook](#) for additional details.

Incoming and Continuing Students Requirements

Student Health Services: All students must have health insurance. This can be through your parents or BU’s Aetna plan. [Student Health Services](#) (SHS) and [Behavioral Medicine Services](#) are available to all students and are located at the Charles River Campus at 881



Commonwealth Avenue; phone 617-353-3569. All students whether on their parent’s insurance or BU Aetna student insurance are encouraged to sign up for a PCP physician while in Boston. *For help in finding a physician, call BMC Connect to learn more.* Please see the GMS Student Handbook for more information.

Behavioral Health: Services are also offered on the **Medical campus** at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center at 85 East Newton Street, Room 816.

- Phone: 617-353-3569
- Monday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
- Wednesday: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Transcripts Requirement: All incoming students MUST submit a final official transcript indicating completion of their bachelor's degree to be able to register.

- Official transcripts must be sent directly from your undergraduate institution to Jorge Fortin either via a secure electronic form or email (fortin@bu.edu).
- Or a paper copy can be mailed to:

Jorge Fortin
Boston University School of Medicine
Graduate Medical Sciences
72 East Concord Street, L317
Boston, MA 02118

Compliance Requirements: All students, to register for courses at Boston University, must comply with the following policies: Students not in compliance will NOT be able to register for current or future semesters. Student compliance can be checked and updated on [Student Link](#).

- **Send Word Now:** BU uses an on-demand alert and response system called Send Word Now that enables BU to contact the entire campus community immediately. Students must provide an emergency alert phone number (cell phone number) on [Student Link](#) *EACH SEMESTER* prior to registration
- **Immunizations:** Massachusetts requires that all full-time students complete a series of immunizations (outlined on the Student Health Services [website](#)). You are informed of this requirement when you enroll at Boston University and we remind you of this each year. Please check Student Link to see if SHS has received the appropriate documentation.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination:** Boston University is requiring that all students attending classes or engaging in person on campus must be vaccinated prior to August 1 and submit documentation. BU is offering free vaccine clinics to students who are not able to become vaccinated prior to their arrival on campus. For more information and specific instructions please visit [Back 2BU](#). Students are also required to upload proof of vaccination onto their [Healthway account](#).
- **Photo Release:** All students must complete [waiver](#) the upon matriculation.

Office of the Registrar

If you need to change any personal information on your student account, including preferred names and pronouns you may do so by visiting the [Office of the Registrar Website](#).

Transcript Requests

For information on [requesting a transcript](#), please refer to the [Office of the University Registrar](#) website on the Charles River Campus. Your AADSAS transcript request form can be included when ordering either in person or electronically.

Important Student Support Service Links

General BU and GMS Links

- [GMS and OHS](#)
- [GMS Policies, Procedures & Handbook](#)
- [BU Main Site](#)
- [BUMC](#)
- [BUMC Safety Services](#)
- [Parking & Transportation.](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Behavioral Medicine](#)
- [Disability Services](#)
- [Student Counseling Center](#)
- [The Center for Anxiety & Related Disorders](#)

Dental Related Links

- [BU School of Dental Medicine](#)
- [American Student Dental Assoc](#)
- [Metropolitan District Dental Society \(MA dental\)](#)
- [BUSDM Community Health Programs](#)
- [CREEDD](#)
- [MA Hispanic Dental Association Boston Chapter](#)
- [MA Coalition for Oral Health](#)
- [MA Dept. of Health and Human Services – Oral Health Division](#)

Student Services

- [GMS Student Organizations](#)
- [GMS Disability & Access Services](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Fitrec](#)
- [Fuller Gym](#)
- [Office of Housing Resources](#)
- [Alumni Medical Library](#)
- [Office of the Ombuds](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)

STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Graduate Medical Sciences Organizations

Graduate Medical Sciences Student Organization GMSSO

The purpose of the GMSSO is to bring students together from all departments and programs of GMS, to share ideas, and to pursue common student issues with a combined voice. The GMSSO meets once per month (every second Wednesday) and consists of one or two representatives (PhD, MA, or MS) from each program. Representatives keep the information flowing between faculty and graduate students. They can be reached at gmsso@bu.edu



Science and Technology in Public Policy (STEPUP)

The [Science and Technology in Public Policy](#) group at Boston University is committed to fostering a community of scientists engaged in public policy.

Student Advisory Board

The GMS Student Advisory Board meets a few times per semester to discuss pressing issues with the GMS Staff that impact all graduate student life at BUMC.

Women's Professional Development Committee (WPDC)

The [Women's Professional Development Committee](#) provides a supportive space to host professional development opportunities for graduate-level women in science at Boston University through establishing and cultivating a network of exemplary mentorship with women in a diversity of scientific careers.

Student Wellness Committee (SWC)

The [Student Wellness Committee](#) provides wellness resources and activities in collaboration with GMS Student Affairs and other MED campus Student Affairs offices to all GMS students.

GSDM Student Organizations

OHS Students Can Join

[American Association of Public Health Dentistry, BU Chapter \(AAPHD\)](#) (email: aaphd@bu.edu)

[Hispanic Student Dental Association, BU Chapter \(HSDA\)](#) (email: hsda@bu.edu)

[Persian Student Dental Association \(PSDA\)](#) (email: psda@bu.edu)

[Student National Dental Association, BU Chapter \(SNDA\)](#) (email: snada@bu.edu)

Non-GMS Sponsored Groups on Medical Campus

[BU Medical Campus Pride](#)

[BUMC OUT & Ally List](#)

Groups/Resources on Charles River Campus

[Boston University Postdoctoral Affairs \(BU PDA\)](#)

[Graduate Student Organization \(GSO\)](#)

[Graduate Women in Science and Engineering \(GWISE\)](#)

[Underrepresented Graduate Student Organization \(UGSO\)](#)

[Boston University's Queer Activist Collective, "Q"](#)

[Center for Gender, Sexuality & Activism \(CGSA\)](#)

GRADUATE MEDICAL SCIENCES OFFICE RESOURCES

Graduate Medical Sciences at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) is a recognized leader in research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences. It is home to over 900+ students from 33 fields of study, with interdisciplinary programs in many areas. Students pursue Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degrees in 15 departments and programs. M.A. or M.S. degrees may be earned in many of the basic science as well as health profession related fields such as Medical Sciences, Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine, Clinical Investigation, Biomedical Imaging and Genetic Counseling.

GMS is located in the historic South End of Boston in the hub of a modern urban academic health center, [Boston University Medical Center](#) (BUMC), which includes [Boston University School of Medicine](#), [Boston University School of Public Health](#) and the [Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine](#). Also on campus is [Boston Medical Center](#), one of Boston's leading teaching hospitals and the primary teaching affiliate of BUSM. Together, these institutions boast a world-class [faculty](#) with many established collaborations between clinical and basic science investigators.

GMS Mission Statement

GMS trains future professionals to think critically and use evidence to solve problems, to effectively communicate their ideas, to uphold the highest ethical standards, and to promote excellence and integrity in their respective professions. Our PhD and Master's students are trained as scientists who will utilize their knowledge and skills to lead in their chosen professions whether it is biomedical research, education, public policy, business development or some other career. With issues related to health, science and technology having a larger impact on everyday life, GMS' overriding goals are to

assure that all our graduates advance science and health in today's society and that they are positioned to provide leadership in the 21st century.

E-Mail Communications

Throughout your studies at GMS, you will regularly receive important information from the GMS office, the OHS program, and course directors that will be e-mailed to your BU e-mail address. If you wish to use another e-mail server, be sure to forward your BU e-mail account's mail to your preferred e-mail account.

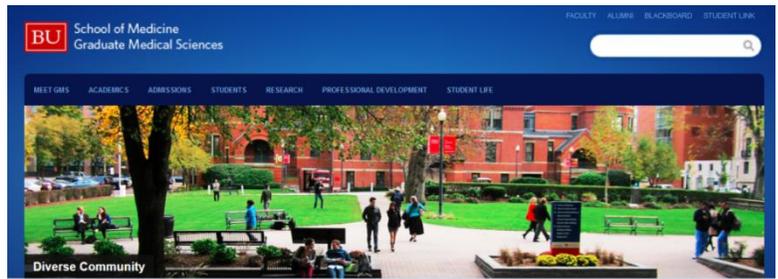
GMS Office Contact Information

Throughout your studies in OHS, you will have many interactions with the staff in the GMS office. GMS will be an important resource for information throughout your graduate career. Following is a list of the GMS staff and a synopsis of who to contact for your specific needs. For specific questions or concerns, please refer to the following Division Office faculty/staff members.

GMS CONTACTS	
Office Mailing Address Boston University School of Medicine Graduate Medical Sciences 72 East Concord Street, L-317, Boston, MA 02118	T: 617-358-9518 Contact: krarena@bu.edu
Dr. Deborah Stearns-Kurosawa, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine	Associate Provost/Dean ad interim, GMS
Dr. Gregory Viglianti Associate Professor of Microbiology	Assistant Dean, GMS Operations gviglian@bu.edu
Dr. Theresa Davies, Ph.D. Director, Oral Health Sciences Program Assistant Dean, GMS Masters Programs Assistant Professor of Medical Sciences & Education tdavies@bu.edu 617-358-9546	Program Director, Advising, Mentoring, Thesis, Capstone, AADSAS support, Enrichment, Study Skills, Registration, Graduation,
Christina Bowley, M.A. , OHS Program Manager ohs@bu.edu cbowley@bu.edu	Registration, admissions, advising, general inquiries, enrichments, tutors, DentMent, Review schedules
Ms. Kimberly Arena Associate Director, Graduate Student Affairs Executive Assistant to the Associate Provost krarena@bu.edu	GMS Student Affairs, events, and programming, Orientation, Commencement, Student Orgs, Our Community Cupboard, Diversity Equity Inclusion
Ms. Karen Francis , Assistant Registrar, L309 kfrancis@bu.edu Ms. Mildred Agosto , Registrar, L309 millie@bu.edu	Registration, Tuition & Fees, Transfer of Credit, Class adjustment, Leave of Absence, Withdrawal, Diploma application, Thesis format review/submission/
Shuchita Rao, M.S. srao2019@bu.edu	Admissions, Official transcripts, ISSO paperwork
Student Financial Services osfs-gms@bu.edu Robinson B-401	Financial aid (federal, private, training grants)
Dr. Mina Moussavi, Director Professional and Career Development Assistant Professor, Physiology & Biophysics mmoussa@bu.edu	Professional Development, masters, PhD and post-doctoral trainees

The GMS Website

The [GMS Website](#) has information from Orientation to Commencement, as well as everything in between!



Financial Aid

Students applying for Financial Aid must submit the following:

1. FAFSA (may be filed at www.fafsa.ed.gov). Boston University's title IV code is 002130.
2. Boston University Loan Application ([Federal Direct Loan Application](#))
3. Entrance interview and electronically sign a master promissory note.

Please see the GMS Student Handbook for additional details, the [financial aid page on the website](#) and/or speak to Financial Services osfs-gms@bu.edu

Transportation/TransComm/Public Safety

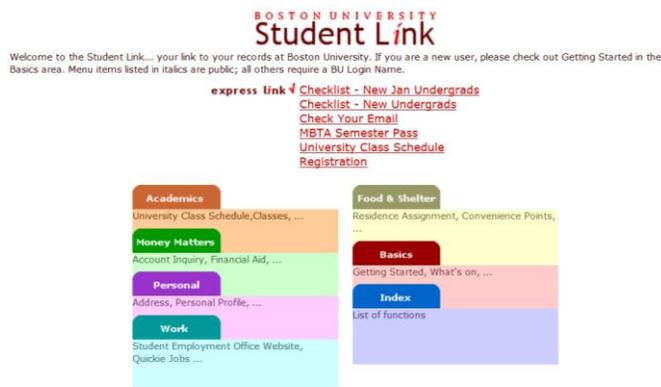
Please consult the TransComm [website](#) for:

The [BUMC Public Safety Department](#) is responsible for providing a safe and secure environment and minimizing the opportunity for loss of personal and institutional assets. The BUMC Public Safety Department is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is one Command and Control Center located at 750 Albany Street and can be reached at **617-414-4444**. Please add this number to your cell phone address book for easy access in case of an emergency. More public safety information can be found in the GMS Student Handbook or on their website.

The BUS: FREE Shuttle between campuses	Zipcar Public Safety Escort	Evening Transit "T" Shuttle Bicycles and Bike Rack Locations
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ACADEMIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Student Link



[Student Link](#), accessed with your login and Kerberos password, is an access point to the University Class Schedule, online class registration, personal information, financial account, tuition, and fees and much more.

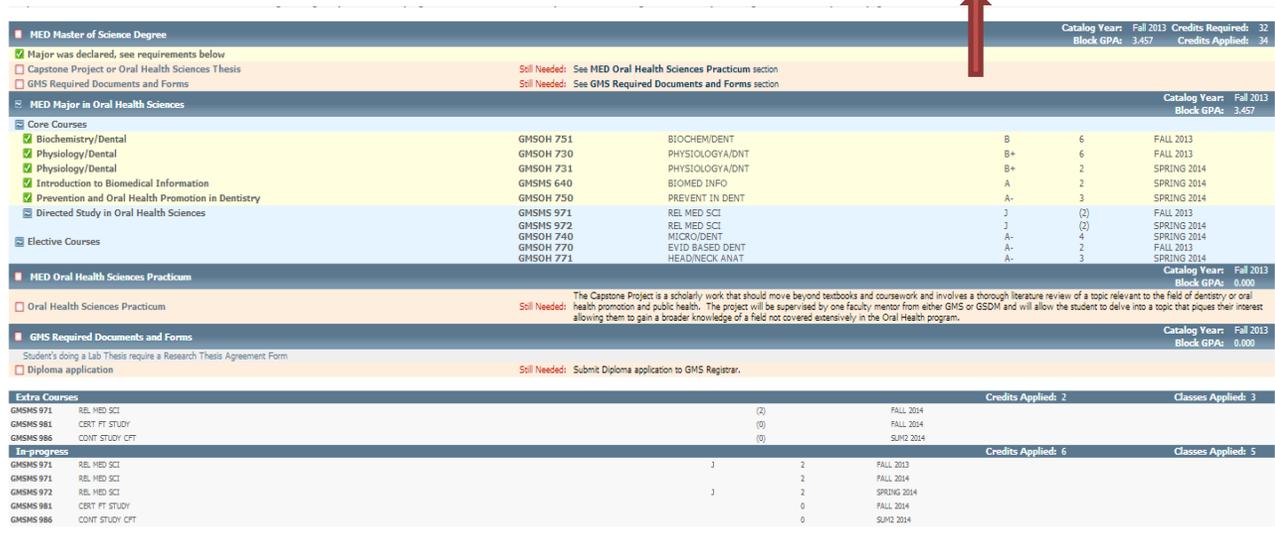
Blackboard Learn

Blackboard contains sites for all the courses offered by GMS. Login in to [Blackboard](#) with your username and Kerberos password for course announcements, lecture materials and updated class schedules.

OHS Blackboard site: There is a Blackboard site – 2021 Oral Health Sciences Program – where much of the information your need will be posted throughout the year. Please check it regularly.

Degree Advice

[Personal Profile](#) | [Current Schedule](#) | [Classes](#) | [Grades](#) | [Transcript Preview](#) | [Student Notes](#) | [Academic Summary](#) | [External Credits & Test Scores](#) | [Degree Program History](#) | [Degree Advice](#) | [International Verification](#) | [Compliance](#)



Course Name	ID	Description	Grade	Credits	Semester/Year
Biochemistry/Dental	GMSOH 751	BIOCHEM/DENT	B	6	FALL 2013
Physiology/Dental	GMSOH 730	PHYSIOLOGY/DNT	B+	6	FALL 2013
Physiology/Dental	GMSOH 731	PHYSIOLOGY/DNT	B+	2	SPRING 2014
Introduction to Biomedical Information	GMSMS 640	BIOMED INFO	A	2	SPRING 2014
Prevention and Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry	GMSOH 750	PREVENT IN DENT	A-	3	SPRING 2014
Directed Study in Oral Health Sciences	GMSMS 971	REL MED SCI	J	(2)	FALL 2013
	GMSMS 972	REL MED SCI	J	(2)	SPRING 2014
	GMSOH 740	MICRO/DENT	A-	4	SPRING 2014
	GMSOH 770	EVID BASED DENT	A-	2	FALL 2013
	GMSOH 771	HEAD/NECK ANAT	A-	3	SPRING 2014

Category	Credits Applied	Classes Applied
Extra Courses	2	3
In-progress	6	5

Degree Advice is a tool for students and student advisors to follow the progression of degree requirement completion. This tool can be found within [Student Link](#).

The Alumni Medical Library



The Alumni Medical Library is located in the Instructional (L) Building of the Medical School on the 11th, 12th, and 13th floors. Please visit the Alumni Medical Library [website](#) for more information.

Print/Copy Card Policy

The Alumni Medical Library provides [a print/copy service](#) for all BUSM students. With an ID, students are eligible for up to 100 pages (200 when double-sided) of print or copy during each of the two following time periods: January 1 – June 30 and July 1 – December 31. [See MyPrint System](#)

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES (INCLUDING FITREC MEMBERSHIP)

Student Health Services



[Student Health Services](#) is designed to help meet your health care needs while at BU. They offer medical services, a crisis intervention counselor, chiropractic care, and [behavioral medicine \(mental health\) services](#). Student Health Services is located at the Charles River Campus at 881 Commonwealth Avenue: phone 617-353-3575. Please see the GMS Student Handbook for more information.

[Behavioral Medicine \(Mental Health\)](#) services for students is available on the Medical Campus. All full-time students are eligible for care, regardless of health insurance. Part-time students who have Aetna Student Health insurance also are eligible.

The clinic is located in the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Building, 85 E. Newton St., Suite 816. Initially, it will be staffed two days per week by clinicians not affiliated with the Medical Campus. Hours may increase with demand. The location was chosen specifically to be mindful of maintaining student privacy and confidentiality.

Medical Campus

Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center
85 East Newton Street, Room 816
Boston, MA 02215
Phone: 617-353-3569

Monday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Medical Insurance

By state law, students must have medical insurance. **You will automatically be charged for health insurance unless you verify and complete an insurance waiver on [Student Link](#).** The [medical insurance coverage offered by Boston University](#) is through Aetna and is effective August 15, 2021 to August 14, 2022. Boston University offers the Student BASIC Plan and the Student PLUS Plan. New graduate students may waive participation until September 30, 2021. The deadline for covered students to upgrade from the BASIC Plan to the Student PLUS plan is also September 30, 2021. To waive or upgrade, please visit [Student Link](#). For more information about health insurance, please consult the [student accounting services website](#).



Students may receive dental insurance through [BU Goldman School of Dental Medicine's Student Discount Program, as well as through Aetna](#).

Option 1: [Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine – Student Discount Program](#)

Option 2: [Aetna Student Health – Dental Discount Program – Vital Savings on DentalSM](#)

Recreation Options

BUMC Fuller Gym

Access to the [Fuller Gym](#) court and recreational area has been granted to the BUMC community, as part of a campus wide pilot program. All BUMC students, staff and faculty now have access to the space from 4-10 p.m., six days a week (gym is closed on Tuesdays). The court can be used for pick-up basketball, volleyball, soccer, and other group sports. Basketball, soccer, dodge balls as well as volleyball equipment are available in the storage closet with swipe card access.

Fitness classes will run each semester. Student must sign up for the BUMC FitPass to participate in classes while all students must sign the waiver

BU Fitness and Recreation Center

Boston University Physical Education, Recreation & Dance



Fitness & Recreation Center

Boston University's [Fitness and Recreation Center](#) is located on the Charles River Campus and is easily accessible by the BUS and membership is automatically granted to all students enrolled full-time. The building provides approximately 270,000 square feet of space, supporting physical education, non-credit courses, intramurals, club sports, student organizations, and much more.

Lockers

Coat and book lockers are available for assignment on a yearly basis to first year, full-time, graduate students. If you wish to be assigned one of these lockers, please email Jorge Fortin (fortin@bu.edu). **All lockers must be emptied by June 1 unless notified otherwise.** At that time, the BUSM Maintenance Office will clear out anything remaining in the locker in preparation for the 2022/23 academic year.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING GRADUATE STUDY

The general regulations concern all graduate students. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the general regulations and the specific requirements of their individual programs. [Please review the GMS website, GMS Student Handbook and the Student's Policies, Procedures and Handbook page](#) for detailed information pertaining to registration, orientation, graduation as well as compliance. Please refer to the GMS Student Handbook for the following issues: