Master's Program in Oral Health Sciences

STUDENT HANDBOOK2023 - 2024



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INTRODUCTION TO THE ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM

Welcome to the Oral Health Sciences Program (OHS) in Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian 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, not by memorizing facts but by 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 DMD courses at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (BUGSDM) as well as courses offered through Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine. Two of the DMD courses — Physiology and Biochemistry - will be in a 50:50 live attendance/streaming format; meaning you will attend 50% of the course in-person and 50% via viewing of a live stream of class sessions. In addition, optional course work is available in a variety of disciplines, including public health, evidence-based dentistry, and clinical research. This MS degree 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 MS in Medical Sciences (MAMS) program. Since the OHS program's inception, over 300 students have completed the Program and over 93% have been accepted to the US dental schools. Due to its great success and increased recognition, in 2013 the OHS track became its own independent MS 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

College of Dental Medicine-Arizona
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's College of Dental Medicine –
Illinois

New York University College of Dentistry
Temple University-Kornberg School of Dentistry
Touro College of Dental Medicine, New York Medical Col
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 the Pacific, School Dugoni of Dentistry University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine University of Southern California, Herman Ostrow School Dentistry University of Tennessee College of Dentistry University of Washington School of Dentistry Western University of Health Sciences, College of

Please see the website for Student Testimonials.

Program Directors, Advisors, & Administrators:

Dental Medicine

Theresa A. Davies, PhD, Program Director, Student Advisor, Assistant Dean, Graduate Medical Sciences and Clinical Associate 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 within the OHS Program office suite located at R1017.

Aaron W. Young, PhD , Assistant Director, Student Advisor, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology, & Biophysics. Dr. Young can be contacted by email at youngaw@bu.edu, by phone at 617-358-8480, in his main office located in W408i (700 Albany St.), or in the OHS Program office suite located in R1017.

Karen Bottenfield, PhD, Senior Academic Program Manager, Student Advisor, can be contacted by phone at (617) 358-0922, by email at karenrb@bu.edu, or in her office within the main OHS Program office suite in R1017D

Andrew Best, Program Manager can be reached at 617-358-9509, by email at andy95@bu.edu, or in his office located at the entrance to the OHS Program office suite in R1017A.

Haya Herscovitz, Program Faculty, is involved with thesis and capstones mentoring, as well as mock interviews. She can reached by phone at (617) 638-4012 or haya@bu.edu.

Elizabeth Duffy, Program Faculty, Course Director for Applied Histology and is involved with thesis and capstone mentoring. She can be reached by phone at (617) 358-2677 or eschul@bu.edu

Course Directors for Core Courses:

<u>Theresa A. Davies, PhD</u>, Course Director of **Evidence Based Dentistry** and Faculty Educator for DMD Biochemistry <u>Aaron W. Young, PhD</u>, Course Director of **Applied Physiology**; Faculty Educator for **DMD Physiology** <u>William Lehman, PhD</u>, Professor and Chair of Pharmacology, Physiology, & Biophysics; Course Director of **DMD**Physiology

Ratnakar Deole, PhD, Microbiology Faculty; Course Director, DMD Microbiology and Immunology

<u>Barbara Schreiber, PhD,</u> Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Biochemistry; Course Director of **DMD Biochemistry**

<u>Elizabeth Duffy, MA,</u> Assistant Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Sciences and Program Director, MS in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Course Director of **Applied Histology**

Karen Bottenfield, PhD, Senior Academic Program Manager, Oral Health Sciences Program; Co-Course Director,

Biomedical Information

<u>David Flynn, MS (LIS)</u>, Head of Library & Information Management Education; Co-Course Director, **Biomedical Information**; Assistant Professor, Medical Sciences & Education

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

Ashwini Ranade, PhD, MPH, BDS, New Health Policy & Health Services Research Faculty; Co-Course Director DMD Prevention and Oral Health Promotion in Dentistry

Brian Moore, MD, Med, Clinical Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Course Director, DMD Pathology

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the MS 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 50:50 live attendance-streaming format where 2 weeks a month, students attend classes in-person with 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 in-person. All DMD courses are recorded and live streamed. GMS courses are not recorded or live streamed, and in person 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 attendance-stream format.

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 attendance-stream format.

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. [2cr] This course is taken with the DMD I students and will be in a blended 50:50 live attendance-stream format.

Other Required Courses Offered Through GMS Include:

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. [3cr] This course is taken at the dental school and taught by GSDM faculty.

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 capstone and 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]

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

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

Elective Courses

Fall Semester

GMS OH 735 APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY, 1ST SEMESTER

Prereq: Consent of Instructor; must be in the Oral Health Sciences program. This course is comprised of a series of system-based modules: Molecular, Cellular, and Neurophysiology; Muscle and Cardiovascular System; Respiratory System, Hematology, and Thermoregulation; Gastrointestinal System; and Renal System. In contrast to the Dental Physiology course (MD514/OH730) which delivers physiology content in a largely lecture-based format, this course

emphasizes the context of normal human physiology and highlights important physiological mechanisms that are targets for pathophysiology and therapies, utilizing a case/problem-based approach, with students working in small groups/teams. The course will be coordinated with the Dental Physiology course to integrate and reinforce the physiology content being covered within that course. The application of physiology, as one of the scientific foundations of dentistry, will aid the Oral Health Sciences (OHS) student in developing skills necessary to establish a therapeutic relationship with their future patients and develop appropriate treatment plans. Knowledge of normal physiology will enhance the ability to recognize pathophysiology. [2cr]

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]

GMS MA 640: CULTURAL FORMATION OF THE CLINICIAN: ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE 15T 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]

GMS MS 701 CLINICAL SKILLS IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The major goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding and experience in the fundamental methods and techniques commonly employed in the clinical biomedicals sciences. Emphasis is placed on the client/patient relationship, attending and listening skills, cognitive, affective, and behavioral counseling interventions, role-playing activities, and the concerns commonly expressed by beginning biomedical science professionals.[2cr]

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]

Spring Semester

DMD COURSE: GMS OH 740 MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY, 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.

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.

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]

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]

GMS MS 700 BIOSTATISTICS, 1^{ST,} AND 2ND SEMESTER

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

GMS MS 600 INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP, 2ND SEMESTER

This course focuses on the basic principles of personal and interpersonal leadership as they relate to the wide range of biomedical and health science careers that BU graduates may enter. We will explore the areas of voice, vision, emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, teamwork and more. The material presented in this course will give way to the 5 practices of exemplary leaders that can be applied to nay expertise area, but particularly for this course the biomedical research and health sciences areas. [2cr]

Sample Program Timeline 1 Year Path to Dental School Submit Enter Interview **Enter Dental School** AADSAS OHS Fall Spring Sum Sum Y1 Y1 III 2024 >2024 2023 2025 2024 2025 Fall Fall Spring Spring Sum Sum Y1 Y1 II **Y2** Y2 **Enter Dental** Enter Retake DAT Interview School OHS Submit AADSAS 2 Year Path to Dental School

Sample Curriculums

*Most Common Curriculum, 1-year Completion

August ('23) to August ('24) with graduation in August 2024

NOTE: DMD I Courses | *Required Courses | *Common Elective Courses

Complete AADSAS in June/July prior to matriculating to OHS		
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 735 Applied Physiology (2 cr)	*OH 771 Head and Neck Anatomy (3 cr)	
	*OH 710 Applied Histology (2cr) (strongly recommended with Path)	
	*OH 740 Microbiology (4cr) or *OH 700 Pathology (4cr)	
	*OH 685 Infectious Disease (3cr) OR OH 710 Histology (2cr) (new)	
*MS 600 Introduction to Leadership (2cr)		
Summer I	Summer II	
OH 971 (Capstone) (2cr)	MS 986 Continuing Student (Capstone)	

Sample Curriculum, 1.5-year Completion

August ('23) to December ('24) with Graduation in January 2025

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 735 Applied Physiology (2 cr)	*OH 771 Head and Neck Anatomy (3 cr)
	*OH 710 Applied Histology (2cr) (strongly recommended with Path)
	*OH 740 Microbiology (4cr) or *OH 700 Pathology (4cr)
	MS 600 Introduction to Leadership (2cr)
	*OH 685 Infectious Disease (3cr)
Summer I	Summer II
Summer I AADSAS in June/July retake DATs if needed	MS 986 Capstone or OH 972 Thesis (2cr)
AADSAS in June/July retake DATs if needed	
AADSAS in June/July retake DATs if needed Fall 2	
AADSAS in June/July retake DATs if needed Fall 2 Fall	
AADSAS in June/July retake DATs if needed Fall 2 Fall MS 985 Capstone or OH 971 Thesis (2cr) OR	

Sample Curriculum 2-year Completion

August ('23) to May ('25) with Graduation in May 2025

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 735 Applied Physiology (2 cr)	*OH 771 Head and Neck Anatomy (3 cr)	
	*OH 710 Applied Histology (2cr) (strongly recommended with Path)	
	*OH 740 Microbiology (4cr) or *OH 700 Pathology (4cr)	
	*OH 685 Infectious Disease (3cr)	
	MS 600 Introduction to Leadership (2cr)	
Summer I	Summer II	
Complete AADSAS in June/July retake DATs if needed		
Complete AADSA	AS in June/July retake DATs if needed	
Complete AADSA Fall 2	AS in June/July retake DATs if needed Spring 2	
•		
Fall 2	Spring 2	
Fall 2 MS 985 Capstone or OH 971 Thesis (2-4 cr)	Spring 2 MS 986 Capstone or OH 972 Thesis (2cr)	
Fall 2 MS 985 Capstone or OH 971 Thesis (2-4 cr) Additional Elective(s)	Spring 2 MS 986 Capstone or OH 972 Thesis (2cr) Additional Elective(s)	

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 <u>GMS Forms page</u>.
 Deadlines for all form submissions are found on the <u>Graduation calendars here</u>.
- Length:
 - o 45 pages minimum for Literature-based
 - o 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 <u>OHS Student Forms page</u> 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 <u>Thesis and Capstone Webpage</u> 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 according to guidelines found on the <u>OHS website</u>. More information about Turnitin can be on the bottom of the GMS Thesis & Dissertation page <u>here</u>.
- General information regarding GMS Thesis guidelines can be found on the Research, Thesis, Capstone and Dissertation Information webpage.

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 <u>Capstone Project Form</u> must be submitted. The paper should ask a question, provide data that will be evaluated to answer that question, and then offer a discussion and conclusion. 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 <u>Student Forms page</u> 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

- Due date for submission of the final paper ~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 (August 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 and Published Studies sections (10-12 pages)
- Discussion (including your personal insights) (3-5 pages)
- Conclusions (1 paragraph 1 page)
- References (minimum of 15)
- Paper must meet all format requirements, be checked for plagiarism on Turnitin (<u>information found here</u>) and be submitted along with the Capstone Checklist. Please see the <u>website for additional details</u>.

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, 10hr/wk studying for remediation, etc.).
- 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 August, 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 1st. For August and January graduation, students must submit the diploma application by May 1 and October 1, respectively. Please check the 2024 MA & MA graduation calendars here for any changes. 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/July 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, Assistant Program Director, and the Senior Academic Program Manager.

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 <u>Disability & Access Services</u> 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 letters 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's for the DMD courses on Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout both
semesters for the DMD courses for all OHS. These sessions are optional but strongly encouraged. There are also
group tutoring sessions offered for Biochemistry and Physiology to help students acclimate to the program. Sessions
are taught by OHS alumni who are D1 students at BUGSDM.

Tutoring

- One-on-one tutoring is available 2 hours/wk for any OHS student who struggles in a course. The cost is covered by OHS and continues throughout the semester.
- Occasionally group tutoring is also provided for students who need work on test taking skills or work on larger conceptual content that is better studied in small groups led by a tutor.
- Tutors are current D1 or D2 students who are OHS alumni.

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 a Big Sib
 program which is similar but more social.
- These mentors along with the tutors serve to support current OHS students and provide invaluable resources whether social or academic.



OHS Class Blackboard Site

Materials to support you in addition to Group Tutoring, TA Review Sessions, DentMent Meetings, and other Enrichment Programming are available in the <u>2023 OHS Blackboard Course Site</u>. We encourage you to use this site often as a resource as we will post material there often.

OHS Google Calendar

Additionally, we will keep the OHS Google Calendar up-to-date with any changes to scheduling so please review that regularly as well.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

GMS Academic Policy and Procedures

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the general <u>Policies of Graduate Medical Sciences and Boston University</u> as well as the program-specific requirements set forth in this document. You should have already read and signed the <u>GMS Academic Conduct Code & Disciplinary Procedures</u>.

OHS Academic Policy and Procedures

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the general OHS Academic Policies and Procedures which can be found here.

Incoming and Continuing Students Requirements

BU Student Health Services

Student Health Insurance

All students must have health insurance. This can be through a preexisting plan (coverage through a parent or guardian's plan, coverage through a partner's plan, etc.) or BU's graduate student 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 own, preexisting insurance or the BU graduate student Aetna 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 Medicine on the Medical Campus

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

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 for courses.

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

Graduate Medical Sciences
Boston University School of Medicine
Attn: Admissions
72 East Concord Street, L-317
Boston, MA 02118, U.S.A.

Compliance Requirements:

To register for courses at Boston University, all students 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 MyBU.

- **Send Word Now**: BU uses an on-demand emergency 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 MyBU EACH SEMESTER prior to registration
- Immunizations: Massachusetts requires that all full-time students complete a series of immunizations (outlined on the Student Health Services <u>website</u>). You are informed of this requirement when you enroll at Boston University. Please check <u>MyBU</u> to see if SHS has received the appropriate documentation.
- Photo Release: All students must complete waiver the upon matriculation available in your onboarding documents on Blackboard.

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

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
- Community Catalyst Center

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
- C3 Center

For information on <u>requesting a transcript</u>, please refer to the <u>Office of the University Registrar</u> 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

STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Graduate Medical Sciences Organizations

Graduate Medical Sciences Student Organization GMSSO

The purpose of the <u>GMSSO</u> 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 <u>Science and Technology in Public Policy</u> group at Boston University is committed to fostering a community of scientists engaged in public policy.

Student Advisory Board (SAC)

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 <u>Women's Professional Development Committee</u> 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 <u>Student Wellness Committee</u> 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 the Following DMD Student Orgs

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: snda@bu.edu)

Non-GMS Sponsored Groups on Medical Campus

BU Medical Campus Pride BUMC OUT & Ally List C3 gPLUS in GMS

Groups/Resources on Charles River Campus

Newbury Center

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 the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine 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 PhD, MD/PhD, or MD/JD degrees in 15 departments and programs. MA or MS degrees may be earned in many of the foundational sciences, as well as health professions-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, <u>Boston University Medical Campus</u> (BUMC), which includes the <u>Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine</u>, the <u>Boston University School of Public Health</u> and the <u>Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine</u>. <u>Boston Medical Center</u>, one of Boston's leading teaching hospitals and the primary teaching affiliate of the Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine (BMC operates 67 residency training programs with 679 resident and fellowship positions) is also located on campus.. Together, these institutions boast <u>a world class faculty</u> with many established collaborations between clinical and foundational 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 sent 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

T: 617-358-9518

Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Contact: krarena@bu.edu

Medicine

Graduate Medical Sciences

72 East Concord Street, L-317, Boston, MA 02118

Contact List:

Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology, & Biophysics Gregory Vigilanti, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Microbiology Dr. Theresa Davies, Ph.D. Director, Oral Health Sciences Program Assistant Dean, GMS Masters Programs Clinical Associate Professor, Medical Sciences Education tdavies@bu.edu 617-358-9546 Dr. Aaron W. Young, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology, Stipphysics Youngaw@bu.edu 617-358-8480 Andrew Best, M.A. OHS Program Manager ohs@bu.edu andy95@bu.edu 617-358-9509 Karen Bottenfield, Ph.D. Senior Academic Program Manager karenrb@bu.edu 617-358-0922 Kimberly Arena, MEd Director, Graduate Student Affairs Executive Assistant to the Associate Provost Karen Fancis, Assistant Registrar, L309 kfrancis@bu.edu Midred Agosto, Registrar, L309 millie@bu.edu Student Financial Services osfs.gms@bu.edu Robinson B-401 Community Catalyst Center Cacenter@bu.edu Professional development, DEI event, workshops, masters, PhD and post-doctoral trainees	C. James McKnight, Ph.D.	Associate Provost/Dean, GMS
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Community Catalyst Center Professional development, DEI event, workshops,		Financial aid (federal, private, training grants)
c3center@bu.edu masters, PhD and post-doctoral trainees	, ,	Professional development, DEI event, workshops,
	c3center@bu.edu	masters, PhD and post-doctoral trainees

The GMS Website

The <u>GMS Website</u> 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 https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa). 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 <u>financial aid page on the website</u> and/or speak to Financial Services <u>osfs-gms@bu.edu</u>

Transportation (TranSComm) & Public Safety

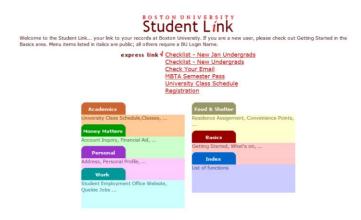
Please consult the <u>BUMC & BMC Parking & Transportation Services website</u> for information regarding the many transportation resources for Boston University Medical Campus (BUMC) and Boston Medical Center (BMC) patients, visitors, employees, and students.

The BUS: FREE	Zipcar	Evening Transit "T" Shuttle
Shuttle between		D: 1 101 0 1
campuses	<u>Public Safety</u>	Bicycles and Bike Rack
	<u>Escort</u>	<u>Locations</u>

The <u>BUMC Public Safety Department</u> 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.

ACADEMIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES

MyBU



MyBU Student Portal, 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 <u>Blackboard</u> with your username and Kerberos password for course announcements, lecture materials and updated class schedules.

OHS Blackboard site: There is a Blackboard site specific to the OHS program – 2023 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



Degree Advice is a tool for students and student advisors to follow the progression of degree requirement completion. This tool can be found within the MyBU Student Portal.

The Alumni Medical Library



The Alumni Medical Library is located in the Instructional (L) Building of the Medical School on the 12th floor. 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 BUMC 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. BU Student Health Services 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) All full-time students are eligible for care, regardless of health insurance. Parttime students who have Aetna Student Health insurance also are eligible.

Please use Patient Connect to arrange an appointment.

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 MyBU. The medical insurance coverage offered by Boston University is through Aetna and is effective August 12, 2023 to August 14, 2024. Boston University offers the Student BASIC Plan and the Student PLUS Plan. New graduate students may waive participation until September 30, 2023. The deadline for covered students to upgrade from the BASIC Plan to the Student



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

PLUS plan is also September 30, 2023. To waive or upgrade, please visit MyBU For more information about

Option 2: Aetna Student Health – Dental Discount Program – Vital Savings on DentalSM

health insurance, please consult the student accounting services website.

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



Boston University's <u>Fitness and Recreation Center</u> 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 Grace Umerani (ugrace@bu.edu). All lockers must be emptied by June 1 unless notified otherwise. At that time, the BUMC Maintenance Office will clear out anything remaining in the locker in preparation for the 2023/24 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. Also please make note of these general policies regarding professionalism and reporting as needed.

OHS Academic Professionalism

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty, integrity and personal conduct in accordance with Boston University's <u>Student Rights & Responsibilities</u>. It is the responsibility of every OHS student to conduct themselves professionally and responsibly.

Students who are found to be in violation of these standards will be held responsible according to Boston University's guidelines.

Student's basic responsibilities include, but are not limited to, respecting the rights of others,
 respecting the property of others and the University, and refraining from actions that endanger the health, safety, or welfare of any member of the University community or its guests.

Failure to fulfill any of these responsibilities is a basis for disciplinary action under the Code and Academic Regulations of the Boston University.

GMS FAIR EXPECTATIONS for all graduate students

GMS fosters an environment that is diverse, inclusive, and antiracist. Pre-doctoral training at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine includes both didactic course work in a focused area and an apprenticeship in which the graduate student trains under the supervision of one or more faculty members who are qualified to fulfill the responsibilities of a mentor. Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS), home of the graduate programs at the School, supports the assertion that a positive mentoring relationship between the predoctoral student and the research advisor is a critical component of the student's preparation to becoming an independent and successful scientific professional. Further details can be found here in the Fair Expectations Document.

APPROPRIATE TREATMENT IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

The <u>ATGE document</u> is intended to define the behaviors expected by community members of the Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine in the workplace, laboratory, clinic and classroom. GMS is committed to providing a work and educational environment that is supportive of all personnel, and is professional, collegial, and conducive to providing exceptional training in teaching, research and patient care. We strive to provide environments in which our students, trainees, staff and faculty can flourish.

The school places a high priority on the appropriate treatment of its community and affiliated members, and provides a mechanism for both open and confidential resolution of complaints from students, post-doctoral fellows, staff and faculty by conducting thorough, prompt, and impartial investigation.