Master of Science in Medical Anthropology & Cross-Cultural Practice

Program Overview

The MS in Medical Anthropology & Cross-Cultural Practice (MACCP) prepares interdisciplinary scholars and clinicians to advance research and practice that better serves the growing cultural and medical pluralism in the United States and around the world.

Recognizing that human experiences of affliction, suffering and sickness are influenced by historical, cultural and biological factors, medical anthropologists use analytical frameworks (social, cultural, political, gender, and racial/ethnic) to explore human health and diseases, health care systems and bio-cultural adaptation.

As globalization brings about an increasingly interconnected world, the work of medical anthropologists, and our understanding of how cultures and societies are organized and influenced by issues of health and health care, has become increasingly important. Accordingly, the MACCP program philosophy is to prepare graduates to engage with the world not just as an academics, but also as activists and allies.

Program Highlights

- We have a 95.45% success rate in graduates finding training-related jobs within one to six months of completing the program, or entering further graduate study in academia or clinical training.
- You can complete this 60-credit program as a transitional degree toward doctoral-level training, or as a terminal degree. You can earn the degree full-time in two years, or part-time within five years
- During your first year, you will complete a service-learning internship, building rapport with community partners, refining your research question, and exploring potential fieldwork sites
- You will conduct original research and fieldwork in the summer at local sites to support your Master's thesis
- Attend regular Research-In-Progress meetings in the Department of Family Medicine with clinician researchers

Curriculum

Full-time students complete eight courses in the first year and eight in the second year. They participate in a service-learning internship throughout their first academic year, and conduct intensive thesis-related fieldwork during the following summer. The core curriculum incorporates state-of-the-art, advanced training in:

- Theory and its application to medical anthropological research
- Research design and related proposal development for ethics-committee review
- Qualitative and anthropological research and fieldwork methods

- Writing ethnography and ethnographic non-fiction for publication
- Techniques for translating medical anthropological research into clinical applications and services
- Strategies for effective public and professional communication of medical anthropology research through publication and presentations

Required Courses

Course	Credits
History and Theory of Medical Anthropology Part I	3 credits
History and Theory of Medical Anthropology Part II	3 credits
Medical Anthropological & Qualitative Research Methods and Design	3 credits
IRB Proposal Development and Writing	3 credits
Service Learning Internship*	4 credits
Summer Fieldwork Part I	3 credits
Summer Fieldwork Part II	3 credits
Medical Anthropological & Qualitative Data Analysis	3 credits
Reading Ethnography in Medical Anthropology	3 credits
Writing Ethnography in Medical Anthropology	3 credits
Final Writing Project Part I	3 credits
Final Writing Project Part II	3 credits

Students can choose to complete the Service Learning Internship without earning academic credits

A minimum of three elective courses must be selected from those offered within the program. Students also have the option to pursue a 3- or 4-credit independent directed study project within MACCP or to take an elective course from any of those offered within Graduate Medical Sciences. Up to 12 credits can be taken in other parts of the university. We offer program electives on a biannual schedule. For details please visit our website at www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/maccp.

Admissions

While admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, those wishing to begin the program in the fall should complete the program application by July 1. To apply to the program, please visit https://www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/admissions/.

Admissions Requirements

Students may enter this program after completing undergraduate degrees in a variety of majors such as social sciences (including, but not limited to anthropology), or the humanities (including, but not limited to religious studies or history), or from health fields such as medicine, nursing, public health, social work or counseling. In addition to completing the program's online application, you must also submit:

- An official transcript for each college or university attended
- Official test results for TOEFL (for international students)
- Three letters of recommendation
- A written personal statement of no less than 500 words that describes your qualifications and objectives for the program. Please include research activities and membership in related organizations if applicable
- A writing sample
- A Curriculum Vitae

Tuition, Financial Aid and Student Resources

For the most up to date information on tuition and fees, visit https://www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/admissions/student-financial-services/. We provide each student with a Tuition-Reduction Provost's Scholarship for full-time study.

The Financial Aid Office at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine is available to assist students in identifying sources of financial support and tuition remission, including graduate and research assistantships, fellowships, and federal loans.

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

Contact

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