



Boston University School of Medicine
Graduate Medical Sciences



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY



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Program Overview

The M.S. in Forensic Anthropology trains individuals in the theory, practice and methods of biological and skeletal anthropology that are utilized in medicolegal death investigations. While there are many aspects of the program that make it unique, it is one of the only graduate forensic anthropology programs in a department of anatomy at a major medical center. This setting provides faculty and students access to extensive resources and facilities including the following:

- Human Gross Anatomy Laboratory
- Forensic Anthropology Outdoor Research Facility
- Center for Biomedical Imaging
- Boston University Donated Skeletal Collection
- Faculty and Resources in the Department of Radiology, Anthropology and Archaeology and the Biomedical Forensic Sciences program

Boston University's medical campus, home to Boston's largest research park, is in close proximity to several local and state law enforcement laboratories and facilities. Students will have to complete internships, observe autopsies and will benefit from field-based research and learning experiences at a 32-acre outdoor research facility.

Program Highlights:

- Only program of its kind that confers a Master of Science; similar programs offered by other schools confer a Master of Arts
- Full-time, 42-credit program begins in September and is designed to be completed in two calendar years
- Significant opportunities to work with, and learn from, Bioarchaeologists, law enforcement personnel, Board Certified Anthropologists and other experts in related fields
- Access to state-of-the-art laboratory equipment including NMR Spectroscopy, Cryo-Electron Microscopes, X-ray, CT and MRI scanners, and 3D printers
- Access to skeletal remains collections housed at other Boston University School of Medicine and other universities and museums in the Boston area
- All classes are taught by faculty who are experts in physical and biological anthropology, anatomy, osteology, pathology, crime scene investigation, expert witness testimony and forensic sciences
- Field experiences build skills in forensic anthropology field methods, outdoor crime-scene investigation, forensic photography, recovery of skeletal remains, and total station mapping techniques
- Students complete a graduate level research project that culminates into a full-length thesis
- Students may pursue internships at various state and federal crime laboratories and agencies
- Graduates have pursued careers at government or private crime laboratories, state or federal law enforcement agencies, in academic settings or have enrolled in doctoral programs, law school and medical school
- The degree is awarded by Graduate Medical Sciences at Boston University School of Medicine



CURRICULUM

Classes are lecture and laboratory based and the program provides opportunities for internships and directed studies. Completion of the degree requires students to earn a minimum of 42 credits.

REQUIRED COURSES

Fall Year 1:

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| Professional Skills and Thesis Research Development | 3 credits |
| Research in Anthropology | 2 credits |
| History, Methods and Theory in Bio Anthropology | 3 credits |
| Advanced Osteology | 4 credits |
| Special Topics in Forensic Anthropology - Outdoor Crime Scene Awareness | 3 credits |

Spring Year 1:

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| Zooarchaeology | 4 credits |
| Forensic Anthropology Techniques | 3 credits |
| Special Topics in FA: Outdoor Crime Scene Awareness | 3 credits |
| Directed Study: Human Identification (Dental) | 3 credits |
| Research in Anthropology | 3 credits |
| Experimental Design for and Statistics for Forensic Anthropologists | 3 credits |

Fall Year 2:

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Human Anatomy and Osteology | 4 credits |
| Advanced Crime Scene Investigation | 2 credits |
| Taphonomy | 3 credits |
| Mortuary Archaeology | 3 credits |

Spring Year 2:

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| Bioarchaeology | 2 credits |
| Expert Witness Testimony | 2 credits |
| Field Methods in Forensic Anthropology | 3 credits |
| Applied Forensic Anthropology | 3 credits |

Elective Courses in Anthropology and Archaeology

Students are strongly encouraged to complete a course in the departments of Anthropology and Archaeology on Boston University's Charles River campus

Elective Courses in Biomedical Forensic Sciences

Students may complete selected courses in the Biomedical Forensic Sciences program



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Program Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree in anthropology (preferably physical or biological anthropology) or archaeology. Completed coursework in some or all of the following topics is preferred:

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|-------------------------|--|------------|
| Anatomy | Experimental Design | Chemistry |
| Biology | Osteology | Statistics |
| Biological Anthropology | Writing, especially Scientific Writing | |

Admissions

Applications must be received by March 1 to be eligible for early admission. All applications received after March 1, up until the June 28 application deadline, will be considered on a rolling admission basis until the incoming class reaches full capacity. Application requirements include:

- An official transcript of each college or university attended
- Official test results for the GRE or MCAT Examinations
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members who know you well
- A written personal statement describing your qualifications and educational objectives

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a writing sample, in addition to the personal statement, as the Admissions committee places a significant emphasis on a student's writing ability. Students are also encouraged to submit a proposed thesis topic with their applications.

To apply to the program, please visit bu.edu/gms and click on Admissions.

International students

In addition to the above listed requirements, international students must submit TOEFL scores (if your native language is not English), and the International Student Data Form. International applicants must also submit documentation of all sources of financial support for a minimum of one year, along with the Financial Sponsorship Certification for International Students.

Tuition, Financial Aid and Student Resources

For the most up to date information on tuition and fees please visit www.bumc.bu.edu/gms/students/financing-options. The Financial Aid Office at Boston University School of Medicine is available to assist students in identifying sources of financial support including Women's Guild Scholarships and Teaching Assistantships.

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

For more information about the M.S. in Forensic Anthropology program please contact:

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