Bring Generations of History to Life

Online Genealogy Studies

Grow Your Expertise from the Roots Up

The Genealogy Studies Program from Boston University is a comprehensive, fully online learning experience designed to offer rewarding opportunities for all skill levels.

Taught by experts, our online courses offer practical instruction in an engaging virtual environment. You'll learn from a blend of recorded videos, multimedia content, and live lectures, with opportunities for mentorship and peer networking along the way.

As you advance through the program, you'll develop mastery in key areas such as research documentation, genealogical writing, and DNA analysis, preparing you to take on complex projects and uncover hidden histories.

This program offers benefits such as:

- **Fully online** learning
- Expert guidance and personalized **feedback from Certified Genealogists®**
- **Course options for all skill levels**, from newcomers to professionals working in the field
- Intensive courses that can be completed in **seven or fifteen weeks**
- Advanced knowledge to prepare for certification through the **Board for Certification of Genealogists®** or accreditation from the **International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists**

Genealogical Principles Course

Build a strong foundation in genealogy research. Ideal for anyone from beginners to seasoned researchers without on-site experience, the Genealogical Principles Course ensures you have the practical skills to search records, interpret information, and resolve basic identity questions.

Over seven weeks, you will:

- Improve your genealogical research skills
- Gain a solid understanding of genealogical concepts and terms
- Master the Genealogical Proof Standard
- Learn to locate and search public records to resolve identity problems
- Understand the basics of DNA and ethnicity

With **six starts** each year, there are frequent opportunities to enroll in this course.

Curriculum

Week One
Define genealogy and then study elements of the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) to determine how your identity is contextually derived from information, sources, and evidence.

Week Two
What data from popular websites should we trust? Learn to recognize and analyze conflicting information.

Week Three
Work with a published document and test whether it meets the GPS. Learn to correlate information to resolve identity problems.

Week Four
What elements make up a good proof argument? Examine and analyze a well-cited article that meets all standards.

Week Five
What can you learn from free and paid websites? Discuss an identity problem and its solution with records created by formerly enslaved people after the Civil War.

Week Six
Develop timelines, design a research plan, and evaluate a written report to see if it meets standards.

Week Seven
Gain insight into DNA and ethnicity, then compare the major genetic genealogy testing companies to choose the one whose results correspond to a given research project.

Genealogical Practicum Course

Elevate your expertise through hands-on research. The Genealogical Practicum Course is designed for experienced genealogists looking to refine their practice. Using real case studies, this course will help you improve your research techniques, write genealogical documents, and gain deeper insight into the field.

Over seven weeks, you'll hone your ability to:

- Plan strategic research
- Document your research and write high-quality reports
- Develop genealogical work products
- Compile family histories
- Prepare proof discussions

With **three starts** each year, you can enroll in this course when it's most convenient for you.

Curriculum: Genealogical Practicum Course

The Genealogical Practicum Course consists of five unique research cases spanning different geographic areas, time periods, and ethnicities. During each ten-day module, students will put the research skills they've learned into practice and develop a specific written work product. If you re-enroll, you can change the cases you work through.

Case One: Research Planning
Learn how to approach a research problem by analyzing the starting information, identifying available resources, and then developing a comprehensive plan with specific details about the sources to be searched.

Case Two: Research Logs
Understand how to methodically record information about the collections and sources you examined, the information they yielded, and the contextual relevance of that source to a research problem.

Case Three: Genealogical Compilations
Explore how genealogical compilations organize familial relationships and document kinship, then perform research to place individuals correctly within a family and produce a genealogical summary of your work.

Case Four: Proof Discussions
Learn strategies for developing proof discussions. You will then work on a case that requires you to construct a proof argument to answer the research question.

Case Five: Research Reports
Understand best practices for genealogical research reports, then resolve a case by presenting evidence and conclusions in report format.

Genealogy Research Certificate

Prerequisite: Participants must complete an assessment to ensure they have the skills and background knowledge to succeed in this course.

Master professional techniques that can help researchers prepare for certification through BCG or ICAPGen. The Genealogical Research Certificate provides the skills needed to perform high-level analysis, resolve challenging cases, and explore the complexities of this evolving field.

Over fifteen weeks, this certificate covers:

* Complex research planning
* Advanced analysis and correlation
* Formal standards of the genealogy field

With **three start dates** each year, you can enroll in this course at the time that's most convenient for you. Note that interested students must take a placement assessment to evaluate their readiness for the course.

"I chose the BU certificate because I was interested in taking my genealogical research to the next level. This program is ideal for anyone who would like to become a professional genealogist or answer highly complex questions of lineage."

— Mary Tedesco, Professional Genealogist, Author, and Speaker
Genealogical Research Certificate Participant

Curriculum: Genealogical Research Certificate

Many students have found this rigorous certificate to be excellent preparation for certification through the Board for Certification of Genealogists® (BCG) or accreditation with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen).

Module 1: Genealogical Methods
Explore tools and techniques for addressing complex genealogical challenges, with a focus on logical reasoning, the research cycle, uncovering identities, and making generational connections.

Module 2: DNA as a Genealogical Source
Gain deep insight into DNA evidence and how it can be used to resolve genealogical questions, including issues related to Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), the ethics of DNA testing, and maternal and paternal haplogroups.

Module 3: Evidence, Evaluation, and Documentation
Examine the importance of properly evaluating and documenting evidence to avoid inaccurate conclusions, flawed citations, and dead ends in your research.

Module 4: Genealogical Writing
Understand the vital role of narrative organization and writing in the research process. You will gain experience with formats and objectives for all three primary genealogical work products: research reports, proof arguments, and narrative compilations.

Module 5: Forensic Genealogy
Explore the ethical parameters of this lucrative specialty by working with real-world forensic genealogy cases. Activities include tracing heirs for probate, locating living individuals, and identifying unknown parentage through autosomal DNA.

Course Placement Evaluation

Participants must complete an assessment to ensure they have the skills and background knowlege to succeed in the Genealogical Research Certificate.

Tuition

At the Boston University Center for Professional Education, we are dedicated to providing accessible learning opportunities. Our Genealogy Studies Program reflects this mission by offering high-quality courses in a convenient online format. These courses are reasonably priced, empowering professionals and beginners alike to invest in their passions and enhance their skills.

Program	Tuition	Duration
Genealogical Principles Course	$995*	7 weeks
Genealogical Practicum Course	$995*	7 weeks
Genealogical Research Certificate	$2,695*	15 weeks

*Does not include course books

> Visit our **Genealogy Studies membership discount page** to learn about the tuition reductions we offer to professionals in genealogical associations.

Payment Options

To meet the diverse needs of our learners, we offer various payment options, including an interest-free installment plan.

Pay in Full
Make a simple, one-time payment with a credit or debit card.*

Payment Plan
Pay in two interest-free installments.

Education Loans
Seek private, credit-based financing.

Military Benefits
Get approved for VA tuition funding.

For any questions about payments or financing your education, contact an enrollment advisor at (857) 971-4728.
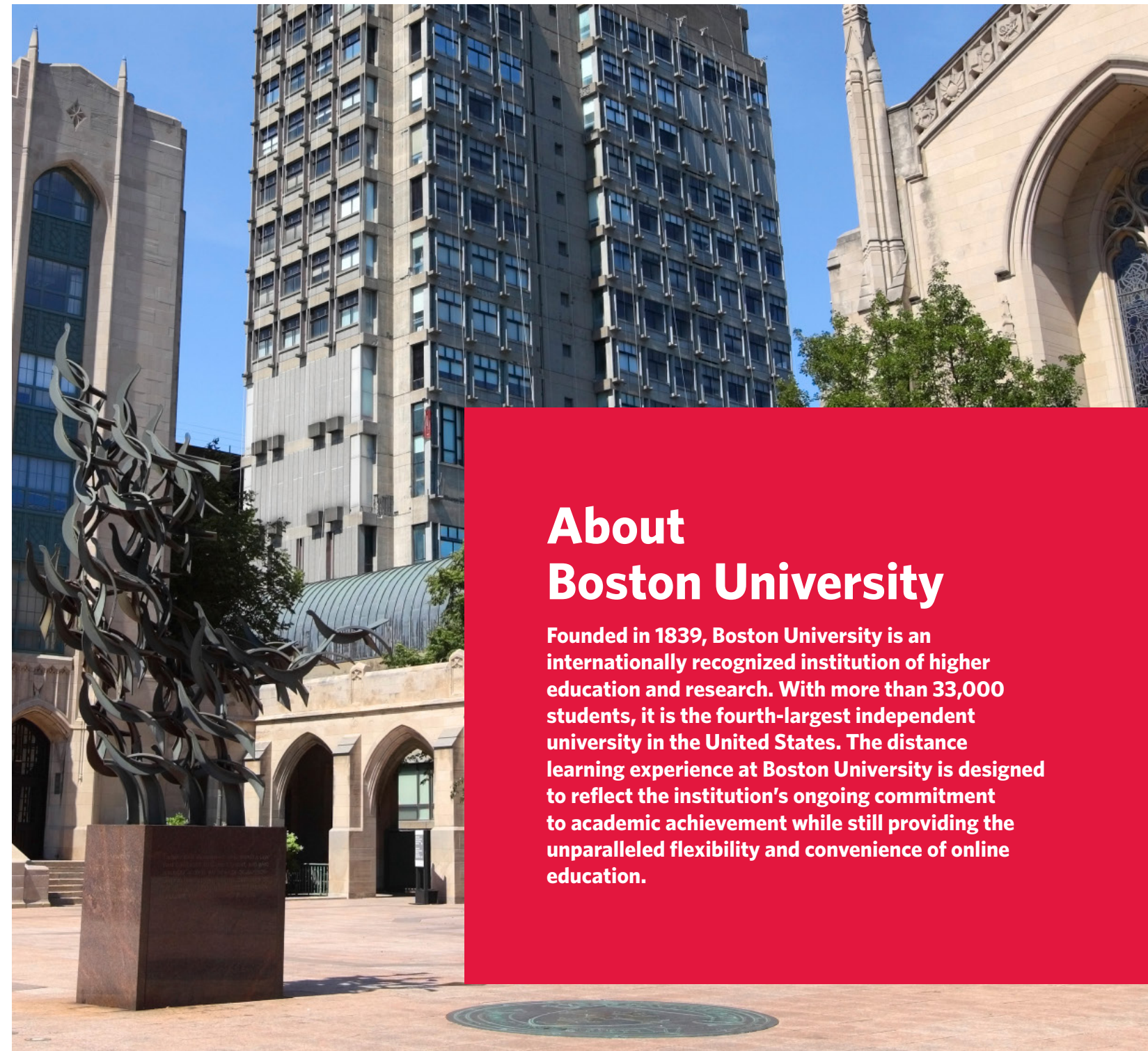
*Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover accepted

Registration

These online courses are flexible and open to people from all professional and academic backgrounds.

To get started, add the course to your cart, create a MyCPE account, and choose your payment method. As part of this process, you'll be asked about any prior affilliation with Boston University to ensure accurate records and avoid duplicates.

Once you've registered, you'll receive a welcome email from Boston University in advance of your first course. Additional emails about program logistics will follow.

About Boston University

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With more than 33,000 students, it is the fourth-largest independent university in the United States. The distance learning experience at Boston University is designed to reflect the institution's ongoing commitment to academic achievement while still providing the unparalleled flexibility and convenience of online education.

Boston University Metropolitan College
Center for Professional Education

genealogyonline.bu.edu

(857) 971-4728