



Post-Master's Certificate

Behavior Analyst Certificate

• CIP code 422814 • 24 credits, 6 terms

• Provided that the supervised hours are completed, course sequence meets coursework eligibility criteria for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board exam.

Program Description

The ABA program is designed specifically for those who are currently practicing in ABA-based treatment settings who wish to pursue national certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA™). Formal access to BCBA supervision is essential to the academic requirements and is a prerequisite for program entry.

The ABA course sequence is delivered in a hybrid learning model that includes both live (Zoom meetings) and asynchronous course content. For successful completion of the program students must be both familiar with and able to effectively use technology-based instructional formats and be highly disciplined in meeting deadlines for required work assignments. Effective and timely communication skills are also essential to student success.

Learning Outcomes

Students in the ABA program will be able to demonstrate knowledge of applied behavior analysis and associated scientific principles that govern human behavior, which is achieved by completing a functional assessment project and a written behavior support plan under the guidance of the faculty and their BCBA field work supervisor and a literature review. Students will complete a range of behavior analytic projects during their ABA courses specific to the topics covered during each course and the current BACB task list. Finally, all students will demonstrate knowledge of the current BACB ethics standards as well as the current BACB Task List content specified in the course syllabus.

Careers/BCBA certification

Students who complete the ABA course sequence, supervised fieldwork, and successfully pass the BCBA examination will earn a national certification and also be eligible for licensure in Massachusetts. They will be able to work in a wide range of clinical and treatment settings as a BCBA in the treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other behavior and learning challenges. There is currently significant demand for persons with the BCBA credential, so that it is highly portable and desired across the state, the country and internationally.

Required to begin the ABA course sequence:

- Master's degree or higher in education, special education, or psychology in an area that meets the current BACB™ standards at time of enrollment. Please consult the BCBA program chair prior to enrollment.
- Active employment in a relevant, related field with at least one year of experience in an ABA-based treatment setting.
- Be working with or supervised by certified BCBA personnel. (Supervisor name and contact information must be submitted and verified upon program entry.)

Student responsibility: A high level of professional acumen and decorum is required. Students are expected to be fluent in the BACB ethics standards from the start and throughout the program. Students must have basic competence with technology-based academic applications.

ABA Course Sequence 24 credits

- All courses 3 credits @ 45 contact hours, unless otherwise noted.
- Course sequence varies by the term of entry. Courses **must** be taken in the order delineated here unless approved by the Program Chair.

Spring Entry

- ABA 714A Theory and Philosophy in Behavior Analysis . . . Spring 1
- ABA 726 Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis Summer 1
- ABA 714B Basic Principles of Behavior (4 credits) Fall 1
- ABA 716 Behavior Assessment Spring 2
- ABA 718 Research Methods Spring 2
- ABA 724 Organizational Behavior Management Summer 2
- ABA 717 Behavior Interventions (4 credits) Fall 2
- ABA 721* Applied Behavior Analysis Fluency Seminar (1 credit) required at end of program Fall 2

Fall Entry

- ABA 714A Theory and Philosophy in Behavior Analysis Fall 1
- ABA 714B Basic Principles of Behavior (4 credits) Spring 1
- ABA 726 Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis Summer 1
- ABA 716 Behavior Assessment Fall 2
- ABA 717 Behavior Interventions (4 credits) Spring 2
- ABA 718 Research Methods Spring 2
- ABA 724 Organizational Behavior Management Summer 2
- ABA 721* Applied Behavior Analysis Fluency Seminar (1 credit) required at end of program Summer 2

*Students who do not pass ABA 721 after two semesters must re-enroll in the course. Students may contact the program chair to discuss a non-endorsement option.

Timely completion of ABA course sequence: ABA coursework, including supervision and fieldwork, are specifically aligned with current BACB standards and its corresponding edition of the BCBA exam. Standards and exam are subject to change, therefore timely completion is essential.

Note: This course sequence was updated for the Spring 2024 term. Students who entered the program prior to Spring 2024 are advised to follow the program plan as outlined in the Academic Catalog published in the year they entered the program.

Program and course schedule subject to change.

(All courses @ 3 credits except as noted.)