



Master of Education

Autism/Applied Behavior Analysis

- CIP code 422814 • 38 credits, 6 terms
- Course Sequence meets coursework eligibility criteria for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board exam.

Program Description

Autism is becoming more prevalent in our society and the need for specialists dedicated to serving this population is growing rapidly. This program provides knowledge of the autism spectrum and the skills necessary to meet the needs of individuals with autism. By completing the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program, students meet the academic requirements to sit for the national BCBA examination, earning a credential that is in high demand.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate knowledge of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and associated scientific principles that govern human behavior and the treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Students will demonstrate knowledge of clinical, educational and ethical issues pertaining to the application of ABA across a broad range of treatment contexts and behaviors.

Careers

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:

- Bachelor's degree required for the master's program. Individuals with a master's degree may enroll in the ABA coursework only.
- 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.

Program and course schedule subject to change.

Program director: Daniel Almeida, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA
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Assistant program director/Program chair:
 Joseph Vedora, Ed.D., BCBA-D, LABA
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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.

Courses

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
- ESP 610 Autism: History, Prevalence, Diagnosis & Characteristics Spring 1
- ABA 726 Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis Summer 1
- ESP 616 Communication Disorders (ASD) Summer 1
- ABA 714B Basic Principles of Behavior (4 credits) Fall 1
- ESP 630 Social & Psychological Perspectives in Autism Spectrum Disorders Fall 1
- ABA 716 Behavior Assessment Spring 2
- ABA 718 Research Methods Spring 2
- ESP 594 Collaboration & Consultation Techniques (2 credits) Spring 2
- ABA 724 Organizational Behavior Management Summer 2
- ESP 615 Assistive Technology: Modifying Curric for Diverse Learning Styles Summer 2
- ABA 717 Behavioral 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
- ESP 610 Autism: History, Prevalence, Diagnosis & Characteristics Fall 1
- ABA 714B Basic Principles of Behavior (4 credits) Spring 1
- ESP 615 Assistive Technology: Modifying Curric for Diverse Learning Styles Spring 1
- ABA 726 Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis Summer 1
- ESP 616 Communication Disorders (ASD) Summer 1
- ABA 716 Behavior Assessment Fall 2
- ESP 630 Social & Psychological Perspectives in Autism Spectrum Disorders Fall 2
- ESP 594 Collaboration & Consultation Techniques (2 credits) Fall 2
- ABA 717 Behavioral 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.

(All courses @ 3 credits except as noted.)