



Doctorate Degree

Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis with Specialization in Autism Intervention

• CIP code 422814 • 48 credits • 9 terms full time

Program Description

Designed for working professionals, the Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis with Specialization in Autism Intervention will prepare students to serve in leadership positions in private companies and public entities that provide ABA services to underserved populations. Coursework is designed to further develop students' clinical skills and enhance their ability to conduct, evaluate, analyze, and apply research findings in their clinical settings. The curriculum will have two primary points of emphasis. First, clinical leadership training will be designed to prepare students for leadership roles within human service organizations and within the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. The second focus involves advanced research and dissemination of applied behavior analysis. Additional coursework will ensure that students develop the supervisory and management skills necessary to succeed in high-level leadership positions. The program is a three-year, 48-credit course of study that will include one-week summer residencies during the first two years. The program will follow a distance-learning model during all other semesters. An applied dissertation will also be required.

Students are expected to enroll in 5-9 total credits per (fall and spring) term during the first two years of the program. During the third year, students are expected to enroll in the Dissertation Research course. In all subsequent semesters and until completion of all degree requirements, students enroll in a Dissertation Continuation course.

Learning Outcomes

In this program, students will:

- Analyze published research across a range of behavior analytic content, including evaluating the experimental methods used and interpreting the results
- Synthesize published research on a particular topic and consider gaps in the research to develop research questions for their applied work and to articulate the impacts of these gaps on service delivery
- Formulate systematic research studies using valid experimental designs to enable them to qualify for full membership in the ABAI and to present findings at regional and national ABA conferences
- Develop experimental methods to address the research question in their applied dissertations
- Evaluate published research addressing skill development and behavior reduction procedures for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and synthesize that research to create a taxonomy of empirically supported treatment procedures.
- Create assessment procedures for evaluating treatments, conduct assessments, analyze the outcomes of those assessments, and synthesize the results of assessments to develop function-based treatment plans and instructional programs
- Propose and adapt empirically supported staff training models and systems
- Design and conduct trainings in advanced ABA content across a range of audiences (students, parents, stakeholders, etc.)

Upon graduation, eligible graduates may seek the BCBA-D designation from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

Courses 48 credits

This program combines summer residencies at Cambridge College's Boston campus during the first two years with a distance learning model during the non-residency semesters.

Term 1 Summer
PAB 700	Introduction to Doctoral Studies (1 credit)
PAB 705	Advanced Single Subject Research Design in ABA
PAB 710	Communication and Dissemination of Advanced Principles of Behavior
Term 2 Fall
PAB 715	Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI)
PAB 720	Topics in Advanced Research
Term 3 Spring
PAB 725	Evaluation and Treatment of Severe Behavior Disorders
PAB 730	Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis
Term 4 Summer
PAB 735	Experimental Analysis of Behavior I
PAB 785	Dissertation Proposal Seminar I
Term 5 Fall
PAB 745	Organizational Behavior Management
PAB 780	Experimental Analysis of Behavior II
PAB 786	Dissertation Proposal Seminar II
Term 6 Spring
PAB 794	The Application of Behavior Analysis Across the Life Span
PAB 740	Behavior Analytic Perspective on Child Development - Specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis
PAB 787	Dissertation Proposal Seminar III
Term 7 Summer
PAB 795	Dissertation Research
Term 8 Fall
PAB 788	Dissertation Research (1 credit)
Term 9 Fall
PAB 789	Dissertation Completion & Defense (1 credit)

Admission requirements: BCBA Certification, live interview with Program Chair and faculty, and other School of Education & Counseling requirements.

Program director: Daniel Almeida, Ph.D.
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Assistant program director/Program chair: Joseph Vedora, Ed.D.
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(All courses @ 3 credits except as noted.)