



Educational Psychology Program Area
Division of Theoretical and Behavioral
Foundations
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<https://education.wayne.edu/applied-behavior-analysis>

**BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCBA) TRAINING
Master's of Science (M.S.) Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis**

Revised 11/14/2023

Program begins once per year each fall semester
Applications are due by January 15th

Overview

Wayne State University offers a Master's of Science degree in Applied Behavior Analysis (MS in ABA). This is a 40-credit hour program with associated field experience that trains practitioners extensively in Applied Behavior Analysis with a focus on treating autism. The sequence begins in the fall semester and runs for five consecutive semesters (including spring/summer) finishing at the end of the winter semester the following year. It is an interactive, synchronous online learning environment with hands-on activities to help students take their learning experiences into the workplace. This promotes a more seamless crossover between classroom and field placement activities. This training program is a cohort model which includes a combination of supported and independent learning through classroom-based and practiced-based hands-on learning. Cohort-mates work collaboratively throughout their training. The cohort training model instills a sense of professional community not only during the program, but as students move into the field as practitioners. Our program emphasizes the importance of intensive learning while in the program as well as the need for collaborative lifelong learning.

What is ABA

To learn more about Applied Behavior Analysis the Behavior Analytic Certification Board provides more information about what ABA is including specialty areas, resources and videos. <https://www.bacb.com/about-behavior-analysis/>

Course Schedule

For all cohorts, the five semesters of courses and field experience in the sequence occur in a succession of five sequential semesters. Cohorts begin in the Fall semester (in August) and will take the five semesters in sequence in the Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer, Fall, Winter. Students must be aware that they must commit to this going into the program. There will be no flexibility.

Fall – Semester 1

EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis (3 Credits)

Principles and concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), fundamental vocabulary, and methodology of the science of behavior management.

EDP 7106 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 1 (2 Credits)

Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students will work directly with multiple clients using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. Specific focus on supervised one on one behavioral intervention work with children. Course content will cover intensive behavior intervention service delivery models and the treatment components related to outcome gains.

Co-requisite: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis

EDP 7112—Conceptual Analysis in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)

History and Philosophy of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), theoretical approaches to understanding behavior, and interpretations of the concepts and principles of behavior.

Winter – Semester 2**EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 Credits)**

Overview of assessment techniques used in behavioral intervention planning, functional assessments, functional assessment interview, descriptive and functional analysis, data collection and interpretation, preference assessment, and interpretation of evaluation tools.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis

EDP 7104**Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis (4 Credits)**

Course includes an overview of data methods used in Applied Behavior Analysis. Students will become familiar with using and analyzing various data collection and display methods. Students will be able to assess data through visual analysis and raw data, be able to identify various forms of experimental designs and become familiar with the contexts for using experimental designs and data collection methods. The majority of the course will be devoted to methods related to single-case research.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7101 Foundations of ABA

Co-requisite: N/A

EDP 7107 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 2 (2 Credits)

Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students will work directly with multiple clients using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7106 Field Experiences in Applied Behavior Analysis Semester I

Co-requisite: EDP 7102 Techniques in Assessment in Applied Behavior Analysis

Spring/Summer - Semester 3**EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning (4 Credits)**

Techniques used in behavioral intervention planning, data collection, interpretation of assessments, development of goals and objectives, overview and application of treatment interventions and considerations. Topics include social validity, reinforcement procedures, teaching procedures, behavior reduction procedures, and stimulus equivalence. Assignments include literature research and paper presentations, participation in discussions, and implementation of behavioral principles.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7102 Behavioral Assessment

EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 3 (2 Credits)

Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students will work directly with multiple clients using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. Specific focus on development and writing of treatment plans, and other reports (supervision notes, programs, behavior plans, discharge reports).

Pre-requisite: EDP 7107 Field Experience in ABA - II

Co-requisite: EDP 7103 ABA Treatment Planning

EDP 7991—Capstone Project in Applied Behavior Analysis: Introduction

Develop knowledge in the Institutional Review Board (IRB) application process and construct a research question to prepare for their Capstone project.

Pre-requisites: EDP 7104 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis

Co-requisite: EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning

Fall - Semester 4

EDP 7111 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis (4 Credits)

Students will learn advanced application techniques of Behavior Analysis and corresponding considerations. Topics of discussion include management of severe behavior problems, reduction of stereotypic behavior, toilet training, feeding plans, and methods for cognitively delayed or highly skilled clients. Assignments include literature research and paper presentations, participation in discussions, and implementation of behavioral principles.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7103 ABA Treatment Planning

EDP 7109 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 4 (2 Credits)

Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students will work directly with multiple clients and staff using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. The highest level of independent behavioral intervention work including managing all necessary assessment, treatment, case management, and intervention training and supervision of parents and technicians is expected in this semester.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis – Semester IV

Co-requisite: EDP 7111 Advanced ABA Treatment planning

EDP 7992—Capstone Project in Applied Behavior Analysis I

Develop competence in defining a research problem, designing a method to address the problem, and reviewing expected outcomes and conclusions of the intervention. Use the Capstone research model, which answers questions of practical importance such as developing an evaluation method or evaluating an intervention, curriculum, or protocol within a particular agency or practice setting. Students will extend what they learned in EDP 7997 Capstone Project introduction and the methods for an intervention to use in a clinic setting and apply for approval from the Wayne State University Institutional Review Board.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7991 Capstone Project in Applied Behavior Analysis Introduction

Winter – Semester 5

EDP 7105 Ethical Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 Credits)

This course is open to graduate and post-graduate students interested in obtaining knowledge of Behavior Analysis and certification as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Students are expected to read professional literature, participate in discussions, complete literature research, and practice the application of behavioral principles. Completion of assignments and class participation are essential to meeting the course objectives.

Prerequisite: EDP 7111 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning

EDP 7113—Organizational Behavioral Management in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 Credits)

Concepts of time management and supervision based on principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), including behavioral skills training, techniques in providing feedback to staff, and performance management in clinical settings.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7109 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis – IV

EDP 7993—Capstone Project in Applied Behavior Analysis II (2 Credits)

Develop competence in defining a research problem, designing a method to address the problem, and reviewing expected outcomes and conclusions of the intervention. Use the Capstone research model, which answers questions of practical importance such as developing an evaluation method or evaluating an intervention, curriculum, or protocol within a particular agency or practice setting. Students will extend work from EDP 7998 Capstone Project I to include development of competence in conducting and reporting an investigation including evidence-based methods, analyzing data, and drawing and reporting on a conclusion.

Pre-requisite: EDP 7992 Capstone Project in Applied Behavior Analysis I

40 credits total

The coursework in this program aligns with [Task Content Outline 6](#) as indicated by the Behavior Analytic Certification Board meeting requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst[®] examination under Pathway 2. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination, including having the VCS Coordinator complete a [Coursework Attestation Form](#). Students qualify to sit for the BCBA exam following completion of the ABA

Master's degree and the field experience hours which are completed simultaneously within the program.

Additional Requirements:

1. Completion of their master’s degree with signed coursework attestation form
2. Completion of their field experience hours, which are accumulated simultaneously with the academic program.

BCBA Field Experience Requirements

	Supervised Fieldwork	Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork
Fieldwork Hours Required to Qualify	2000	1500
Fieldwork Hours Per Week	10-30 hrs.	15-30 hrs.
Supervisory Period	1 calendar month	1 calendar month
Percentage of Fieldwork Hours Spent in Supervision (calculated per monthly supervisory period)	5%	10%
Number of Supervisory Contacts per Period (contacts must be at least 15 minutes)	4	6
Unrestricted Activities	At least 60% of supervised fieldwork hours must be spent engaged in unrestricted activities.	
Individual/Small-Group Supervision	Supervision may be conducted in small groups for no more than 50% of the total supervised hours in each supervisory period.	

Please see the [BACB Handbook](#) for more details on field experience requirements and requirements needed to sit for the BCBA exam.

[BACB University Pass Rates](#)

Grades Required During Program

Students are required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher across these and all program classes/field experiences, with no more than one grade of C+ or lower. Students who earn a second C will not be permitted to continue in the program. Grades of B- and lower, or patterns of grades only in the B range, are of concern and intervention may be warranted. Grades reflect content mastery and affect how well students perform on the national exam.

Program Leadership & Staff Support

Refer all questions about the program to Dr. Krista Clancy, Program Director. Mrs. Lei Juan Stewart-Walker, Program Secretary, can assist you with admissions and general university questions. Consistent with the goals of the program and best practices within the profession, instructors have experiences in research, medical, clinical, and educational settings. In addition to their duties as members of the faculty, they are actively involved in professional

organizations at both the state and national levels and work within a clinical setting providing applied behavior analysis treatment.

Full-time Faculty

Krista Clancy, Ph.D., LP, BCBA, LBA
Associate Professor of Teaching
Program Coordinator and Field Experience Advisor
Wayne State University
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Adjunct Faculty

Michelle Fuhr, MA, LLP, BCBA, LBA
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Staff

Lei Juan Stewart-Walker
Program Secretary
Theoretical & Behavioral Foundations
313-577-1614
ab2628@wayne.edu

Prerequisites

Applicants are expected to meet the minimum undergraduate 2.75 GPA requirement outlined by the WSU Graduate School.

Admission Deadlines

New cohorts begin each fall. Applications are due by January 15th. It is important for you to follow application directions carefully. Please check the box on the online application for the fall term only.

Admission Procedures

Admission requires a University Graduate Admissions Application (submitted online to Graduate Admissions—in the “**Applied Behavior Analysis – M.S.**” application, an autobiographical statement, official transcripts, and two letters of recommendation (each item

is described in detail below). This information is used comprehensively to evaluate a student's potential candidacy for the program. A limited number of qualified applicants are invited for an interview with the faculty. Applicants should contact Academic Services (313-577-1601) if they need to check on the status of their application. A background check is also required after you have been accepted but before we can finalize your admission to the program.

Following are materials required for your application. **Please follow this carefully, or your application review will be delayed.**

Applications are due by January 15th

1) *Graduate Application.* Go to <https://gradslate.wayne.edu/apply/> to create a graduate application. **Apply online only.** When asked for the major, select "Applied Behavior Analysis-M.S." You are encouraged to contact Academic Services at 313-577-1601 to ensure you have applied correctly and to have any concerns addressed. Once inside the application portal, please remember to read everything from the top to bottom of the page. There are instructions and several links you will need to complete your application. Your WSU email address can be activated using the link at the bottom of your online application. Please activate, immediately begin using, and regularly check this email for updates.

Graduate students in good standing with Wayne State University who want to change their majors should apply online as these two pages indicate. However, if you are a WSU student who is adding a second program, please contact LaSondra Dawn, Program Specialist (and Liaison between the College of Education and Graduate Admissions) in Academic Services, at 313-577-1011 for further instructions.

2) *Official Transcripts.* Official transcripts must be sent directly from all previously attended universities to Graduate Admissions. Have official transcripts sent directly from all previous universities to Wayne State University Office of Graduate Admissions at 5057 Woodward, Suite 6000, Detroit, MI 48202 (phone: 313-577-4723). Electronic transcripts will be accepted if they are delivered securely from the registrar of the issuing institution directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions - gradadmissions@wayne.edu. You must also upload copies (unofficial is fine for review purposes) of **all** your transcripts with your online application.

3) *Recommendations.* Two letters of recommendation are required. We recommend that one of the letters be from a previous faculty member. Your letters must be uploaded to your online application. You will need to submit the name and email address of the people providing your letters of recommendation on your online application.

4) *Autobiographical Statement.* The autobiographical statement is a critical part of your application. Instructions are provided within the online application. It must be uploaded to your online application.

5) *Statement of Purpose.* The statement of purpose is a brief statement about your academic and career goals. Instructions are provided within the online application. It must be uploaded to your online application.

6) *Background Check.* Once you are recommended for admission to the program, information will be sent to you concerning how to complete the criminal background check.

Interviews

The first-round interview will be scheduled shortly after the application deadline. After the interview. This first-round interview will determine if you are a good fit for the program. If approved after the interview, your application materials will be reviewed again by faculty for potentially a second interview, and an admission decision will be made. You will be notified by email of the outcome.

ADMISSION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Each of the following items are required to be uploaded to your university application. There is a place in the online application for each item, and instructions specific to each are included in the application itself.

- \$50 Application Fee for non-WSU applicants (fee is waived for WSU graduates)
- Official or Unofficial Transcripts
- Autobiographical Statement
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation (2)

Questions? If you have questions about any aspects of the application process, as well as to check in to see if your application materials have been received, or general university questions, please contact:

Academic Services
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313-577-1601