

Applied Behavior Analysis

Post Master's Certificate



The Psychology Department at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth welcomes applications for the Post Master's Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). The Post MA Certificate program is designed for students who already have a Master's degree and wish to extend their training to include ABA skills. The Post MA Certificate Program in ABA is designed to fill a critical need for fully trained behavior analysts. This program of study prepares students to meet the academic requirements to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam.

BCBAs find solutions to a variety of behavioral challenges through careful assessment of behavior (e.g. functional analysis) and the application of learning theory based interventions. BCBA's work in a variety of settings (e.g., schools, hospitals, industry, etc.) with a variety of populations (e.g., typically developing children, adults with intellectual disabilities, seniors with dementia, etc.). BCBAs use skillfully crafted strategies to assess and improve behavior and learning. Behavior analysis is a challenging and rapidly growing profession with very competitive salary and growth potential. For those anticipating entering graduate programs in human service and mental health professions, ABA offers an interesting alternative to traditional counseling or social work programs and generally offers better salary and advancement possibilities. If you would like more information about ABA please see the link:

www.bacb.com/becom_frame.html

The Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) dictates the course content of ABA programs to determine if graduates are eligible to take the BCBA exam. The UMass Dartmouth core ABA courses are approved by the BACB and therefore provides the academic requirements to take the BCBA exam. Our program is somewhat unique in that we combine three characteristics not common to ABA programs.

Curriculum

The revised curriculum now reflects the changes instituted by the BACB for all certification after the December 2014 testing date. These changes increased the coursework by one course, bringing the total number of credits up to 18.

Cost

Students pay \$450/credit and a \$30 registration fee per semester. Financial aid is available for those qualified students enrolled in at least 4.5 credits per semester. For those students who do not qualify for financial aid, there are alternative financial assistance programs. For more information, please go to www.umassd.edu/financialaid/. Some employers in the ABA field offer tuition remission programs.

Admission

Applications for admission will be considered at any time. Applications received after December 20 may not be considered for admission in the spring semester, and applications received after August 15 may not be considered for admission in the fall. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and decisions will be made by the Psychology Department. Students may be admitted to a maximum of 3 credit hours (1 course) in a non-matriculated status with permission of the Director of the ABA Program or Chairperson of the Psychology Department. Following completion of 3 credit hours, students must be admitted to the program to continue studies. Students must follow the complete admissions guidelines outline through the Office of Graduate Studies at: www.umassd.edu/graduate

For admissions questions, please contact Scott Webster,
swebster@umassd.edu
or 508.999.8604.

For program questions, please contact contact Dr. Gary Pace, gpace@umassd.edu

For an application go to
www.umassd.edu/graduate

Requirements

- ▶ A Master's degree is required for admission to the certificate program. The BACB requires a Master's degree in psychology, education, or behavior analysis for eligibility to become a BCBA. Therefore, applicants should have a degree in one of the specified areas with GPAs and course work records to show continuing promise in graduate study.
- ▶ Students may be admitted to a maximum of 3 credit hours (1 course) in a non-matriculated status with permission of the Director of the ABA Program or Department Chairperson. Following completion of 3 credit hours students must be admitted to the program to continue studies.
- ▶ Three letters of recommendation. Applicants are encouraged to send letters from both academic settings addressing academic readiness, and from work settings addressing capacity for employment in ABA.
- ▶ A personal statement of at least 300 words is required. Applicants should write about their experience in ABA and/or readiness for training in ABA.
- ▶ Signature on the Psychology Department "Competency and Fitness" and "Self Disclosure" forms.

Key personnel and faculty

R. Thomas Boone, PhD, Social and Developmental Psychology, Brandeis University: studies emotion communication and cooperation.

Jane I. Carlson, PhD, BCBA-D, Clinical Psychology, State University of New York at Stony Brook: interests include functional analysis and behavior intervention planning, early, intensive, behavioral interventions for children with ASD's, and dissemination of evidence-based practices in autism treatment.

Gary M. Pace, PhD, BCBA-D; Learning and Physiological Psychology, University of Kentucky: research interests include applied behavior analysis, severe behavior disorders, antecedent control procedures, treatment integrity, acquired brain injury.

Post Masters Certificate in ABA Program Sequence

Year	Semester	Course #	Title	Credits
1	Fall	PSY 509	Principles of ABA	3
	Spring	Psy 526	Single Subject Research Design	3
	Summer	PSY 525	Implementing Behavior Analysis in Educational Settings	3
2	Fall	PSY 521	Behavioral Assessment	3
		PSY 529	Ethics and Professionalism in ABA	3
	Spring	PSY 522	Behavioral Interventions	3