

# 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. BCBAs 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](http://www.bacb.com/becom_frame.html)

Association of Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) specifies the course content of ABA programs to determine if graduates are eligible to take the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) exam. The UMass Dartmouth core ABA courses are verified by the ABAI as meeting specific faculty and coursework standards. In addition to these academic standards, the BACB requires applicants to complete supervised behavior analytic experience. Applicants should be familiar with all BACB standards.

### Financial Aid

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. Some employers in the ABA field offer tuition remission programs. For more information, please go to [www.umassd.edu/financialaid/](http://www.umassd.edu/financialaid/).

### Admission

Applications for fall admission will be considered until August 15, however admission decisions are made on a rolling basis so it is important to apply as early as possible. 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](http://www.umassd.edu/graduate)

For admissions questions, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies and Admissions, [graduate@umassd.edu](mailto:graduate@umassd.edu) or 508.999.8604

For program questions, please contact contact Dr. Gary Pace, [gpace@umassd.edu](mailto:gpace@umassd.edu)

For an application go to [umassd.edu/online/ready-to-apply/](http://umassd.edu/online/ready-to-apply/)

### Post Masters Certificate in ABA Program Sequence

*These courses earn 3 credits each*

#### Year One Fall

PSY 534 Philosophical Underpinnings of ABA  
PSY 525 Implementing Behavior Analysis in Educational Settings

#### Year One Spring

PSY 526 Measurement and Design in ABA  
PSY 509 Concepts and Principles of ABA

#### Year Two Fall

PSY 531 Behavioral Assessment  
PSY 529 Ethics and Professionalism in ABA

#### Year Two Spring

PSY 532 Behavioral Interventions  
PSY 533 Supervision and Management

### 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.
- ▶ 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 and a resume is required. Applicants should write about their experience in ABA and/or readiness for training in ABA.

### Key personnel and faculty

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

**Melanie DuBard**, PhD, BCBA-D School Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi: clinical and research interests include functional behavior assessment, treatment integrity, school consultation, assessment and treatment of severe behavior

**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.