Earn your Master of Arts in Psychology with an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) focus in just 6 semesters. Graduate programs in ABA are designed to fill a critical need for fully trained behavior analysts. This program prepares students to meet the academic qualifications necessary to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) examination.

Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs)

ABA uses a systematic methodology to understand, and ultimately change, socially significant behavior. 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.). BCBA's apply this methodology to help their clients acquire new skills and decrease problem behavior to improve the quality of their lives.

Behavior analysis is a challenging and rapidly growing field with very competitive salary and professional growth potential. BCBAs enjoy the personal fulfillment of traditional human service professions, mental health counseling or social work, often with better salary and advancement possibilities.

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 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.

Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate

UMass Dartmouth also offers an Applied Behavior Analyst Graduate Certificate for professionals who have earned a master’s degree in psychology or education. This is a two year, 24 credit program that qualifies those with an approved masters degree with the academic requirements to sit for the BCBA exam.

While students can choose to complete this program at their own pace, it is expected that students will complete this program on a timely basis. For more information on this program, visit: umassd.edu/ABAcertificate

UMassD ABA Program Advantages

The strength of the UMass Dartmouth program lies in three unique attributes.

First, our students receive comprehensive ABA training that complements the theoretical framework of psychology. You’ll earn your MA in psychology and learn from faculty who have specific training in behavior analysis and psychology.

This offers greater context for students, particularly those who may have majored in other fields.

Second, as a state university our tuition and fees are more manageable. Conveniently located in the SouthCoast of Massachusetts, we are the only program for ABA training in this region and there is a strong, local demand for BCBAs.

Third, our program is structured so that students work in one of the many local ABA agencies acquiring supervised practical experience while completing their academic requirements. We will help students find supervised BCBA experience if necessary.

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. For more information, please visit: umassd.edu/financialaid

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.

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Admission

Fall semester application deadline
August 15

Applications are considered on a rolling basis, it is therefore important that applicants apply early. Students may be admitted to a maximum of 9 credit hours (3 courses) in a non-matriculated status with permission of the Director of the ABA Program.

Following completion of 9 credit hours, students must be admitted to the program to continue studies.

Students must follow the complete admissions guidelines outlined at: www.umassd.edu/graduate

For admissions questions, please contact
The Office of Graduate Studies and Admissions
graduate@umassd.edu
508.999.8604

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

For an application see:
umassd.edu/online/ready-to-apply/

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree in psychology or closely related field including human services, sociology, education and/or work experience in the ABA field.
- A minimum undergraduate cumulative average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grading system is required. Students not meeting this requirement but who otherwise give evidence of strong academic ability may be admitted.

Admission Process

- Complete the graduate application.
- Submit 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.
- Submit 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.

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.

MA in Psychology / ABA option Program Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PSY 534</td>
<td>Philosophical Underpinnings of ABA</td>
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<td>PSY 504</td>
<td>Topics in Child Development</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>PSY 526</td>
<td>Measurement and Design in ABA</td>
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<td>Concepts and Principles of ABA</td>
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<td>PSY 531</td>
<td>Behavioral Assessment</td>
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<td>Implementing Behavior Analysis</td>
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<td>Behavioral Interventions</td>
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<td>PSY 533</td>
<td>Supervision and Management</td>
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