

Applied Behavior Analysis

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Coordinators

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M.Ed. in Applied Behavior Analysis and Graduate Certificate

About Arcadia's M.Ed. in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

The M.Ed. in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a 36 credit program which will provide students with specialized knowledge of the application of behavioral principles. The program is designed to develop and enhance the comprehension and use of effective evidence-based practices to support professionals who require expertise in the understanding and modification of behavior.

The Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis is a 15-credit program that includes courses in behavior principles, data analysis, applications with children and youth with behavior problems and consultation skills necessary to work with other professionals and important adults in schools, homes and communities.

What is Behavior Analysis?

Behavior analysis is a specific approach to the understanding of human behavior. An applied behavior analyst is someone who has in-depth knowledge of the field and methods of the study of the science of behavior and technology of behavior derived from this science.

Behavior analysis services help people to learn new behaviors and to increase or reduce existing behaviors. The scope of these services ranges from addressing challenging behaviors of an individual person to changing the behavior of an entire organization or community. Behavior analysis has many applications, such as developing training

procedures that build verbal skills in children with autism, helping teachers to work with students in inclusive settings, and preventing delinquency.

Behavior analysts use environmental change procedures to improve the lives of people. Behavior analysis has been applied to a great variety of problems such as couples therapy, individual behavior therapy, behavioral consultation, and addictions treatment.

What Core Skills Will I Acquire in Behavior Analysis?

In this program, students develop solid skills in the basic principles of behavior analysis and the skills to transfer basic principles into comprehensive functional behavioral assessments, behavioral interventions, and program evaluation. This program offers training in a breadth of assessment and intervention techniques with a positive behavioral support and behavioral treatment focus. Additionally, Arcadia's program stresses the consultative skills that graduates will need to work effectively with educators and parents.

Why Study at Arcadia?

All of Arcadia's instructors have extensive experience working as certified behavior analysts in the field as well as teaching at the university level. Arcadia's program is designed to develop professional expertise in behavior analysis and the consultative skills necessary to affect real change in schools, homes, and community settings. All instructors are Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA).

Are Courses Taught Online?

The Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis is a fully online program. In addition, courses are offered in a hybrid format at the King of Prussia campus.

Are Courses Approved by the BACB?

Five courses prepare students for the role of behavior specialist or to take the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) exam (<http://www.bacb.com/>).

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The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® has approved the following course sequence as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®: ED661; ED681, ED682, ED683, and ED684. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify.

An additional option of two internship courses helps prospective applicants to meet the requirements for the 750 intensive supervision hours needed for board certification. The purpose of these courses is to help the student to move information learned in coursework from theory to practice. Students must apply to this program separately.

Credit toward a graduate degree in

Education: The 15 credits earned in this certificate program (excluding the internships) may be applied to a Master of Education, Master of ABA or Counseling degree program **with departmental approval and advising.**

Academic Policies: Students in Arcadia University Graduate Certificate programs are subject to the academic policies of the College of Graduate Studies. Grades of “B” or better in every class are required to qualify for the Certificate.

Transfer Credit: Transfer credit is not permitted in this program.

Why Study Behavior Analysis?

In Pennsylvania, behavior analyst qualifies for behavior specialist licensure. Indeed, the behavior specialist license is predicated on the ability to develop and use behavior analytic assessment and intervention procedures such as functional behavioral assessment and behavior chain analysis. Behavior analytic procedures have been coded into educational law. For example, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act calls for a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) to be conducted prior to suspension of students with disabilities.

Applied behavior analysis provides the most evidenced-based intervention within all of psychology and education. ABA has helped to support youth and adults with autism, conduct disorders, oppositional defiant disorders, and depression, as well as couples needing therapy. It has served as the basis for educational procedures such as direct instruction and assessment procedures such as curriculum-based measurement. It is

essential for professionals functioning within a Response to Intervention Model.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the M.Ed. Program

- A graduate application, including personal statements, to be completed online at www.arcadia.edu/gradapp.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 3.0 or better.
- One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official.
- Two letters of recommendation. The letters must be of a professional not personal nature. If the student has been out of school five years or fewer, the letter must come from a professor.
- Must have experience in education, psychology, communication disorders, or another related discipline.
- An personal interview with the program coordinator.
- International applicants should visit www.arcadia.edu/international for detailed information on admission requirements and application procedures. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

Admissions to the Graduate Certificate Program:

- A graduate application, including personal statements, to be completed online at www.arcadia.edu/gradapp.

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- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a recommended GPA of 2.5 or better. (Note: The BACB requires that a master's degree in a related field be obtained prior to applying for board certification.)
- One official transcript from each college, university or professional school attended. Transfer credits included on a transcript must include grades earned; if not, an official transcript from the original school must be submitted. Transcripts must be sent from the issuing school in a sealed envelope and contain the appropriate signatures and seals to be considered official.
- One letter of recommendation. The letter must be of a professional not personal nature. If the student has been out of school five years or fewer, the letter must come from a professor.
- An interview with a program coordinator.
- International applicants should visit www.arcadia.edu/international for detailed information on admission requirements and application procedures. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for all students for whom English is a second language except for non-native speakers of English who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (e.g. the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand). A course-by-course evaluation of all transcripts by an independent evaluation service based in the United States also is required.

Admission to the Internship Courses

- Interview with a coordinator of the program.
- State and federal clearances, which include criminal check, child abuse and FBI fingerprinting. Information can be found on the Education website at <http://www.arcadia.edu/clearances>

Students can take the first course (ED 661) before formal application and matriculation into the program, but they should apply for admission into the M.ED or the certificate program before taking a second course.

Taking a course does not guarantee admission into the program.

Note: ABA courses (ED661, ED681, ED682, ED683, ED684) must be taken in sequence but students can take two courses at a time. All courses will be offered online and will be offered in a blended format at the King of Prussia campus using a cohort model. Students will be allowed to transfer credits for the foundation courses and they can take elective courses instead.

Requirements for the M.Ed. in Applied Behavior Analysis

(36 credits)

The following courses are required:
Foundation Courses: (18 credits)

ED505	Multicultural Foundations of Education
ED510	Interpreting Educational Research
Core Courses:	
ED 661	ABA I: Behavior Principles and Teaching Strategies
ED681	ABA II: Procedures for Behavior Change
ED682	ABA III: Strategies for Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
ED683	ABA IV: Behavior Analysis and Child Development
ED684	ABA V: Behavior Consultation in Homes, Schools and Communities
*ED685	Ethics and Professionalism

Elective Courses: (9 credits)

ED585	Positive Behavior Supports
ED581	Disabilities Studies and Special Ed Law

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ED660	Characteristics of Students with Autism Syndrome Disorder	ED 688	Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan (6 credits)
ED662	Teaching Strategies for Students with Autism Syndrome Disorder		ABA Internship 2: Instructional Programs (6 credits)
ED663	Special Topics in Autism		
ED518	Special Topics in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders		

Culminating Seminar: (3 credits)
Seminar focused on a culminating activity selected in collaboration with the course instructor.

Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

(15 credits)

The following courses are required:

ED 661	ABA I: Principles and Teaching Strategies (3 credits)
ED 681	ABA II: Procedures for Behavior Change (3 credits)
ED 682	ABA III: Strategies for Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (3 credits)
ED 683	ABA IV: Behavior Analysis of Child Development (3 credits)
ED 684	ABA V: Behavioral Consultation in Homes, Schools and Communities (3 credits)

Requirements for the Internship Courses in Applied Behavior Analysis

Internship courses are not required for Arcadia's graduate certificate but are a BCBA Supervised Internship requirement.

ED 687	ABA Internship 1: Functional Behavioral
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Applied Behavior Analysis Course Descriptions (ED)

ED 661

Applied Behavior Analysis I: Principles and Teaching Strategies (3 credits)

This seminar is designed to provide students with introductory knowledge of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Topics addressed include the history of ABA, principles of ABA, reinforcement, data collection, teaching procedures, teaching complex behaviors, generalization, and maintenance of skills. Readings, assignments, and participation in online coursework instructional activities offer an essential understanding of behavior analytic principles. Ethical considerations in the application of these principles are discussed. Challenging behaviors are studied from a learning perspective.

ED 681

Applied Behavior Analysis II: Procedures for Behavior Change (3 credits)

In this course, students focus on the methods of behavior analytic research. The topics covered are defining applied behavior analysis; selecting, defining and measuring behavior; constructing graphs to interpret behavior and analyze behavior change; research designs such as alternating treatments, reversal, multiple baseline; changing criteria designs; and planning and evaluating behavior analytic research.

ED 682

Applied Behavior Analysis III: Strategies for Youth with EBD (3 credits)

This course analyzes the basic process of behavior change and demonstrates how behavior analysts serve as behavior analysts/specialists to the community. Topics build on the basic knowledge of ED 661 with more advanced learning in basic principles of behavior analysis; behavioral assessment; the application of those principles to children; intervention methodologies; writing of behavioral objectives to build self control; and programming for generalization. Special attention is paid to comprehensive programming and the use of multiple intervention

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methods. In addition, students will design behavioral intervention plans based on functional behavioral assessments.

Prerequisites: Admission to the program and satisfactory completion of Applied Behavior Analysis I and II with a “B” or better.

ED 683

Behavior Analysis IV: Behavior Analysis of Child Development (3 credits)

Conceptualization of behavioral problems and the origins of behavioral disorders are critical to treatment and to the functioning of people through the lifespan. This course focuses on basic principles in Behavior Analysis and how they shape the development of typical and atypical children. The role of these principles in normal development and developmental problems such as language delays, motor developmental delays, conduct and oppositional defiant disorder, childhood depression, problems of attachment, and autism are explored. The course reviews field applications including direct observations of children’s development; functional behavioral assessment; curriculum design; verbal behavior assessment and intervention; curriculum based-measures; and intervention strategies that involve both the school and the family.

Prerequisites: Admission to the program and satisfactory completion of Applied Behavior Analysis I, II and III with a “B” or better.

ED 684

Behavior Analysis V: Behavioral Consultation in Homes, Schools and Communities (3 credits)

This course focuses primarily on behavioral consultation skills needed to produce a strong behavior analytic case conceptualization and to link that conceptualization to intervention. This course uses online technology in combination with role plays and feedback to build behavior analytic case conceptualization and execute effective behavioral consultation. Behavioral case conceptualization is the integration of information from a functional assessment, complete with skills and adaptive behavior assessment, as well as ecological assessment. Special topics include behavior analytic models of teacher and parent resistance, as well as interventions for resistance. This course is an intensive lab course that focuses on the practical aspects of “how to” consulting (i.e., what is done each session, each step of the way). It is critical that students participate in each class to engage in the role-plays and get feedback from other students.

Prerequisites: Admission to the program and

satisfactory completion of Applied Behavior Analysis I, II , III and IV with a “B” or better.

*ED685

Ethics and Professionalism

ED 687

ABA Internship 1: FBA and BIP (6 credits)

(See www.bacb.com under *Becoming Certified*.)

This course is designed to be a guiding course while the student is on his or her selected internship. This course requires weekly work hours, one individual meeting with a field supervisor and one weekly group supervision session. The purpose of the course is to help the student move information learned in coursework from theory to practice. Focus is spent on case development—conducting functional behavioral assessment and using the assessment to create a comprehensive behavioral intervention. Half the grade for the course is presented by the field supervisor. Advisor approval required.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of ED 661, ED 681, 682, 683 and 684, with a “B” or better.

ED 688

ABA Internship 2: Instructional Programs (6 credits)

While on internship, this course allows for each student to meet with their University supervisor to shape their skills in developing effective teaching plans, along with personal ethical development and understanding of customary practices of the profession. Thus, each student is required to complete a field internship, have individual meetings with the field supervisor and weekly group supervision sessions. Half of the grade for the course is presented by the field supervisor.

Internships can take place in most community organizations. The field supervisor must have experience in behavior analysis and therapy and be Board certified. Field experiences that offer a diverse range of populations to work with are preferred to those with a single population. Advisor approval required.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of ED 661, ED 681, 682, 683 and 684, with a “B” or better.

***Pending Approval**