

BOARD CERTIFIED ASSISTANT BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCaBA) TRAINING Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Revised 8/22/17

Overview

Wayne State University is offering a three-course elective sequence with associated field experience/practicum experience and seminar that trains practitioners extensively in Applied Behavior Analysis with a focus on treating Autism. The sequence begins in the fall semester and runs for three consecutive semesters, finishing at the end of the Spring/Summer term a year later. This training is approved by the WSU Provost's office and the Board of Governors. Students will be awarded an Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis upon satisfactory completion of the courses and practica. Our course sequence is also approved by the Behavior Analytic Certification Board (BACB). Students who successfully complete the courses are eligible to sit for the BCaBA examination following graduation, which, upon passing, would lead to the BCaBA credential. Recent Michigan legislation mandates insurance companies to cover therapeutic services for autistic persons by BCBA credentialed treatment providers. In January 2016, the State of Michigan announced reimbursement for the ABA Medicaid benefit by BCaBA certified individuals who are under the supervision of a BCBA as a way to build capacity for behavior analysis services in the State of Michigan.

Students enter the program as a cohort. The cohort model includes a combination of supported and independent learning through classroom-based and practiced-based hands-on learning. Cohort-mates work collaboratively throughout their training. Thus, all classes in the BCaBA course sequence are live, classroom-based courses. Online and hybrid classes are not available for the courses in this sequence. Although some students find the online and hybrid courses convenient, the interactive learning environment and the hands-on learning activities offered in the BCaBA course sequence classes at Wayne State University will help students take their learning experiences into the workplace for a more seamless crossover between classroom and field placement activities. This 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.

There are two options for the field/practicum experience that is also required for students seeking to sit for the BCaBA exam:

Intensive Practicum Option (a). This option involves 500 hours of time, which amounts to about 170 hours per each of the three program semesters. This is considered an intensive practicum experience and is conducted at the University Pediatrician's Autism Center in Novi, Detroit, or Clinton Township. Students will complete associated tasks and practicum experience activities by being immersed into a center-based practicum experience site and assigned a direct center-based supervisor. Students will receive increased supervision and supervisors will have met a minimum criterion of performance-based on-site reviews conducted by WSU faculty and staff.

Supervised Independent Field Experience Option (b). This option involves 1000 hours of time at a location to be secured by the student to be completed at a rate of approximately 335 hours per each of the three program semesters. This option is typically chosen by those who are already working in the field and have a natural setting to conduct the required activities. Students seeking this option must have secured a BCBA supervisor before hours can begin.

Applicants will be asked which option they plan to select at the time of application. Regardless of whether you are selecting the intensive practicum or independent field experience, all students will enroll in a total of 6 credits of field experience/practicum experience, which includes weekly seminar meetings, across each of the three courses of the two field experience seminar credit hours per each of the three field experience/practicum experience courses. These weekly seminar meetings are a critical component to field experiences/practicum experiences for students in both options.

Prerequisites

Applicants are expected to meet the minimum undergraduate 2.5 GPA requirement outlined by WSU Undergraduate Admissions.

Admission Deadlines

New cohorts begin each fall pending enrollment. Applications for the fall are due by *March 15th*.

Required Program Courses

The BCaBA course sequence consists of the following six required courses:

EDP 3101—Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis (4 credits)

Students will become familiar with Autism and techniques used in implementing Applied Behavior Analysis with people with special needs including Autism.

Prerequisite: Department/Instructor approval. Corequisite: EDP 3104.

EDP 3102—Techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis (4 credits)

Students will expand their knowledge of techniques used in implementing Applied Behavior Analysis with people with special needs including Autism. Advanced topics of Behavior Analysis will be taught.

Prerequisite: EDP 3101 Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis. Corequisite: EDP 3105.

EDP 3103—Applied Behavior Analysis Assessment & Treatment Planning (4 credits)

Students will learn various assessment and treatment planning techniques utilized in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Prerequisite: EDP 3102 Techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis. Corequisite: EDP 3106.

EDP 3104—Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 1 (2 credits)

This practicum experience accompanies EDP 3101—Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis and exposes students to observation experiences of working with persons with Autism.

Corequisite EDP 3101 Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis.

EDP 3105—Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 2 (2 credits)

This practicum experience accompanies EDP 3102—Applied Behavior Analysis 2 and provides students beginning opportunities to work within the ABA model with persons with Autism.

Corequisite EDP 3102--Techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis

EDP 3106—Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 3 (2 credits)

This practicum experience accompanies EDP 3103—Applied Behavior Analysis Assessment and Treatment Planning and provides students increasing independence in assessing and treating persons with Autism within the ABA model.

Corequisite EDP 3103—Applied Behavior Analysis Assessment & Treatment Planning

Note:

Students are required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher across these six courses/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 likely affect how well students perform on the national exam.

Course Schedule

For all cohorts, the three courses and their associated practicum and seminar courses occur in succession, fall, winter and spring/summer semesters (EDP 3101, 3102, and 3103 with the practicum courses (EDP 3104, 3105, 3106) occurring along with EDP 3101, 3102, and 3103, respectively. There will be no flexibility. If financial aid is not available in the spring/summer, students who commit to this sequence do so fully aware of the fact that funds will have to be secured by alternative means. Our cohorts start, stay, and finish together each year.

Program Leadership

In addition to excellent adjunct faculty who teach throughout the program, the program is run by the following two full-time faculty members.

Krista Clancy, Ph.D., LLP, BCBA
BCBA and BCaBA Program Advisor & Field Coordinator, WSU
Director of Behavioral Services, University Pediatricians Autism Center
(734) 564-1849; bx4655@wayne.edu

Cheryl L. Somers, Ph.D., LP
Director, Applied Behavior Analysis (BCBA and BCaBA) Training
Professor, Educational Psychology, 341 College of Education, 5425 Gullen Mall, WSU
Detroit, MI 48202; T 313-577-1670, F 313-577-5235, c.somers@wayne.edu
<http://tbf.coe.wayne.edu/>

Admission Procedures

Admission requires university undergraduate status in any major area or post bachelorette status, a program area application, statement of purpose essay, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation (each described in detail below). All of this information is used comprehensively to evaluate a student's potential candidacy for the programs. A limited number of qualified applicants are invited for an interview with the faculty. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the program secretary at (313) 577-1614 if clarification is needed and to check on the status of applications.

Please follow the below instructions carefully, or your application review will be delayed. In the below instructions, there are items that you send to these two addresses:

Dr. Cheryl L. Somers, ABA (BCBA and BCaBA) Program Director
Professor, Department of Educational Psychology
341 College of Education, 5425 Gullen Mall
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Wayne State University
PO Box 02759
Detroit, MI 48202

1. *Transcripts.* Undergraduate Admissions requires that official transcripts be sent directly from all previous colleges and universities. Also send a copy to Dr. Somers, but these can be unofficial copies. Please see above addresses.
2. *University Application.* There are two types of applicants. Which are you? Please see below instructions for each type. In either case, *do not apply with the university* (Undergraduate Admissions) *until the semester in which our application deadline falls. If you apply earlier than the start of that semester, the university will require you to resubmit an application (and fees) again.*

Current WSU undergraduate students -- do not submit an online application. You are applying directly to the program area only. Submit the program area application and everything else only to Dr. Somers.

Non-WSU post-bachelor's students -- apply online at (<https://cardinal.wayne.edu/apply/ug.php>). You select ***Post Bachelor's – Education*** for the Planned Course of Study found in the online application. You must upload an official final transcript with degree posted from the institution where the bachelor's degree was awarded and pay the application fee. Include official transcripts from all previous institutions.

3. *Recommendations.* Three letters of recommendation are required. There are no specific forms required for these letters. The letters should consist of why you are a good candidate for the program and any other pertinent information about your background and your strengths. We

recommend that at least one or two of the letters be from faculty members/teachers. The letters should be mailed to Dr. Somers.

4. *Program Application.* The Program Application can be found later in this brochure and is specific to our department. This does not go to the University. You can type or handwrite it, but it needs to be submitted directly to Dr. Somers. This can be mailed to us at any time and you do not have to wait until the semester of application as you do with the university application.

NOTE: We need all of the indicated materials by the deadline in our department.

Questions? If you have any questions about the program itself, contact:

Dr. Cheryl L. Somers, ABA (BCBA and BCaBA) Program Director
341 College of Education
(313) 577-1670; c.somers@wayne.edu

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

Sheri Martini, Program Secretary
341 College of Education
(313) 577-1614
aa5574@wayne.edu

Interviews

The first round interview will be scheduled shortly after the application deadline. The interview will take place in the College of Education, Educational Psychology program area. After the interview, students who need a site visit will be sent to tour the University Pediatrician's Autism Center. 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, either way, an admission decision will be made. You will be notified by email of the outcome.

Summary of Required Application Materials

Admissions Materials Checklist

Post-bachelor students only--Submit (upload) to Undergraduate Admissions:

- Online University Application
- Official Transcripts
- Application Fee

All applicants--Submit directly to Dr. Cheryl Somers (by mail or in person):

- Program Area Application with Essay
- Transcripts (official or unofficial)
- Letters of Recommendation (3)

NOTE: We need all of the indicated materials in our department by the deadline for your application to be reviewed. You are strongly encouraged to contact the program secretary prior to the deadline at (313) 577-1614 to verify that all of your items have been received.

I understand and I am adhering to the above instructions.

Applicant signature *date*

******Submit this page with your program application.******

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Educational Psychology
Program Application for the Admission to the**

**UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS/
BOARD CERTIFIED ASSISTANT BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCaBA)
PREPARATION PROGRAM**

Applications are due by March 15th

At this point, which practicum option do you think that you want to select? (It is not a commitment at this point—just an estimate). CHECK ONE:

- Intensive practicum (500 hours, 6 WSU credits, includes weekly group seminar, includes supervision, and site is provided)
- Supervised independent field experience (1000 hours, 6 WSU credits, includes weekly group seminar, student secures own site and individual supervision)
- Unsure

NAME: _____ WSU ID: _____

PRESENT ADDRESS: _____
Number-Street City-State Zip

CELL PH.: _____ WORK PH.: _____ E-MAIL: _____

YOUR PRESENT OCCUPATION: _____

EDUCATION

High School(s) Name, City & State	Last Grade Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> GED
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Vocational School(s) Name, City & State	Last Grade Completed	Type of Course or Major	Certificate Granted
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Undergraduate Universities/College(s)
Name, City & State

Last Grade
Completed

Type of Course
or Major

Degree or Certificate
Granted

Professional/Graduate Univ/College(s)
Name, City & State

Last Grade
Completed

Type of Course
or Major

Degree or Certificate
Granted

Other courses or workshops: _____

Which subjects did you like most? _____

In which subjects did you receive your best grades? _____

What was your rank in your class in high school? *(Please check one)*

Top Qtr. Second Qtr. Third Qtr. Fourth Qtr.

To what clubs or organizations do you currently belong or did you belong in the past?

STUDENT STATUS:

- Dual Enrollment (Currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at Wayne State University)
- Post-Bachelor (Earned a Bachelor's degree)

CONVICTION/REVOICATION INFORMATION

	YES	NO
1. Have you ever been convicted of, pled no contest to, or pled guilty to a felony? (Check one)	_____	_____
2. Have you ever been convicted of, pled no contest to, or pled guilty to a misdemeanor involving a minor? (Check one)	_____	_____
3. Have you had a school psychologist, teaching or administrator certificate suspended or revoked? (Check one)	_____	_____

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Please list all in which you are fluent: _____

WORK EXPERIENCE

List your present or most recent job first

1. Name of Employer and Location: _____
From: _____ To: _____ Why did you leave? _____
Description of Job:

Full-time Part-time

2. Name of Employer and Location: _____
From: _____ To: _____ Why did you leave? _____
Description of Job:

Full-time Part-time

3. Name of Employer and Location: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Why did you leave? _____

Description of Job:

Full-time Part-time

Which of the above jobs did you like best? _____

Why? _____

INTERESTS

What do you do in your spare time? (hobbies, sports, music, etc.) _____

Which do you like most? _____

To what clubs or organizations do you belong? _____

In which of these have you been or are you an officer? _____

If you had the time and money, what other things would you like to do in your spare time?

What books and articles have you read recently? _____

What newspapers and magazines do you read most frequently? _____

In what subjects are you especially interested? _____

How do you spend your evening during an average week? _____

By submitting this application, you are certifying that you are capable of meeting all of the essential requirements of this program.

ESSAY: Why do you wish to become an Applied Behavior Analyst/Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)? (Please type response here or attach a separate page)

Start essay on next page.