BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCBA) TRAINING
Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
and Master’s Degree (M.Ed.) Options

Revised 8/16/17

Overview

Central to either the Graduate Certificate or the M.Ed. option is our course sequence that trains practitioners extensively in Applied Behavior Analysis with a focus on treating Autism. Recent Michigan legislation mandates insurance companies to cover therapeutic services for autistic persons by BCBA credentialed treatment providers. To earn a BCBA credential, a master’s degree in psychology, education/special education, or Applied Behavior Analysis is required, plus a specific sequence of 5 classes (18 credit hours total) and 6 credits of practicum across three semesters as described below. Our course sequence has received full approval by the Behavior Analytic Certification Board (BACB). This BCBA certification course sequence can either be part of a master’s program or a post-master’s set of courses that will meet the requirements for students to sit for the BCBA exam. Students who successfully complete the courses are eligible to sit for the BCBA examination, which, upon passing, would lead to the BCBA credential.

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 BCBA 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 BCBA 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.

We offer cohorts that run during the day and cohorts that run in the evening. Cohorts that begin in May will run in the evening. Cohorts that begin in August will be run during daytime hours. All classes are typically taught at the Wayne State University Oakland Campus. Also see the “Course Schedule” section farther below for additional detail.

There are two options for the field/practicum experience that is also required for students seeking to sit for the BCBA exam: Option (a) involves 750 hours of time. This is considered an accelerated practicum and is conducted at the University Pediatrician's Autism Center in Novi,
Detroit, or Clinton Township. Students will complete associated tasks and practicum activities by being immersed into a center-based practicum 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. This is a competitive option, and students will have to apply for it at the end of the first course in the BCBA course sequence. Not all will be accepted—maximum number selected is based on space. Option (b) involves 1500 hours of time at a location to be secured by the student. This option is typically chosen by those who are already working in the field and have a natural setting in which to conduct the required activities. Applicants will be asked which option they plan to select. For the accelerated practicum, hours are completed during day time or evening, commensurate with the coursework plan for your cohort. Regardless of whether you are selecting the master’s degree or post-master’s Graduate Certificate option, students will enroll in a total of 6 credits of field/practicum experience, which includes weekly seminar meetings, across each of the final three courses of the sequence (after the initial two courses)—2 field experience seminar credit hours per each of the three practicum courses.

Applicants must choose whether they are going to select the course sequence as either a) a series of 18 credits earning a Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (must have prior master’s degree in psychology, education/special education, or applied behavior analysis required) plus one of the practicum options, either of which also requires an additional 6 credits of practicum, or b) part of a Master’s of Education (M.Ed.) degree in Educational Psychology, which involves the same 18 credit sequence, plus an additional 12 credits of coursework (Bachelor’s degree required) and one of the practicum options, either of which also requires an additional 6 credits of practicum. Both options lead to the BCBA credential, providing the BCBA exam is passed after completing the ABA/BCBA course sequence. Regardless of whether route “a” or “b” is chosen, the ABA/BCBA five-course sequence is taken at the same time by all students admitted at the same time as a cohort. Cohorts must take their classes in sequence together as outlined by the program—it is a block scheduled program with no variations permitted. The M.Ed. route described above is already in place and will involve a total of 30 credits plus 6 credits of practicum.

**Note to those entering with a master’s degree:** The BACB has limited only those degrees from psychology, education, and applied behavior analysis as eligible for the course sequence. Unfortunately, social work was not made eligible. Anyone is still eligible to enroll in our full M.Ed. program described below, but the course sequence option without the M.Ed. program is no longer available outside of those degrees. This is a BACB decision—not a WSU decision.

**Summary**

Regardless of route, everyone takes the five-course BCBA sequence (18 credits)—these count toward either the M.Ed. or the Graduate Certificate. Also, everyone takes the 6 credits of practicum and attends the seminars associated with it, regardless of where you conduct your practicum—these are extra above and beyond the M.Ed. or Graduate Certificate. If you need the Master’s degree, you take an additional 12 credits of the courses listed farther below. Thus, if you need the M.Ed., you will be taking 18+12+6=36 credits and if you only need the Graduate Certificate, you will be taking 18+6=24 credits.
Prerequisites

Applicants are expected to meet the minimum undergraduate 2.75 GPA requirement outlined by the WSU Graduate School.

Admission Deadlines

New cohorts begin each spring and each fall pending enrollment. Applications for the spring cohort are due by January 15th and applications for the fall are due by April 1st.

Required Program Courses

The BCBA course sequence consists of the following five required courses:

EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis (4 credits)
Principles and concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), historical perspective of ABA, fundamental vocabulary, philosophy, and methodology of the science of behavior management. Prerequisites: Department/Instructor approval

EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis (4 credits)
Overview of assessment techniques used in behavioral intervention planning, functional assessments, functional assessment interview, descriptive and functional analysis, data collection and interpretation, preference assessment, and interpretation of evaluation tools. Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis

EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning (4 credits)
Techniques used in behavioral intervention planning, data collection, interpretation of assessments, development of goals and objectives, overview and application of treatment interventions, management, supervision, and team planning. Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis; EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in ABA

EDP 7104 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)
Overview of research method techniques, theoretical foundations of empirical research, principles of the scientific method, experimental designs, analysis of research designs, research protocol, and formation of research hypothesis. Primary focus on single-case designs. Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis; EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in ABA

EDP 7105 Ethical Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)
Responsibility, values, ethics, and practice principles of the field of behavior analysis. Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis; EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in ABA
EDP 7107 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis (2 credits)
Students in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) courses will work directly with multiple clients using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. Specific focus on supervised one on one behavioral intervention work with children.
Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis and EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis.

EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis (2 credits)
Students in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) courses will work directly with multiple clients using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. Specific focus on working in team consultative context to deliver comprehensive behavioral services.
Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis and EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis.

EDP 7109 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis (2 credits)
Students in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) courses will work directly with multiple clients and staff using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. Highest level of independent behavioral intervention work including managing all necessary assessment, treatment, case management, and intervention training and supervision of parents and technicians.
Prerequisites: EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis and EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Note:
Students are required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher across these and all program classes/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 five courses in the sequence occur in succession, one per each of five sequential semesters (EDP 7101, 7102, 7103, 7104, and 7105, with the practicum courses (EDP 7107, 7108, 7109) occurring along with EDP 7103, 7104, and 7105, respectively. For example, a cohort beginning in the Fall semester (in August) will take the five semesters in sequence in the Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer, Fall, Winter. A cohort beginning in the Spring/Summer semester (in May) will take the five semesters in sequence in Spring/Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer, Fall. Students must be aware that they have to commit to this going into the program. There will be no flexibility.

For cohorts that begin in the Spring/Summer semester, the BCBA course sequence classes are offered during evenings, with classes typically running sometime between 4:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. For cohorts that begin in the fall semester, the BCBA course sequence courses are offered during the day time, with classes typically running sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Those in the daytime cohort will have classes one to two days per week. We do our best to consolidate the courses to one day when possible so that students can work and complete
practicum experiences on the other days. For both the day time and evening cohorts, students have to be prepared to commit to the plan, despite that there may be some fluctuations in exact course times and days of the week.

The accelerated practicum, for those desiring of and accepted for that option, runs for three consecutive semesters. Students enroll, respectively, in three field experience courses, each for two credits (EDP 7107, 7108, and 7109) along with the last three classes/semesters of the course sequence (EDP 7103, 7104, and 7105), as described above. The hours for this practicum run commensurate with those of the daytime or evening cohort. If a student is in the day time cohort, for example, all courses and practicum experiences are typically finished by 4:00 p.m. For the evening cohort, all classes and practicum experiences occur between 4:30 and 9:00 p.m. Students choosing the alternative practicum option are not tied to the three semester timeline for full completion of the hours, as it may take longer to do the 1500-hour experience, but they must enroll in the three semesters of practicum along with those in the accelerated practicum.

**M.Ed. in Educational Psychology**

For those who need a master’s degree along with the BCBA sequence, you need to apply to the Master of Education Program in Educational Psychology. You will take the same above BCBA sequence (EDP 7101, 7102, 7103, 7104, and 7105 coursework, plus EDP 7107, 7108, and 7109 as practica along with the cohort with which you are admitted, plus the five courses listed below, to be taken with the following non-negotiable specifications: 1) EDP 5450 must be taken along with your cohort with EDP 7101 during your first semester, at whatever day and time slot that it is offered (it is typically an evening class), and 2) EDP 7610 must be taken along with EDP 7102 in the second semester, at whatever day and timeslot that it is offered (it is typically an evening class). This is non-negotiable and, like the BCBA sequence courses, students must be available to take these courses whenever they are scheduled--daytime or evening. Students must enter this program with flexibility in mind as they have to adjust to any schedule.

1) EDP 5450 Child Psychology (3 credits) (semester 1)
2) EDP 7610 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (3 credits) (semester 2)

These other three College of Education core courses can be scheduled at any point in your program that you choose (these are typically evening or online classes):

3) EER 7610 Evaluation and Measurement (2 credits) (any time)
4) EDA 7600 Structure of American Education (2 credits) (any time)  
   *may be substituted for EHP 7600 Philosophy of Education (2 credits)*
5) CED 6700 The Role of Teacher in Guidance (2 credits) (any time)

Although WSU allows six years from the time of admission to the time of program completion, the BCBA board permits only up to 5 years total from the onset of your coursework to completion of the rest of that program and passing of the BCBA exam. Thus, it will be up to you to pace this part of the program to fit your career goals and plans. After you are admitted to the program, Dr. Somers will send you a plan of work for your program.
In addition, one of the practicum options is required for BCBA certification. However, it is not a required part of the M.Ed. program and thus will not go on the university’s official Plan of Work.

**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 to either option requires a University Graduate Admissions application (submitted online to Graduate Admissions—either an “Educational Psychology – M.Ed.” application or an “Applied Behavior Analysis – Graduate Certificate” application), a program area application including statement of purpose essay, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation (each item is 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.

Following are four sets of materials required to be sent to one or more recipient. **Please following this carefully, or your application review will be delayed.** For items that we want sent directly to us in the Educational Psychology, use the following address:

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

1) **Graduate Application.** Go to [http://www.gradadmissions.wayne.edu/apply.php](http://www.gradadmissions.wayne.edu/apply.php) and submit a graduate application to Graduate Admissions. **Apply online only.** Their office is located in the Welcome Center, 4th Floor, 42 W. Warren, Detroit, MI 48202, (313) 577-3577. On the application form in the planned course of study section, you would specify either “Education Psychology – M.Ed.” (for those students without a Master’s Degree who will be entering our M.Ed. Program) or “Applied Behavior Analysis – Graduate Certificate” (for those students who already have an eligible Master’s Degree and will be just taking the coursework and
internship(s). You are encouraged to contact the program secretary at (313) 577-1614 to ensure you have applied correctly and to have any concerns addressed. *It is important that you do not apply with the university (Graduate 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.*

2) **Official Transcripts.** You have to do two things regarding transcripts: a) Official transcripts are required to be sent directly from all previously attended universities to Graduate Admissions with your graduate application. Official transcripts are required to be sent directly from all previous universities to Wayne State University Office of Graduate Admissions at 5057 Woodward, Suite 6000, Detroit, MI 48202 [phone: (313) 577-4723]. Electronic transcripts will be accepted if they are delivered securely from the registrar of the issuing institution directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions - gradadmissions@wayne.edu. b) You must also mail or deliver either official or unofficial copies to Dr. Somers at the address above.

3) **Recommendations.** Three letters of recommendation are required. There are no specific forms required for these letters. The letters should consist of why you would be 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. The letters should be a) uploaded with your online application AND also b) mailed to Dr. Somers directly at the address above.

4) **Program Application with Essay.** The Program Application is a different application than the Graduate Admission Application that is submitted online directly to Graduate Admissions. The Program Application can be found further 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 at the above address.

**Summary of Required Application Materials**

To summarize, 1) Complete an online Graduate Application. 2) Forward official transcripts directly to Graduate Admissions. Send the following application materials to our department/Dr. Somers directly: 3) Program Application, 4) three letters of recommendation, and 5) copies of transcripts (can be unofficial copies).

**Admissions Materials Checklist**

*Submit (upload) to Graduate Admissions*
- Online University Application
- Official Transcripts
- Application Fee

*Submit to Dr. Cheryl Somers (by mail or in person.)*
- Program Area Application with Essay
- Official or Unofficial Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (3)
NOTE: We need all of the indicated materials by the deadline in our department by the deadline for your application to be reviewed. You are strongly encouraged to contact the program secretary at (313) 577-1614 to verify that all of your items have been received prior to the deadline.

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, 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.
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Educational Psychology

Program Application for the Admission to the
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA)/BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCBA) PREPARATION PROGRAMS

To which program are you applying? CHECK ONE:

☐ M.Ed. (Master of Education) in Educational Psychology (30 credits + 6 credits practicum)
☐ Graduate Certificate in ABA (non-degree/post-master’s) (18 credits + 6 credits practicum)

To which BCBA sequence cohort are you applying? CHECK ONE:

☐ Spring/Summer Evening Cohort (starts in May)*
☐ Fall Daytime Cohort (starts in August)*

*Note to those applying for the full M.Ed. program: The EDP 5480 and EDP 7610 courses are required to be taken with your cohort and are typically in the evenings. The other M.Ed. course are also typically evening courses or online courses (EDA 7600/EHP 7600, CED 6700, EER 7610). Students apply and commit to offers by this program with full knowledge that they must be available when these courses are scheduled even if they choose the daytime cohort for the BCBA sequence. See above details in the brochure to fully understand this non-negotiable requirement.

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:

☐ Accelerated practicum (750 hours, includes individual supervision* and location)
☐ Self-directed practicum (1500 hours, find own location and individual supervision*)
☐ Unsure

*Both options include a required practicum class, which involves group supervision.

NAME: _______________________________ WSU ID: __________________

PRESENT ADDRESS:
Number-Street City-State Zip

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

YOUR PRESENT OCCUPATION: _______________________________________________________

EDUCATION

High School Name, City & State Last Grade check one ☐ Diploma ☐ GED

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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?

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

CONVICTION/REVOCATION INFORMATION

1. Have you ever been convicted of, pled no contest to, or pled guilty to a felony? *(Check one)*

   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO

2. Have you ever been convicted of, pled no contest to, or pled guilty to a misdemeanor involving a minor? *(Check one)*

   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO

3. Have you had a school psychologist, teaching or administrator certificate suspended or revoked? *(Check one)*

   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
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 Behavior Analyst
(BCBA)? (Please type response here or attach a separate page)

Start essay on next page.