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

Revised 5/9/19

Program begins once per year each fall semester
Applications are due by March 1st

Overview

Central to either the Graduate Certificate or the Master’s of Science (M.S.) degree in Applied Behavior Analysis option is our course sequence that trains practitioners extensively in Applied Behavior Analysis with a focus on treating Autism. 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 classes and practicum. At WSU, our ABA sequence involves 22 credit hours of courses and 10 credits of practicum across five semesters as described below (total=32 credits). Our course sequence has received full approval by the Behavior Analytic Certification Board (BACB). This BCBA certification course sequence can either be part of our M.S. in ABA 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.

Our coursework is currently approved for Task List 4 and we will be submitting for approval for Task List 5 this summer. For all students training under Task List 4 you must sit for the BCBA exam prior to January 2022.

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.

Our cohorts begin each fall and primarily run during the day. The ABA classes are typically taught at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Also see the “Course Schedule” section farther below for additional detail. The additional classes that are part of the M.S. degree are typically on main campus downtown.

Applicants must choose whether they are going to select the course sequence as either a) a series of 32 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 10 credits of practicum, or b) part of a Master’s of Education (M.S.) degree in Applied Behavior Analysis, which involves the same 32 credit sequence, plus an additional 8 credits of coursework (Bachelor’s degree required) and one of the practicum options, either of which also requires an additional 10 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-semester 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.S. route described above is also block scheduled with a cohort for a total of 40 credits.

**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 is currently not eligible, although the board has indicated that the MSW will soon be eligible. Please check with the BACB for that at [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com). Anyone is still eligible to enroll in our full M.S. program described below, but the course sequence option without the M.S. program is no longer available outside of those approved degrees. This is a BACB decision—not a WSU decision.

**Summary**

Regardless of route, everyone takes the five-semester BCBA sequence of courses and practica (22 credits of coursework plus 10 credits of practica = 32 credits)—these count toward either the M.S. or the Graduate Certificate. If you need the Master’s degree, you take an additional 8 credits of the courses listed farther below, for a total of 40 credits.

**Required Program Courses**

The BCBA course sequence consists of the following required courses:

**TRADITIONAL COURSES**

**EDP 5450 Child Psychology (3 credits)**
Basic concepts, research findings and problems regarding child, pre-adolescent and early adolescent developmental needs as they apply to school and home environments; includes study of exceptional children and those with cultural differences.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A
EDP 7610 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (3 Credits)
Study of theories of psychopathology in children and adolescents and the application to these theories to practice. Differential diagnosis using currently acceptable classification systems.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A
Frequency – Fall, Winter

EER 7610 Evaluation and Measurement (2 Credit)
Principles and practices of evaluation and measurement with special focus on behavioral goals. Informal and formal evaluation strategies.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisites: N/A
Frequency – Fall, Winter, Spring

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.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisites: N/A
Frequency – Fall

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.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisites: EDP 7101
Frequency - Winter

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.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisites: EDP 7102, EDP 7104
Frequency - Winter

EDP 7111 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis (4 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.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisites: EDP 7103
Frequency – Fall
EDP 7104 Measurement and Experimental Design (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.
Corequisite: N/A
Prerequisites: EDP 7101
Frequency – Fall

EDP 7105 Ethical Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 Credits)
Responsibility, values, ethics, and practice principles of the field of behavior analysis.
Corequisite:
Prerequisites: EDP 7111
Frequency – Winter

FIELD EXPERIENCES/PRACTICUM COURSES

EDP 7106 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 1 (2 Credits)
Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students 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.
Corequisite: EDP 7101
Prerequisites: N/A
Frequency – Fall

EDP 7107 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 2 (2 Credits)
Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students 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.
Corequisite: EDP 7102
Prerequisites: EDP 7106
Frequency – Winter

EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 3 (2 Credits)
Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students 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.
Corequisite: EDP 7103
Prerequisites: EDP 7107
Frequency – Spring/Summer

EDP 7109 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 4 (2 Credits)
Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students 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.

Corequisite: EDP 7111
Prerequisites: EDP 7108
Frequency – Fall

**EDP 7110 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 5 (2 Credits)**

Students will spend supervised time in the field practicing skills learned in the BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) course sequence. Students will work directly with multiple clients and staff using a variety of Applied Behavior Analysis techniques. The highest level of independent behavioral intervention work including managing all necessary assessment, treatment, case management, and intervention training and supervision of parents and technicians is expected in this semester.

Corequisite: EDP 7105
Prerequisites: EDP 7109
Frequency – Winter

**Course Schedule**

For all cohorts, the five semesters of courses and practica in the sequence occur in a succession of five sequential semesters. Cohorts begin in the Fall semester (in August) and will take the five semesters in sequence in the Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer, Fall, Winter. Students must be aware that they have to commit to this going into the program. There will be no flexibility.

The BCBA course sequence courses are offered during the daytime, with classes typically running sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. 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. The additional courses if students need the M.S. are primarily in the evening, with some online. 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.

This next table reflects the course sequence for those who need the full Master’s degree:

**M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course (credits)</th>
<th>Pre/Co-req</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EDP 7101 Foundations in ABA (4)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDP 7106 Field Exp. 1 (2)</td>
<td>Co-req 7101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDP 5450 Child Psy (3)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>EDP 7102 Bx Asmt in ABA (4)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDP 7107 Field Exp. 2 (2)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7106, Co-req 7102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDP 7104 Measurement &amp; Exp Design (3)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EDP 7103 Tx Planning in ABA (4)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7102, 7104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDP 7108 Field Exp. 3 (2)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7107, Co-req 7103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>EDP 7111 Advanced ABA Tx Planning (4)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDP 7109 Field Exp. 4 (2)</td>
<td>Pre-req 7108, Co-req 7111</td>
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### Practicum/Field Experience

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 beginning 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. Regardless of whether you are selecting the master’s degree or post-master’s Graduate Certificate option, students will enroll in a total of 10 credits of field/practicum experience, which includes weekly seminar meetings, across each of the five semesters of the sequence—2 field experience seminar credit hours per each of the five practicum courses.

The accelerated practicum, for those desiring of and accepted for that option, may not begin to accrue hours until they begin EDP 7107. Students must enroll in three following three field experience courses: EDP 7107, 7108, and 7109, and obtain a passing grade (C+) or higher to qualify for the intensive practicum option on the BCBA exam application. Students must also finish accruing their hours before obtaining a grade in 7109. If they have not finished their hours before the end of the program, they would have to switch to a 1500-hour field experience model to complete the remaining hours. Students choosing the alternative 1500-hour experience may begin to accrue hours as soon as they begin semester one. However, they must enroll in the field experience course along with those in the accelerated practicum.
All students must apply to sit for the exam before January 2022. The field experience hours requirements changes go into effect and those who have gained experience hours under the current criteria will no longer qualify to sit for the exam after that. For students entering in cohort 2020, new field experience requirements will be in place.

Grades Required During Program

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 affect how well students perform on the national exam.

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. Refer all of your questions about the program to Dr. Somers. Mrs. Lei Juan Stewart-Walker, Program Secretary, can assist you with admissions and general university questions.

Cheryl L. Somers, Ph.D., LP
Assistant Dean, Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations
Professor, Educational Psychology
Director, Applied Behavior Analysis (BCBA and BCaBA) Training
Wayne State University
341 College of Education
5425 Gullen Mall
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 577-1670
c.somers@wayne.edu;
http://coe.wayne.edu/tbf/index.php

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

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 fall pending enrollment. Applications are due by March 1st. It is important for you to follow application directions carefully. Please check the box on the online application for the fall term only.
Admission Procedures—MARY WAKER IS EDITING THIS

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, statement of purpose, official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation (each item is described in detail below). This information is used comprehensively to evaluate a student’s potential candidacy for the program. A limited number of qualified applicants are invited for an interview with the faculty. Applicants should contact Academic Services (313-577-1601) if they need to check on the status of their application. A background check is also required after you have been accepted but before we can finalize your admission to the program.

Following are materials required for your application. Please follow this carefully, or your application review will be delayed.

Applications are due by March 1st

1) Graduate Application. Go to http://gradapply.wayne.edu to create a graduate application. Apply online only. When asked for the major, select “Educational 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 Academic Services at (313) 577-1601 to ensure you have applied correctly and to have any concerns addressed. Once inside the application portal, please remember to read everything from the top to bottom of the page. There is much useful information and several links you will need. Your WSU email address can be activated using the link at the bottom of your online application. Please activate, immediately begin using, and regularly check this email for updates.

Graduate students in good standing with Wayne State University who want to change their majors should apply online as these two pages indicate. However, if you are a WSU student who is adding a second program, please contact LaSondra Dawn, Program Specialist (and Liaison between the College of Education and Graduate Admissions) in Academic Services, at (313) 577-1011 for further instructions.

2) Official Transcripts. Official transcripts must be sent directly from all previously attended universities to Graduate Admissions. Have official transcripts 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. You must also upload copies (unofficial is fine for review purposes) of all of your transcripts with your online application.

3) Recommendations. Three letters of recommendation are required. We recommend that at least one or two of the letters be from faculty members. Your letters must be uploaded to your
online application. You will need to submit the name and email address of the people providing your letters of recommendation on your online application.

4) Program Application. The Program Application is a different application from the Graduate Admission Application. The Program Application can be downloaded from http://coe.wayne.edu/tbf/educational-psychology/board-certified-behavior-analyst-bcba.php. It must be uploaded to your online application.

5) Statement of Purpose. The Statement of Purpose is a critical part of your application. Instructions are provided within the online application. It must be uploaded to your online application.

6) Background Check. Once you are recommended for admission to the program, information will be sent to you concerning how to complete the criminal background check. The cost for this is $55.

Interviews

The first-round interview will be scheduled shortly after the application deadline. 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, an admission decision will be made. You will be notified by email of the outcome.
ADMISSION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Each of the following items are required to be uploaded to your university application. There is a place in the online application for each item, and instructions specific to each are included in the application itself.

- $50 Application Fee for non-WSU applicants (fee is waived for WSU graduates)
- Official or Unofficial Transcripts
- Program Area Application
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation (3)

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

Cheryl L. Somers, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean, Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations
Professor, Educational Psychology
Director: School and Community Psychology M.A. Program
Wayne State University
341 College of Education
5425 Gullen Mall
Deroit, MI 48202
(313) 577-1670
c.somers@wayne.edu
http://tbf.coe.wayne.edu

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

Academic Services
489 Education Building
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 577-1601

For more information, please visit our website at http://coe.wayne.edu/tbf/educational-psychology/board-certified-behavior-analyst-bcba.php, or contact our program secretary, Sheri Martini, at (313) 577-1614 or aa5574@wayne.edu.