

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCBA) TRAINING Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Master's of Education (M.Ed.) Degree in Educational Psychology Options

Revised 9/10/18

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 Education (M.Ed.) Degree in Educational Psychology 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.

Our cohorts begin each fall and primarily run during the day. Most 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.

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.

Required Program Courses

The BCBA course sequence consists of the following 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.

Corequisite: EDP 5450 Child Psychology

Prerequisite: 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.

Corequisite: EDP 7610 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Prerequisite: 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.

Corequisite: EDP 7107 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis I

Prerequisites: 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.

Corequisite: EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis II

Prerequisites: EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning.

EDP 7105 Ethical Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)

Responsibility, values, ethics, and practice principles of the field of behavior analysis.

Corequisite: EDP 7109 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis III

Prerequisites: EDP 7104 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis

EDP 7107 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis I (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.

Corequisite: EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning

Prerequisites: EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in ABA

EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis II (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.

Corequisite: EDP 7104 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis

Prerequisites: EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning and EDP 7107 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis I

EDP 7109 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis III (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.

Corequisite: EDP 7105 Ethical Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis

Prerequisites: EDP 7104 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis and EDP 7108 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis II

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. 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.Ed. 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.

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 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 typically completed during daytime hours. 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.

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. All courses and practicum experiences are typically finished by 4:00 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.

Summary of Courses and Practica/Field Experiences

Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

For those who have an eligible master’s degree and need the BCBA course and practicum sequence, following is the schedule:

Semester	Course (credits)	Held
1	EDP 7101 (4)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
2	EDP 7102 (4)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
3	EDP 7103 (4)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
	EDP 7107 (2)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
4	EDP 7104 (3)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
	EDP 7108 (2)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
5	EDP 7105 (3)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)
	EDP 7109 (2)	Daytime (8-4:00 approximately)

Master’s of Education (M.Ed.) Degree 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) (take in semester 1)
- 2) EDP 7610 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology (3 credits) (take in 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) (take any time)
- 4) EDA 7600 Structure of American Education (2 credits) (take any time)
may be substituted for EHP 7600 Philosophy of Education (2 credits)
- 5) CED 6700 The Role of Teacher in Guidance (2 credits) (take 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.

FOLLOWING IS THE ORDER OF COURSES, AND CONTINUING IN CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS THEREAFTER.

Semester	Course (credits)	Held
1	EDP 7101 (4)	daytime
	EDP 5450 (3)	always night time
2	EDP 7102 (4)	daytime
	EDP 7610 (3)	always night time
3	EDP 7103 (4)	daytime
	EDP 7107 (2)	daytime
4	EDP 7104 (3)	daytime
	EDP 7108 (2)	daytime
5	EDP 7105 (3)	daytime
	EDP 7109 (2)	daytime
Whenever you want to fit these three in:	CED 6700 (2)	online
	EER 7610 (2)	always night time
	EDA 7600 (2)	online
	or EHP 7600 (2)	always night time

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 likely 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. Sheri Martini, 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
 Deroit, 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
Director of Behavioral Services, 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

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
Detroit, 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.