

# APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

*Learn the science of behavior so that you can influence  
change and solve socially significant problems.*



GRADUATE STUDIES  
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

Light the way.



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Applied Behavior Analysis Programs at Assumption College is to prepare students to be well-rounded behavior analysts who excel at applying their knowledge of the science of behavior in a variety of settings. The program accomplishes this through comprehensive coursework in the applied, basic, and conceptual branches of behavior analysis and related fields. We teach evidence-based approaches to assessment and treatment that are widely applicable and based on firmly established behavioral principles. The coursework is integrated with a practicum series to provide students with multiple opportunities to develop competencies in skills related to behavior-analytic service delivery and research. The program teaches students to effectively work with and train staff, parents, and caregivers and to collaborate with other service providers in order to maximize client outcomes while remaining in harmony with the core conceptual and ethical tenants of the field. As a result, students become adept at critical thinking and are formed as contributing members to both the wider discipline of behavior analysis and the communities they serve.



“The partnership between Assumption College and Seven Hills Foundation provides students a unique fieldwork placement in a large human service organization working with adults across a number of community settings.”

– TRISHA RODRICKS  
O'CONNELL '98, G'01

(PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR)  
BCBA AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF CLINICAL SERVICES  
SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Your Path to Becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) is an independent practitioner who conducts behavioral assessments, interprets the results of behavioral assessments, and designs behavioral interventions for clients in a variety of fields. A BCBA may also supervise BCaBAs (behavior analysts certified at the Bachelor's degree level), registered behavior technicians (RBTs), and students wishing to gain supervised fieldwork experience. To become a BCBA, you must hold a master's degree, complete a number of graduate courses in ABA, gain up to 2,000 fieldwork experience hours (with supervision by a BCBA), and pass a certification exam. A BCBA must obtain continuing education to maintain certification and, to practice in Massachusetts, must be licensed as an Applied Behavior Analyst (some exceptions may apply). Assumption's ABA course sequence and practicum courses meet the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's (BACB) requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®. Applicants may need to meet additional requirements to qualify.



## Solve Socially Important Problems and Improve Outcomes

### MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

### CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY (C.A.G.S.) IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Welcome to the ABA programs at Assumption College. We prepare students for careers as applied behavior analysts. Graduates of our programs will be well-prepared for both clinical and research-based positions. Our programs teach the science of behavior, which is essential for individuals interested in autism, general and special education, developmental and intellectual disabilities, social work and related fields.



### Distinguishing and Sought-After Features of the Applied Behavior Analysis Programs:

- **A multi-disciplinary focus** emphasizes how to use behavior-analytic interventions across the fields of psychology, human services, and education
- Coursework covers both **typical and atypical human development**
- **A comprehensive curriculum covers the applied, experimental, and conceptual branches of behavior analysis**
- **Fieldwork experience is coordinated with the coursework and supervised by Board Certified Behavior Analysts**
- Students in the MA program have **the ability to pursue either an applied or research track through tailored coursework**
- The course sequence is **verified by the Association for Behavior Analysis International and meets the requirements to apply to sit for the BCBA exam**
- **Program meets the coursework and fieldwork requirements for licensure** as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts
- **Graduates are well-prepared to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam**

As a graduate of the ABA program, you will be positioned to enter a field with increasingly great demand. You will have the skills necessary to create meaningful improvements in the lives of your clients and their families. We look forward to accompanying you on this exciting journey.

*Karen Lionello-Denolf*

**KAREN LIONELLO-DENOLF, PH.D., BCBA-D, LABA**  
DIRECTOR, APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM

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# A Rewarding High-Demand Career

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the science of learning and behavior used in order to solve socially significant problems (to influence changes in behavior that are meaningful to individuals and those around them). ABA emphasizes the influence of the environment in behavior change and involves direct observation of behavior, data collection and analysis, and systematic changes to the environment in order to understand the cause of socially significant behavior and improve that behavior. By first understanding the cause, we are able to develop more effective, long-lasting and socially acceptable methods of changing our own behavior and the behavior of others.

Students graduate with the coursework and fieldwork requirements to apply for licensure as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts.

### Diverse Career Path Options

With a Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis from Assumption College, your career path options are diverse. ABA is the only evidence-based intervention available for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Given the increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with ASD, it is likely that most people, in any career, will be required to work with or provide services for individuals on the spectrum. Completing coursework in ABA will therefore be relevant for students who will be working with individuals with ASD in a wide variety of settings. The most common association with ABA is working with children with ASD and other developmental and intellectual disabilities, and our programs prepare students to do that. In addition, there are many other fields where the interventions and teaching procedures based on ABA have an impact. An ABA degree is relevant in clinical psychology,behavioral medicine, counseling, job effectiveness, sports training, environmental protection, education, exercise and health, business, criminology, and other areas. Our coursework emphasizes the multi-disciplinary nature of ABA and demonstrates how behavioral principles can be applied in a variety of settings.

### A Well-Rounded Education that Gives You Options

Our program includes coursework in applied, basic and conceptual behavior analysis and is designed for students

who wish to become well-rounded behavior analysts with the flexibility to work in a range of settings. We teach evidence-based approaches to assessment and treatment that are widely applicable. Our program has a multidisciplinary focus, and students will have the opportunity to learn from faculty in the Psychology, Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies, and Education departments and to complete coursework in both typical and atypical development.

Both the M.A. in ABA and C.A.G.S. in ABA programs at Assumption College fulfill the current educational and fieldwork requirements for licensure as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts. Moreover, both programs meet the requirements for students to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam under the 5th Edition Task List.

## The Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis

The Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis is a 46-credit program. It can be completed in two years, including two summer sessions. Two to three classes are taken each semester, and the classes are held once per week in the evening. The coursework includes the applied, experimental and conceptual branches of behavior analysis, so students receive a strong foundation in the science of behavior that will enable them to successfully solve problems for clients in diverse situations. The program also includes required practicum classes that will allow students to obtain supervision of fieldwork hours prior to graduation. Students interested in gaining research experience can pursue a thesis option in which they conduct an applied research project. Students who complete this program will have met the coursework and fieldwork experience requirements to apply for licensure as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts and to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam under the 5th Edition Task List. Applicants may need to meet additional requirements to qualify.

### Required Courses:

#### Behavior Analysis Courses:

- ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis\*
- ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis\*
- ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment\*
- ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I\*
- ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II\*
- ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis\*
- ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis\*
- ABA 605:** The Experimental Analysis of Behavior
- ABA 804:** Integrative Seminar in ABA

#### Behavior-analytic Fieldwork Courses:

- ABA 700:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I
- ABA 701:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II
- ABA 702:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III
- ABA 703:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis IV
- ABA 710:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I: Group Supervision

#### Interdisciplinary Electives (Choose 2):

- ASD 640:** Collaboration and Coordination: Autism Spectrum Disorders OR
- RCP 530:** Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice
- PSY 502:** Psychology of Development OR
- SCP 545:** Human Growth and Development through the Life Span OR
- SED 563:** Developmental Pathways and Challenges
- ABA 503:** Behavior Analysis and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities OR
- ASD 600:** Foundations and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ABA 704:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis V

#### Optional courses:

- ABA 800:** Pre-thesis Seminar in ABA
- ABA 801:** MA Thesis in ABA I

- ABA 802:** MA Thesis in ABA II
- ABA 803:** MA Thesis in ABA III

*\*ABAI Verified Course Sequence course*  
*Assumption cannot guarantee that students successfully completing the program will pass the certification exam or become licensed.*

## SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

### YEAR 1

#### FALL

- ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis
- ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment

#### SPRING

- ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis
- ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal, and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis
- ABA 700:** Practicum I (Individual supervision)
- ABA 710:** Practicum 1: Group Supervision (1 credit)

#### SUMMER

- ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I
- ABA 701:** Practicum II

### YEAR 2

#### FALL

- ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II
- ABA 702:** Practicum II

#### Elective

#### SPRING

- ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis
- ABA 703:** Practicum IV
- Elective**

#### SUMMER

- ABA 605:** The Experimental Analysis of Behavior
- ABA 804:** Integrative Seminar in Applied Behavior Analysis

#### Qualifying Exam



# Practicum

Fieldwork is an essential part of training to become an applied behavior analyst because it allows you to develop the competencies you need to accurately assess behavior and develop successful interventions for your clients. Fieldwork experience is gained by working or volunteering in natural environment settings in which you can use ABA when working with people. One benefit of Assumption’s ABA program is that it includes required practicum classes that allow students to obtain supervision of all of their fieldwork hours prior to graduation. There are certain fieldwork requirements that need to be met to apply for licensure and to sit for the BCBA exam. These include working at a site that allows you to work with more than one person, working a minimum of 20 hours per month related to behavior analysis; being supervised by a BCBA who has completed supervisor training, meets the current BACB supervision requirements, and is licensed as an LABA in Massachusetts; and receiving the minimum percentage of supervised hours and the minimum number of observations and supervisor contacts per supervisory period. Current BACB Experience Standards state that you need to accumulate 2,000 fieldwork work hours with 5% supervised hours under the Supervised Fieldwork standard or 1,500 fieldwork hours with 10% supervised hours under the Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork standard. Assumption’s practicum classes are designed to accommodate either of these standards, depending on the student’s placement. In some cases, students may need to take additional practicum credits to meet fieldwork requirements.

To participate in practicum, you must work or volunteer at a clinical setting where a BCBA who has met the current BACB supervision requirements and is licensed as an applied behavior analyst in Massachusetts can provide 3–4 hours of individual supervision per month. In addition, you must be able to work with multiple clients providing behavior-analytic services for at least 100 hours per month. Students will be asked to identify a practicum placement during their first semester and secure site/supervisor approval from the Program Director. The Program Director is available to assist students in identifying an appropriate placement.

Assumption’s practicum courses are aligned with the behavior-analytic coursework. This allows students to gain skill in applying assessments and interventions in a



coordinated manner and is a significant advantage of our program. During the first semester, a majority of supervision is provided by practicum instructors in addition to on-site supervisors. In subsequent semesters, supervision is split between Assumption practicum instructors and on-site supervisors.

### Practicum courses:

- ABA 700:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I
- ABA 701:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II
- ABA 702:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III
- ABA 703:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis IV
- ABA 704:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis V (elective)
- ABA 710:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I: Group Supervision (1 credit)

### Course Sequence and Schedule

The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the following courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination® under the 5th Edition Task List. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.

### The following courses are part of Assumption’s ABAI Verified Course Sequence:

- ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis
- ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis
- ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment
- ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I
- ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II
- ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis
- ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis

# Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

A Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (C.A.G.S.) in Applied Behavior Analysis is a 37-credit program offered to students who have already completed a Master’s Degree in another field of study and wish to complete the coursework needed to apply for the BCBA exam. The C.A.G.S. consists of seven courses on ABA (the ABAI Verified Course Sequence), four to five semesters of practicum courses, and an integrative seminar in ABA.

## Requirements

### Required Courses:

- ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis
- ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis
- ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment
- ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I
- ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II
- ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis
- ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis
- ABA 804:** Integrative Seminar in ABA

### Required Practicum Courses:

- ABA 700:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I
- ABA 701:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II
- ABA 702:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III
- ABA 703:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis IV
- ABA 710:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I: Group Supervision (1 credit)



# Applying to the Program

You must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university to gain admission to the Master of Arts program. A minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required. Candidates for the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study should already hold a master’s degree in another field of study from an accredited college or university.

The admissions committee takes a holistic approach to each candidate’s application in assessing their potential to successfully complete the graduate program.

Your application file will consist of the following:

- **Graduate Application**
- **Application Fee** – waived for Assumption students and alumni
- **Official College Transcript(s)** of undergraduate and graduate records
- **Three letters of recommendation** – professional and at least one academic\*
- **Current resume**
- **A personal statement** indicating your reason for interest in the field, an assessment of personal strengths and limitations, and goals for graduate study
- Once the application is complete and forwarded to the program office, the ABA Program Director may contact the applicant to arrange an interview.

*\* We strongly recommend at least one academic letter of recommendation; the remaining letters may be professional or academic. All recommendations may be professional if an academic letter is not feasible. However, all letters should address the student’s ability to complete graduate level academic work and may also address the student’s experience with ABA-based interventions.*

For more information about admissions requirements and applying, visit [www.assumption.edu/aba](http://www.assumption.edu/aba)

# Course Descriptions / 2020-21

## REQUIRED COURSES:

### ABA 500: Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis

This course provides a graduate-level introduction to the key concepts, theories and experimental paradigms for studying learning and behavior in both humans and animals. Students will be introduced to the scientific study of learning with an emphasis on how behavior changes as a function of experience. Historical and current perspectives on a range of topics, including (but not limited to) classical conditioning, operant conditioning, innate behavior, and philosophical assumptions about behavior will be examined. Finally, how the basic learning principles are relevant to everyday behavior will be discussed. **Credits: 3**

### ABA 501: Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

This course is designed to teach students the logic of single-subject and small-N designs, which are often used to evaluate the efficacy of a behavioral treatment for individual clients. Students will learn reliable procedures for measuring behavior, various methods of displaying (graphing) behavior, and how to visually analyze displayed data. In addition, students will learn how to identify and develop an applied research question, conduct a literature search, and design a single-subject research study to answer the research question. Issues related to evidenced-based practice and ethics in research will also be discussed. **Credits: 3**

### ABA 600: Behavioral and Functional Assessment

In this course, students will focus on best practices when assessing target behaviors to both increase and decrease. Students will learn indirect assessment and direct observation methods, experimental (functional) analysis, and methods to assess stimulus preference and adaptive, social, and communication skills. In addition, students will learn how to assimilate information derived from these methods to arrive at hypotheses of the function of

a behavior and how to select an intervention method based on assessment results while using evidence-based practices in behavior analysis. Finally, ethical issues related to functional assessment and undesired side-effects of intervention strategies will be discussed. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 (may be taken concurrently) or permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

### ABA 601: Behavior-Analytic Interventions I

This course is the first in a two-part series focusing on the application of behavioral principles in applied settings. There will be an emphasis on applications to behavior of social importance across multiple domains, including autism spectrum disorders, developmental and intellectual disabilities, clinical psychology, job effectiveness, education, exercise and health, business, criminology, and other areas. Students will learn to identify, implement, and maintain effective behavioral interventions based on behavioral principles of reinforcement, punishment, extinction, stimulus control, and motivating operations. In addition, students will learn specific behavior-change procedures, including interventions based on antecedents, contingency contracts, group contingencies, and quantitative analyses. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and ABA 501 (may be taken concurrently) or permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

### ABA 602: Behavior-Analytic Interventions II

This course is the second in a two-part series focusing on the application of behavioral principles in applied settings. There will be an emphasis on applications to behavior of social importance across multiple domains, including autism spectrum disorders, developmental and intellectual disabilities, clinical psychology, job effectiveness, education, exercise and health, business, criminology, and other areas. Students will learn to identify, implement, and maintain effective behavioral interventions based on stimulus control, simple and complex discriminations, errorless teaching procedures, and stimulus equivalence. In addition, students

will learn specific behavior-change procedures, including self-management strategies, token economies, direct instruction, precision teaching, personalized systems of instruction, incidental teaching, functional communication training, and augmentative communication systems. Finally, students will learn to design, evaluate, and supervise the implementation of behavioral programs. *Prerequisites: ABA 601; Credits: 3*

### ABA 603: Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis

This course will provide students with an understanding of legal, professional, and ethical issues in the delivery of behavior-analytic services and the practice of behavior-analytic research. Students will develop the ability to correctly apply ethical principles under various conditions that represent ethical and/or legal challenges related to assessing behavior; selection of treatment protocols; evaluating behavior change; collaborating with other professionals; and relationships with clients, agencies, and colleagues. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board's® (BACB) Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts will be used as the basis for ethical discussions. In addition, students will review the licensure rules and regulations guiding the practice of applied behavior analysis in Massachusetts. **Credits: 3**

### ABA 604: Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis

This course will provide an introduction to the philosophy of behavioral science known as radical behaviorism. Students will learn how to distinguish between different forms of behaviorism and how to differentiate between behavioral and non-behavioral explanations of complex human behavior. In addition, the potential impact of radical behaviorism on society will be discussed. Topics will include private events (such as thinking and feeling emotions), verbal behavior, rule-governed behavior, culture, and society. *Prerequisites: ABA 500; Credits: 3*

### ABA 605: The Experimental Analysis of Behavior

This course will provide students with a survey of research areas in the experimental analysis of behavior. Students will be exposed to a variety of topics in the basic literature related to reinforcement, behavior in transition, aversive control, stimulus control, and derived relations. There will be an emphasis on methodological and conceptual issues, and students will discuss the translation of these topics to solve social problems. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and ABA 501; Credits: 3*

### ABA 700: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I

Practicum is designed to allow students to develop skills related to the BACB Task List. This course provides individual supervision according to the BACB Experience Standards, and students who take this class must also be enrolled in ABA 710 (in which they will receive group supervision). Students will work or volunteer at a site in which they can engage behavior-analytic activities with multiple clients. Students will meet with the instructor individually each week. During individual supervision, students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities including: behavioral case conceptualization, review and feedback on written behavior plans, data sheets, and reports, feedback on procedures implemented with clients and role-plays of skill acquisition and behavior reduction procedures. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and permission of the Program Director; must be co-enrolled in ABA 710; Credits: 3*

### ABA 701: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II

Practicum is designed to allow students to develop skills related to the BACB Task List. This course provides group supervision according to the BACB Experience Standards. Students will work or volunteer at a site in which they can engage behavior-analytic activities with multiple clients. Individual supervision will be obtained at the student's fieldwork site. During group supervision, there will be a focus on behavior assessment and

behavior-change procedures. Students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including peer review of class assignments, role-plays of skill acquisition and behavior reduction procedures, presentations to refine ability to speak behaviorally, and review of Task List items to achieve fluency. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

### ABA 702: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III

Practicum is designed to allow students to develop skills related to the BACB Task List. This course provides group supervision according to the BACB Experience Standards. Students will work or volunteer at a site in which they can engage behavior-analytic activities with multiple clients. Individual supervision will be obtained at the student's fieldwork site. During group supervision, there will be a focus on behavior-change procedures and selecting and implementing interventions. Students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including peer review of class assignments, role-plays of skill acquisition and behavior reduction procedures, presentations to refine ability to speak behaviorally, and review of Task List items to achieve fluency. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

### ABA 703: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis IV

Practicum is designed to allow students to develop skills related to the BACB Task List. This course provides group supervision according to the BACB Experience Standards. Students will work or volunteer at a site in which they can engage behavior-analytic activities with multiple clients. Individual supervision will be obtained at the student's fieldwork site. During group supervision, there will be a focus on selecting and implementing interventions, case conceptualization, and personnel supervision and management. Students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including peer review of class assignments, role-plays of skill acquisition and behav-

ior reduction procedures, presentations to refine ability to speak behaviorally, and review of Task List items to achieve fluency. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

### ABA 710: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I: Group Supervision

Practicum is designed to allow students to develop skills related to the BACB Task List. This course provides group supervision according to the BACB Experience Standards, and students who take this class must also be enrolled in ABA 700 (in which they will receive individual supervision). Students will work or volunteer at a site in which they can engage behavior-analytic activities with multiple clients. During group supervision, students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including peer review of class assignments, role-plays of skill acquisition and behavior reduction procedures, presentations to refine ability to speak behaviorally, and review of Task List items to achieve fluency. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and permission of the Program Director; must be co-enrolled in ABA 700.*

### ABA 804: Integrative Seminar in ABA

This course is designed to integrate conceptual, basic and applied topics related to behavior analysis. Students will focus on case conceptualization, behavioral assessment in a variety environments, and development and evaluation of treatment options. Students will be encouraged to develop sophisticated, fluent, and in-depth understanding of behavioral topics. In addition, students will explore professional issues related to the practice of applied behavior analysis. *Prerequisites: Permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*



# Course Descriptions / 2020-21

## ELECTIVES

### ABA 503: Behavior Analysis and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities\*

This course will provide an overview of intellectual and developmental disabilities and the relation to behavior analysis. Students will gain a perspective on the history and changing perspectives of these disabilities. Both causal and contributing genetic and environmental factors for various conditions will be discussed. Students will examine a variety of disorders in terms of physical characteristics, brain changes, growth patterns, life expectancy, communication issues, health concerns, behavioral concerns, and treatment. Disabilities examined will include Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and learning disabilities. In addition, students will discuss a variety of current issues related to intellectual and developmental disabilities, including early intervention, educational placement, transitioning between life stages, response to intervention, medication use, and fad therapies. Finally, students will examine the behavior-analytic literature related to assessment and intervention for individuals with developmental disabilities. **Credits: 3**

### ABA 704: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis V

Practicum is designed to allow students to develop skills related to the BACB Task List. This course provides group supervision according to the BACB Experience Standards and is an advanced course intended for students who have already completed several semesters of practicum. Students will work or volunteer at a site in which they can engage behavior-analytic activities with multiple clients. Individual supervision will be obtained at the student's fieldwork site. During group supervision, students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including peer review of class assignments, role-plays of skill acquisition and behavior reduction procedures,

presentations to refine ability to speak behaviorally, and review of Task List items to achieve fluency. *Prerequisites:* ABA 703 and permission of the Program Director; **Credits: 3**

### ASD 600: Foundations and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder\*

This course focuses on the unique characteristics of autism spectrum disorders as related to communication, social/emotional development, behavior, sensory processing, cognition and learning, as well as the comorbid conditions associated with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). It also provides an understanding of the differences between an educational and medical diagnosis of ASD and the definition under state and federal special education laws. **Credits: 3**

### ASD 640: Collaboration and Coordination: Autism Spectrum Disorders\*\*

This course focuses on building collaborative services for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) during school years. The collaborative services include developing an understanding and supporting the roles of other disciplines and professionals involved in the education of students with ASD and facilitating coordination and collaboration of these professionals. The course also highlights the importance of successful partnership with parents or caregiver, related service providers, and medical professionals to meet the unique needs of students with ASD in a culturally and linguistically sensitive manner. This course also discusses community partnerships and collaborative transition planning for students with ASD. **Credits: 3**

### PSY 502: Psychology of Development\*\*\*

An examination of human growth and development during infancy through adolescence. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between theory, research, and application of knowledge in child development through a consideration of different theoretical perspectives (psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive-devel-

opmental), current research on selected topics (e.g., prenatal influences, perceptual and cognitive development, cross cultural differences in child rearing), and intervention programs designed to stimulate cognitive and social development in infants and young children. *Prerequisites:* Six undergraduate courses in psychology; **Credits: 3**

### RCP 530\*\*: Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice

This course examines the fundamental principles and techniques of the major counseling theories, including Person-centered, Cognitive-Behavioral, Gestalt, Reality, Psychoanalytic, and Behavior and their applicability to the role of the rehabilitation counselor. Students will have an opportunity to develop and practice fundamental counseling skills. Students will also examine common ethical issues that arise in the counseling relationship and the nature and importance of supervision in counseling. **Credits: 3**

### SCP 545: Human Growth and Development through the Life Span\*\*\*

This course provides in-depth study of human growth and development in the physical, cognitive, language, and social and emotional domains with an emphasis on both typical and atypical development. The positive contributions and limitations of various developmental theories and conceptual frameworks are examined. Throughout the course, students consider the relationship between development and the selection of appropriate educational services and interventions for children and adolescents with special needs. **Credits: 3**

### SED 563: Developmental Pathways and Challenges\*\*\*

This course provides a comprehensive examination of human growth and development of children and adolescents in the physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional domains with an emphasis on both typical and atypical development. This course assists graduate students to better understand the relationships between developmental challenges and

their effects on learning, thereby enabling them to examine and implement effective instructional approaches and interventions with critical appreciation for children and adolescents with special needs. **3 credits.**

\* Students may choose ABA 503 or ASD 600

\*\* Students may choose ASD 640 or RCP 530

\*\*\* Students may choose PSY 502, SCP 545, or SED 563

## OPTIONAL COURSES:

### ABA 800: Pre-thesis Seminar in ABA

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites:* ABA 500; ABA 501; Permission of the Program Director; **Credits: 1**

### ABA 801: MA Thesis in ABA I

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure

committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites:* ABA 800; Permission of the Program Director; **Credits: 1**

### ABA 802: MA Thesis in ABA II

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites:* Permission of the Program Director; **Credits: 2**

### ABA 803: MA Thesis in ABA III

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites:* Permission of the Program Director; **Credits: 2**



“Understanding the theories and practices is important to realizing how they can be applied, and that is what you get from this program.”

-STEPHEN BLAISDELL '18

BCBA



## Beyond the Classroom

### City Living in the Heart of New England

Assumption College is located in Worcester Massachusetts, New England's second largest city, and home to 12 colleges and more than 30,000 students. The campus is nestled on 185 park-like acres in a safe and serene section of the city, with easy access to internships and entertainment.

The college offers graduate students the opportunity to attend numerous free lectures and events, and you have complete access to the Plourde Recreation Center, a state-of-the-art facility with a beautiful pool, cardio and weight machines, and racquetball and squash courts.

Listed on Forbes.com as one of the top-10 most livable cities in the country, metro-Worcester has a population of almost 800,000. Fine dining to exotic foods, an eclectic music scene and a vibrant art community are part of the diverse culture of the city. Whether it's sports teams, concerts by highly acclaimed artists, or national theatrical touring companies, there are numerous entertainment options in Worcester.

Travel to nearby Boston on one of the numerous daily trains from Worcester. The diverse beauties of New England are just an hour's drive away, with mountains to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Boston, Providence and Hartford are about 45 miles away and New York City is a three-hour drive.



"I hope to gain the proper skills to go into the field and work with young children or adults to help reduce problem behaviors for struggling families. I am hoping to...really make a change for the people I support."

**ASHLEY PERRY '19**

BCBA AND SHARED LIVING  
CASE MANAGER,  
SEVEN HILLS FOUNDATION



**GRADUATE STUDIES**  
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NOTE: The College reserves the right to withdraw or modify any of the courses or programs listed in this viewbook, or to cancel any course or program for which it deems the registration insufficient, or to make any course or regulation change it considers necessary. The College further reserves the right to suspend the acceptance of applications in particular programs.