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SCHOOL OF
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**4 REASONS
TO PURSUE AN
M.A. IN APPLIED
BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
*RIGHT NOW***



Whether you're a behavior therapist, Registered Behavior Technician, or paraprofessional; work in a related field; or are looking to change careers, becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) is a highly demanding—and highly rewarding—career choice.

But what exactly does a BCBA do?



**Board Certified
Behavior Analysts
(BCBAs) are
independent
practitioners well
versed in the
science of behavior.**

They conduct behavioral assessments, interpret the results of those assessments, and design evidence-based interventions for clients in a variety of fields—including:

- Autism
- General and special education
- Developmental and intellectual disabilities
- Social work, and more

A master's degree in applied behavior analysis (ABA) does not guarantee you board certification—but you cannot become a Board Certified Applied Behavior Analyst without a master's degree and completing graduate-level coursework in ABA.



Read on to discover: 4 Reasons to Pursue an M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis Right Now

1. Certified behavior analysts are in high demand

If you're interested in becoming a BCBA, it would be wise to embark on your master's degree without delay. Demand for individuals holding BCBA certification has increased every year since 2010 in every U.S. state—with a whopping 80% increase nationwide from 2018 to 2019. ***In fact, in 2019, Massachusetts had the second-highest demand for CBAs in the country, second only to California.***¹



**I found out at the end of
December 2019 that I had
passed the BCBA exam,
and by the end of January 2020,
I already had a job offer!”**



KAYLA CURRAN '17, G'19, BCBA

BEHAVIORAL EDUCATION TEAM SUPERVISOR,
THE EVERGREEN CENTER

2. You can advance your career— quickly!

Pursuing your master's degree in applied behavior analysis is the first critical step in becoming a BCBA—and many programs can be completed in just two years.

- Certification will position you to work more effectively with the populations you're most passionate about—from children with autism to adults with intellectual disabilities.
- You'll be prepared to take on more responsibility, step into a supervisory role, and design highly effective behavior interventions for clients and families.



Hint!

Look for an ABA master's program designed to meet the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's (BACB) requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination.

I've been working with people with special needs for over 30 years.

I would have ideas on how to help them, but I didn't have the authority to implement those ideas. The more I got into my ABA program, the more empowered I felt. Now I'm better able to help clients express themselves, improve their lives, and gain independence."

CYNTHIA RIELLEY G'18, BCBA, LABA

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST,
APPLIED BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

3. You'll learn the science behind the strategy.

You may already be adept at implementing behavioral interventions. A master's in ABA will significantly expand your knowledge and capabilities, teaching you how to design and evaluate effective, evidence-based interventions yourself. You'll become skilled in:

- conducting behavior assessments
- creating individualized plans for your clients
- teaching your support staff
- training parents
- writing reports
- advocating for your clients' best interests



ABA is different from psychology, as it's a bit more scientific.

All of the classes we took provided us with a better understanding of the science and how evidence-based interventions make a socially significant difference."



ANTHEA OIKONOMOU-SAVVIDIS G '18, BCBA, LABA

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST,
APPLIED BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

4. You'll enjoy a rewarding career that changes lives for the better.

There's no time like the present to embark on this challenging and rewarding career path.

While most new BCBA's can expect a salary boost (the average salary nationwide for a BCBA is \$61,860²), the vast majority find the impact they have on their clients to be the most important and fulfilling aspects of their jobs.



The better you understand behavioral science and the proven ways to address behavioral challenges, the more profoundly you will change others' lives.

The most rewarding aspect of my job is applying what I've learned on a day-to-day basis.

There's a saying, 'If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism.' Every client is different. Every day brings a unique challenge. I like that I can create new programs for specific individuals to help them move forward in their lives."



JOSHUA JENNESS G '18, BCBA, LABA

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST,
SHAPIRO EDUCATIONAL & BEHAVIORAL CONSULTANTS

Ready to learn more about the benefits of earning an M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis?

Contact Susan Cahill at 508-767-7365 or sm.cahill@assumption.edu.

VISIT [ASSUMPTION.EDU/ABA](https://www.assumption.edu/aba)



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SOURCES

1. Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2020). US employment demand for behavior analysts: 2010-2019. Littleton, CO: Author.
2. Payscale, Inc. (n.d.) *Average Board Certified Behavior Analysis Salary*. Retrieved from: http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Board_Certified_Behavior_Analyst/Salary