



Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Course Descriptions

ABA 601 Origins and Philosophy of Behavior Analysis (3 credits) – An introduction to the history of the philosophy of science in general, and behaviorist thought in context, and the epistemological underpinnings that provide foundation for methodological and radical behaviorism. Emphasis will be on the historical literature leading to what comprises the professional field of applied behavior analysis, ABA's role within the umbrella profession of applied psychology, and including Darwin, Pavlov, Thorndike, Freud, Mach, Skinner, Kantor, and contemporary scholars thereof.

ABA 602 Behavior Analysis and Learning (3 credits) – A survey of the major empirical findings from the experimental analysis of behavior is provided, including topics such as reinforcement schedules, stimulus control, extinction, punishment, choice behavior, behavioral contrast, behavioral momentum, matching law, and stimulus equivalence. Focus is upon a behavioral perspective to learning with emphasis on effective treatment practice across a range of disabilities.

ABA 603 Experimental Evaluation of Behavioral Interventions (3 credits) – An intensive research methodology course is presented with focus on the applied analysis of behavior. Principles and practice of direct observation, quantitative description, functional analysis of setting and client specific situations, data collection and data analysis methods, and information presentation to client and client services provider are covered. Students will leave with a practical knowledge of single and multiple case methodology, including a range of data collection, analysis, and presentation strategies with a view toward ongoing analysis of therapeutic treatment effect.

ABA 605 Assessment in Behavior Analysis (3 credits) – Students will be provided with the information and clinical practice skills necessary to ensure the ethical and therapeutic treatment of a variety of clientele, ensuring a conceptual and applied knowledge of the skills necessary for appropriate professional practice upon program exit.

ABA 606 Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits) – Introduction to the variety of research methodologies in providing foreground for a survey of the major considerations involved in applying behavior analytic principles to socially or clinically significant human behavior in a variety of natural settings. Topics of functional assessment of clinical and applied settings, introduction to existing data driven interventions and the development of empirically validated interventions for particular client characteristics, social validation of those interventions, maintenance of and transfer of training, and the importance of understanding the behavior of the individual within social and cultural systems will be emphasized.

ABA 609 Developmental Disabilities (3 credits) – A survey of the physiological, psychological, developmental, and behavioral characteristics of a range of cognitive, behavioral, and physical disabilities is provided. Survey material is integrated with applied behavior analysis treatment recommendations as related to data support of therapeutic practice across the survey array.

ABA 610 Verbal Behavior (3 credits) – This course introduces the principles and practice of a functional analysis of language, necessary to effective clinical practice. Grounded in the pioneering work of B. F. Skinner (1957) in this area, students will be provided with a survey of the major classes of verbal operants, including tacts, mands, echoics, intraverbals, and autoclitics. The course will also survey the empirical literature supporting verbal behavior interventions, particularly for clients suffering from major deficits in functional language (e.g., autism, developmentally disabled, mentally retarded). Verbal behavior interventions are rapidly becoming the treatment of choice for clients experiencing language deficits, with this course providing exposure to the necessary skills thereof for effective treatment implementation.

ABA 613 Professional and Ethical Issues in Behavior Analysis (3 credits) – This course will provide the student with information to insure a high quality of practice in behavior analysis. We will discuss an overview of current legislative and professional considerations with respect to the ethical guidelines that govern the profession of applied behavior analysis. An array of applied ethical considerations for behavior analysts will be presented as well as strategies for evaluating the efficacy of interventions. Finally, systemic strategies to insure ethical and effective service will be reviewed.

ABA 614 Organizational Behavior Management (3 credits) – This course introduces the application of behavioral principles into organizational situations and systems analyses. Students will learn the fundamental features of performance management, self-management, behavioral systems analysis, and organizational cultural change as applied to a variety of systems (e.g., school systems, clinics, hospitals, factories).

ABA 615 MA Project (3 credits) – Students will be required to complete a MA Project with their faculty advisor and present it prior to graduation. Project topics are to be decided upon by the student and their faculty advisor.

BACB Practica (13 credits) – Students will be required to complete the following practicum courses as required by the BACB:

- **ABA 612 Pre-Practicum (1 credit)**
- **ABA 604 Practicum 1 (4 credits)**
- **ABA 608 Practicum 2 (4 credits)**
- **ABA 611 Practicum 3 (4 credits)**