

Applied Behavioral Analysis, MS

To earn an M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis, students must complete at least 23 credit hours of graduate-level course work, 10 credit hours of practicum experience, and at least 6 credit hours of Thesis Research for which students will be required to write and defend a thesis.

Required Foundation Courses

Students are required to complete the following courses within the first 15 credit hours of study.

SPEC ED 6641	Basic Principles and Concepts of Behavior Analysis	3
SPEC ED 6642	Behavior Assessment	3
SPEC ED 6643	Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis	3
Total Hours		9

Required Courses

Students are required to complete the following courses.

SPEC ED 6644	Behavior Interventions in Applied Behavior Analysis	3
SPEC ED 6645	Ethics and Professionalism in Applied Behavior Analysis	3
SPEC ED 6646	Verbal Behavior Concepts and Applications	3
SPEC ED 6647	Advanced Concepts and Principles in Behavior Analysis	3
SPEC ED 6648	Behavior-Based Consultation and Supervision	2
Total Hours		14

Required Practicum Courses

Through the course of five semesters, students are required to ~~completed~~ **complete** practicum courses in order to accrue the minimal hours of supervised experience required by the BACB to qualify for the BCBA exam.

SPEC ED 6651	Practicum I in Applied Behavior Analysis	2
SPEC ED 6652	Practicum II in Applied Behavior Analysis	2
SPEC ED 6653	Practicum III in Applied Behavior Analysis	2
SPEC ED 6654	Practicum IV in Applied Behavior Analysis	2
SPEC ED 6655	Practicum V in Applied Behavior Analysis	2
Total Hours		10

Required Research Courses

~~These two research courses should be taken in sequence (not together) at the end of your program since the first course prepares you with the knowledge and skills to successfully complete an Action Research project in the capstone exit course. Students will design and execute a piece of original practitioner research and present your findings in a public forum.~~ Students take a minimum of 6 thesis credits (no more than 3 per semester) starting in year two of the program.

SPEC ED 6661	Thesis in Applied Behavior Analysis	3 6
SPEC ED 6662	Capstone II in Applied Behavior Analysis	3
Total Hours		6

Thesis Requirement

Students are required to complete a total of 6 credit hours of thesis. The student will engage in sustained and self-motivated study through the research process, conferring with advisors, and drafting and revising a manuscript. The thesis proposal must be approved by the committee and successfully defended. A committee chair will be identified, who will consult with the student on selecting two other members for the committee.

Students will work with their committee chair to identify a thesis project such as the following but not limited to a literature review, a scholarly tutorial, or an

empirical study. The thesis project should be a scholarly work related to behavior analysis.

Students are expected to follow all other general requirements of the Graduate School regarding master's degree and thesis requirements.

Justification for request:

First, the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) requires professionals to be avid consumers of empirical literature and to constantly consider the effectiveness of interventions from an empirical lens. The changes proposed will provide students with the experience to perform these tasks effectively. Next, students who plan to pursue further education after completing their M.S. might be at a disadvantage when applying for a Ph.D. program. This change provides students with a plan to continue into a Ph.D. in ABA to build their CV and increase their competitiveness when applying for doctoral programs.