Applied Behavior Analysis, M.S.Ed.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (http://education.temple.edu)

About the Program
The mission of the Master of Science in Education program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is to enable its students to work proficiently with the coherent system of concepts and principles of behavior analysis, preparing them for professional careers in a variety of environments. The core principles and techniques of ABA are broadly applicable, hence, the interdisciplinary character of this program. Demand for individuals with applied behavior-analytic competencies is intense and growing, especially in social service agencies and educational institutions that serve individuals with autism or with developmental disabilities and functional deficits resulting from head injury. The program also provides competencies for diverse types of work, such as devising arrangements for more effective instruction and classroom management; teaching strategies for effective behavior management in home settings; and designing and improving performance, productivity, and safety in organizations. The program is anchored on fundamentals of the behavior-analytic approach. These include direct and continuous measures of behavior both before and during interventions and graphical representation of outcomes, especially as applied to within-subject research designs. Complementing these is an emphasis on the logic and style of scientific prose and on principles of ethical practice.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 4 years

Campus Location: Main, with some courses offered at off-site locations

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: Students complete the degree program through classes offered after 4:30 p.m. The degree program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Accreditation: The degree program includes a course sequence approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

Job Prospects: Graduates are prepared for professional careers in a variety of environments, particularly in social service agencies and educational institutions.

Licensure: Coursework may apply toward earning the Behavior Specialist license from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Students may take up to, but not more than, 9 credits of graduate study in the program before being admitted to the program. The credits transfer into the program, if the student is admitted. Students completing non-matriculated courses before being admitted to the program are NOT guaranteed admission.

Financing Opportunities: Financial support opportunities may include scholarships, tuition remission, and other financial aid such as grants, loans, and federal work study.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: March 1
Spring: November 1

Applicants should submit all required admissions documents by the application deadline to receive priority consideration for admission and financial support.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:
Number Required: 2, with a third submitted at the applicant's discretion. Please submit the "Reference Report for Graduate Study," found at http://www.temple.edu/grad/admissions/documents/Web_GRAD_REFERENCE_REPORT.pdf.

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from college/university faculty members and others who can provide insight into the applicant's academic competence.

Coursework Required for Admission Consideration: All applicants must present credentials that are the equivalent of the appropriate baccalaureate degree at Temple University. Coursework or work experience that provided some exposure to behavior analysis is strongly preferred.

Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A bachelor's degree is required. Applicants who do not meet the 3.0 UGPA requirement may be considered for admission if they meet one of the following exceptions:

1. Standard exception: 3.5 UGPA during the last two years AND a minimum of 3.25 Graduate GPA for 9 credits (typically taken as a non-matriculated student in the program prior to application for admission).
2. Special exception: Applicants who do not meet regular admission criteria may be considered for a special exception if a compelling case can be made for admission on the basis of some additional source of data.

Statement of Goals: In 500 to 1,000 words, outline your interest in seeking a degree with a specific focus on the career to which you aspire, your interests, and your academic and job-related experiences that are relevant to the program.

Standardized Test Scores: TOEFL score (international applicants only): 88 iBT or 575 PBT minimum. Applicants with scores between 88 and 100 iBT or between 575 and 600 PBT must take an English refresher course.

Resume: Current resume required.

Credits Earned in a Certificate Program: Students who choose to enroll in the program may have up to 12 credits earned for either the Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate (http://education.temple.edu/aba) or Autism Endorsement Certificate (http://education.temple.edu/specialed/autism) applied to the M.S.Ed. upon acceptance into the program. Completion of a certificate program does not guarantee admission into the master's program, and students who are accepted may have to complete more than 33 credits to meet all requirements of the master's program. Students currently enrolled in a certificate program and considering matriculation into a master's program are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:
Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 33

Required Courses:

Core Courses

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABA 5302</td>
<td>Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Effective Teaching Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA 5303</td>
<td>Ethics and Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA 5304</td>
<td>Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA 5305</td>
<td>Single Subject Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA 5676</td>
<td>Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA 8787</td>
<td>Seminar on Verbal Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
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Elective 1

Practica 2

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABA 9387</td>
<td>Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
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Master's Thesis

EDUC 9996    Thesis Credits: Masters 6

Total Credit Hours 33

1 Advisor's approval required.
2 Students are required to take two 150-hour practica for 3 credits each: ABA 9387 Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis. Acceptable practicum sites are those engaged in applied behavior analysis practice/research with the ability to provide ongoing supervision to students in the discipline. A list of approved sites is available, although other sites can be approved by the program.

Culminating Events:
Master's Thesis:
Students are required to conduct a rigorous behavior-analytic project. They write a report in publication format and then present the project and its findings in a formal defense before program faculty.

Contacts

Program Web Address:
http://education.temple.edu/aba

Department Information:
Dept. of Psychological Studies in Education
College of Education
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6091
educate@temple.edu
215-204-0999

Submission Address for Application Materials:
http://apply.temple.edu/coe

Department Contacts:
Admissions:
Office of Enrollment Management
educate@temple.edu
215-204-0999

Courses

ABA 5302. Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Effective Teaching Strategies. 3 Credit Hours.
The course overviews instructional, curricular and behavioral intervention strategies for students with autism spectrum disorders within various settings based on the science of applied behavior analysis.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ABA 5303. Ethics and Applied Behavior Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.
This course provides the student with an overview of ethical practices and considerations for behavior analysts working across a variety of applied settings, including schools and agencies that support people with disabilities.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ABA 5304. Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.
This course provides the student with an introduction to the concepts and principles of behavior analysis. Core concepts including motivation, reinforcement, punishment, extinction, and rule governed and verbal behavior will be covered, along with examples of behavior change techniques that employ these concepts.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ABA 5305. Single Subject Research Design. 3 Credit Hours.
This course provides an overview of strategies for designing and conducting single-subject research in special education. Competencies include selection of independent and dependent variables for research, measurement tactics, research design, establishing generality of results, and ensuring the integrity of research procedures. The methods discussed are not specific to any disability or age level; rather, they are a general set of methods for conducting and interpreting single-subject research.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ABA 5676. Applied Behavior Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.
Introduction to the functional analysis of behavior of children in the school setting. Includes behavior theory, assessment, interaction, and evaluation. A behavior-change program is conducted.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

ABA 8787. Seminar on Verbal Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.
Advanced course in applied behavior analysis with an emphasis on verbal behavior. Designed to provide students with an overview of verbal behavior (as defined in the field of applied behavior analysis) and an overview of its practical application in teaching language to children with diagnosed language delays.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
ABA 9387. Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
This course is one of two required 150-hour practica within the ABA Program (6 course credits total). The goals of the practica are to: 1) Broaden your range of competencies in the field of ABA in real-life settings under the tutelage of seasoned ABA clinical or research supervisors. The range of competencies upon which you will be evaluated by your site supervisor (not this instructor) can be found at the online ABA Practicum Evaluation link: http://edtemple.org/aba/practicum-student-evaluation; 2) Use practical experience to develop 3 research questions for possible exploration for your Master’s Research Project, submitted through Blackboard; 3) Develop ABA written presentation skills through a case presentation, submitted through Blackboard; 4) Complete short discussion board assignments; 5) Build networks for future employment in our field. To this end students are encouraged to complete their practica in settings other than those in which they are presently employed. Students petitioning for an exception should first consult their advisor to provide a rationale for the exception, complete the exception form located in the masters program handbook, and then provide a plan to ensure that the practica experiences will be distinguished from their compensated duties.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.