

Applied Behavior Analysis, M.S.Ed.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (<https://education.temple.edu>)

Learn more about the Master of Science in Education in Applied Behavior Analysis (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/applied-behavior-analysis-msed-ed-aba-msed>).

About the Program

The Master of Science in Education program in Applied Behavior Analysis trains students to apply the principles of learning and behavior to influence behavior change that is significant to society. Students learn how to systematically change behavior by analyzing related environmental variables and applying interventions based on the principles of behavior science. Behavior analysts have improved a wide range of everyday issues, including enhancing staff performance, improving public safety initiatives, teaching effective parenting skills, treating problem behavior in children, improving general and special education teaching strategies, rehabilitating individuals who abuse substances, and more. This program fulfills the degree and coursework requirements and partially fulfills the supervised experience requirement for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) credential.

Graduates of the Applied Behavior Analysis M.S.Ed. program help fill the growing demand for individuals with applied behavior analytic training in social service agencies and educational institutions, particularly in service of individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Applied Behavior Analysis graduate degree also prepares educators, clinicians, and other helping professionals to understand and implement interventions to address skill deficits and performance issues or problem behavior. Graduates of the program have a diverse set of skills, including the ability to analyze environmental variables affecting behavior, create individualized interventions, and assess the effectiveness of interventions to inform data-based decisions on modification and continuation.

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.

Interdisciplinary Study: The interdisciplinary Applied Behavior Analysis M.S.Ed. program blends courses in education and psychology. Courses are taught by faculty with top academic credentials and experience as practitioners.

Accreditation: The degree program includes a seven-course sequence verified by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI).

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

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

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained to provide insight regarding the applicant's academic competence. References from college/university faculty are recommended.

Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A bachelor's degree is required. A minimum UGPA of 3.0 is expected.

International applicants should also submit an official document that validates completion and conferral of a degree, diploma, and/or certificate. While not required, international applicants are encouraged to submit transcript(s) to the World Education Services (WES) for evaluation.

Statement of Goals: In 500 to 1,000 words, outline your interest in seeking a master's 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:

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master's degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 79
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- PTE Academic: 53

Interview: An interview with the faculty admissions committee may be required after a complete application is received.

Resume: Current resume required.

Other Requirement: Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all accredited institutions attended and/or from which credit was earned must be submitted.

Credits Earned in a Certificate Program: Students who choose to enroll in the M.S.Ed. program may have *up to* 12 credits earned for either the Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/applied-behavior-analysis-certificate-graduate-ed-aba-grad>) or Autism Endorsement Certificate (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/autism-endorsement-certificate-graduate-ed-aten-grad>) 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:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
ABA 5302	Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Effective Teaching Strategies	3
ABA 5303	Ethics and Applied Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 5304	Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 5305	Single Subject Research Design	3
ABA 5306	Organizational Behavior Management - OBM	3
ABA 5307	Experimental Analysis of Behavior - EAB	3
ABA 5676	Applied Behavior Analysis	3
ABA 8787	Seminar on Verbal Behavior	3
Practica ¹		
ABA 9387	Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis	6
Master's Thesis		
EDUC 9996	Thesis Credits: Masters	3
Total Credit Hours		33

¹ 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 in EDUC 9996 Thesis Credits: Masters. 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:

<https://education.temple.edu/aba>

Department Information:

Dept. of Teaching and Learning
College of Education
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6091
edaba@temple.edu
215-204-0999

Submission Address for Application Materials:

<https://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 5306. Organizational Behavior Management - OBM. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is an introduction to Organizational Behavior Management, a rapidly growing field that applies the principles, methods, and empirical generalizations of Behavior Analysis to improving human performance in organizations. Working from a theoretical basis, students will learn how to diagnose performance discrepancies in organizational settings, design and evaluate appropriate behavior-based solutions.

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

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

ABA 5307. Experimental Analysis of Behavior - EAB. 3 Credit Hours.

This course will review basic research (animal research and human operant research) in learning and behavior analysis. Students will become familiar with the basic principles of learning and behavior analysis by reading and discussing original laboratory research that lead to basic learning theories.

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.