College of Education

Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis

Program Description:

The Masters of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis at Southeast Missouri State University is an online graduate degree that prepares students to become practitioners of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) who work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. This 42-credit graduate program includes 24 credit hours of course work and 18 credit hours of Intensive University Practicum (minimum of 750 clock hours). Our courses have been designed to meet the Fourth Edition Task List issued by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®). The program can be completed in 2 years, with students taking 6-7 credit hours each semester for 6 semesters (including summer). Most of the content courses are completed in the first year, which allows students to complete their fieldwork in their second year.

Why choose Southeast?


The online format allows students the flexibility to complete a rigorous course of study while working around their other obligations. This program offers real-time distance supervision in the format of an Intensive University Practicum. Students work with their Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) supervisor to select a University-Approved practicum site during the semester before their first practicum course, and then during their practicum, they meet with their BCBA supervisor 2-3 times per week for real-time client observations, 1:1 feedback sessions, and group supervision meetings. Students have regular contact with their advisors by phone, email, and video conferencing to ensure that they feel supported during the program. Southeast also provides students with access to online study modules and other tools to help prepare them to pass the BCBA Exam. Essentially, students can get everything that they need through Southeast Online to prepare them for their future careers as behavior analysts!
Curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB531</td>
<td>Basic Principles in Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall of Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB532</td>
<td>Methods for Studying the Behavior of Individuals</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB533</td>
<td>Intro to Ethics and Professional Conduct in Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB534</td>
<td>ABA I: Skill Acquisition and Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring of Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB535</td>
<td>ABA II: Functional Assessment and Behavior Reduction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB536</td>
<td>Special Topics in Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summer of Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB537</td>
<td>Conceptual Topics in Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB538</td>
<td>Advanced Professional and Ethical Conduct of Behavior Analysts – I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall of Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB539</td>
<td>Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis – I</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB540</td>
<td>Advanced Professional and Ethical Conduct of Behavior Analysts – II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spring of Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB541</td>
<td>Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis – II</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Summer of Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB542</td>
<td>Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis – III</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB543</td>
<td>Approved Graduate Elective*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Any time*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR698</td>
<td>Master’s Capstone Project</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Built in to practicum courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 42

**Electives for the MA in Applied Behavior Analysis Program**

Students may select 1 of any of these courses to meet the requirement of 3 Credit Hours of Elective. Many students choose to take their elective in the Spring or Summer BEFORE they begin their ABA courses. In order to do this, students must apply to the program early. They can contact Dr. Severtson for more details about that.

- CE 614  Family and School Collaboration
- CF506  Theories and Issues in Child Development
- CF512  Family and Community Resources
- CF520  Family Assessment
- CF630  Advanced Family Systems
- DS618  Environmental Design in Human Services
- EX 507  Family and The Exceptional Child
- EX 555  Introductions to Autism
- EX 601  Education Assessment Technology
- EX 693  Special Education and the Law
HE601  Sustainable Environments in Human Services  
PY 525  Maturing and Aging  
PY 555  Health Psychology  

If you are interested in taking a 500 or 600 level course that is not on this list, please contact Dr. Severtson for advising first. For a previous course to count as an elective, you must have taken the course as a graduate student. If you have taken a 500 level course as an undergrad student, then it will not count towards your degree.

**Admission Requirements:**

- 2.75 Cumulative GPA  
- Completion of a Baccalaureate Degree from a regionally accredited college or university

**How to Apply:**

Contact Dr. Jamie Severtson, BCBA-D, LBA (jsevertson@semo.edu or 573-986-6892) for more information about applying to the Master’s of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis program.  
- Application Deadline  
- Apply Online  
- Southeast Online  
- Tuition and Fees

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. **Are your courses approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) ©?**
   
   Yes, for both BCBA and BCaBA course sequences. For more information about BACB approved university training programs, go to: [http://info.bacb.com/o.php?page=100358](http://info.bacb.com/o.php?page=100358)

2. **How much will this program cost?**
   
   The cost of tuition usually fluctuates bit from year to year, so to calculate the cost, you will need to go to this website: [http://www.semo.edu/sfs/fee-schedule.html](http://www.semo.edu/sfs/fee-schedule.html) and locate the following fees, which will apply to your program:

   **Graduate Student**
   
   - Tuition (per credit hour)
   - General Fees (per credit hour)
   - Online & Webinar Fee (per credit hour)
   - Graduate Program Fee (per semester)

   **Number of Credits**
   
   - 1st Year Students  
   - 2nd Year Students

   **Cost for the year**
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Year Students</th>
<th>2nd Year Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-State</td>
<td>$260.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State</td>
<td>$486.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For 2015-2016, this is the estimated cost of the ABA program (based on 2015-15 Fee Schedule).
* Applies to students who are taking courses according to the recommended sequence
** 19 credits of ABA courses + 3 credits elective
*** 18 credits of practicum + 2 credits of content

Cost of Books:
The cost of textbooks vary from course to course. For all 500 level courses, textbooks can be rented. Here is the information about textbook rentals:
http://www.semo.edu/textbookrental/rent/index.html

For 2015-2016, the rental fee for a graduate textbook in a 500 level course is $25.94 per course. Textbooks cannot be rented for 600+ courses, so those books must be purchased through the bookstore or online. Rental textbooks can be shipped to online students; however students will incur the cost of shipping to receive and return the books. Information about shipping fees can be found at http://www.semo.edu/textbookrental/rent/shipping.html

3. Is financial aid available for this program of study?
The simple answer is “yes”, but you should contact the financial aid office regarding your specific circumstances. The contact information for Student Financial Services can be found at:
http://www.semo.edu/sfs/

4. What is the cost of sitting for the BCBA© or BCaBA© exams for certification after I complete my degree?
In 2016, the cost of the exam will go up to $125.00. For information about the Exam Fee, go to http://bacb.com/exam-dates/. For other information about the exam, go to: http://bacb.com/examination-information/.

5. Will this degree allow me to continue on to receive a Ph.D. in the future?
Most doctoral programs will expect you to have conducted original research for your thesis in order for you to be considered for admittance. This program does not require a research-based thesis; however, if this is your desire, you should speak with your advisor about conducting a research project for your GR698 requirement. If you do not live near Cape Girardeau, MO, conducting research may not be possible unless you have other supports in place.

6. By completing this degree and becoming certified, what jobs are likely available for me and what kind of salary should I expect?
Burning Glass Report 2014
The October 2015 BACB© Newsletter, provided a link to a report called the US Behavior Analyst Workforce: Understanding the National Demand for Behavior Analysts produced by Burning Glass Technologies on behalf of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. This report summarizes:
- The increase in demand for credentialed behavior analysts from 1,414 job postings in 2012 to 3,083 job postings in 2104 with the demand increasing in nearly every state
- 85% of job postings fall into Health Care, Education Services, or Social Assistance Industries, and these are defined in the report.
Association for Professional Behavior Analysts
In June 2015, the Association for Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) published a report based on a survey to both members and nonmembers. The report provides information about:

- Various credentials held by respondents (80% were BCBA)
- Employment Status (80+% of BCBA respondents were employed full time)
- Type of work by credential (just over 50% of BCBA provide direct ABA services, 35+% of BCBA conduct administrative work directly related to ABA services)
- Areas of work (The majority of respondents work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and/or in Education. Other individuals were employed in myriad positions such as parent training, behavioral pediatrics, child welfare, and brain injury rehabilitation to name a few)
- Annual Income for Full Time BCBA, BCaBAs, and BCBA-Ds (~25% of BCBA are earning $45,000-$65,000 and 30.8% are earning more than $75,000).

If you would like this report to be emailed to you, you can contact Dr. Severtson at jsevertson@semo.edu

7. What are the fieldwork requirements like for this program? If I’m currently working in a clinical or educational setting, can I do my fieldwork where I work?

Students are required to take 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer) of a 6-credit hour Intensive University Practicum. The goal is for students to cumulate at least 750 fieldwork hours over the course of those three semesters. Each practicum site must be approved by BOTH Southeast Missouri State University and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. Students must work with their advisor early on to identify one or more appropriate fieldwork sites. Whether your current place of employment will qualify as a site depends upon several variables including but not limited to:

(a) willingness to allow faculty to remotely observe students working with clients (via FaceTime),
(b) opportunity for students to do both direct (e.g., discrete trial training, implementing behavior plans) and indirect ABA activities (e.g., writing behavior intervention plans, collecting and graphing data, staff training),
(c) flexibility in your schedule to allow for WEEKLY 1:1 meeting with faculty supervisor and group supervision meetings.

In Fall and Spring Semesters, students must accrue at least 17 hours per week and receive at least 2 hours of supervision across 2 contacts with a faculty advisor per week. In the summer, students must accrue at least 21 hours per week and receive at least 2.5 hours of supervision across 2 contacts with their faculty advisor per week. Each student must be observed working with a client every week. Faculty will observe the student in real-time, even if observing remotely, which is why students are required to have iPads during the practicum courses. If real-time observations are not
possible, then another practicum site must be considered. Although the BACB® permits video observations, the preference and standard for this program is for real-time observation followed by 1:1 feedback. Group supervision will be conducted in groups of no more than 10 students using video conferencing technology.

Prerequisite Training & Paperwork:

- Students must complete the BACB® 90-minute Supervision and Experience Training Module and submit proof of completion before enrolling in the course.
- Additionally, each student must arrange to meet with the instructor/BCBA supervisor prior to enrollment to review and sign the Practicum Supervision Contract. Both the training module and the contract are required by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board in order for practicum hours to count towards the BACB certification requirements.
- Remote students must obtain approval of a practicum site one full semester before enrolling in the practicum.
- Students must provide documentation of Professional Liability Insurance prior to the start of the semester.

Even if your practicum site employs Board Certified Behavior Analysts, students will receive their required supervision from Faculty or Staff employed by Southeast Missouri State University to ensure that each student receives a quality and consistent supervision experience. Experience standards are set by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board®, and you can find more information about those here: [http://bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/150824-experience-standards-english.pdf](http://bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/150824-experience-standards-english.pdf)

---

\(^{i}\)BACB® Experience Standards

\(^{ii}\)BACB® Course Requirements for the BACB Credential

\(^{iii}\)BACB® Fourth Edition Task List

\(^{iv}\)Students are required to take 1, 3-credit elective graduate course, which can be taken during any semester OR the Spring or Summer before students begin their ABA coursework.

\(^{v}\)Students enrolled in AB 605 and AB 607, the first two intensive practicum courses, will be required to concurrently enroll in AB 604 and AB 606, which are both 1-credit ethics courses.