

**Master of Arts (MA)**

The **Master 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). Graduates of the program have gone on to work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, various Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, and other Behavioral Health challenges. This 42-credit graduate program includes both course work and applied training experiences. The courses have been designed to meet the Fifth Edition Task List issued by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®) and is approved by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). The program can be completed in 2 years, with students taking 6-9 credit hours each semester for 6 semesters (including summer). Students are encouraged to establish a practicum site prior to entering the program.

**About This Online Program**

The online format allows students the flexibility to complete a **rigorous** course of study while working around other obligations. **Students must be prepared to take the lead on identifying potential practicum sites if they live outside of Cape Girardeau, MO.** Throughout their time in the program, 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!

Graduate education at Southeast is guaranteed quality at an affordable price. Southeast offers competitive tuition rates for graduate students, compared to other online graduate programs. There are no additional tuition costs for out-of-state students in online degree programs.

**Becoming Career Ready...**

- /Students get personal attention from a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of study.
- /Students complete course work online and on their own schedule.
- /Students complete action research relating to issues in their own field work.
- /Students have the opportunity to complete an intensive program in two years.

**Career Planning**

The demand for credentialed behavior analysts is increasing in nearly every state. The 2015 BACB® newsletter reported the demand for behavior analysts increased from 1,414 job postings in 2012 to 3,083 job postings in 2014. Annual demand for individuals holding BCBA/BCBA-D certification has increased approximately 800% from 2010 to 2017, with increases seen in almost every state.\*

The majority of credentialed professionals work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and/or in Education. Other individuals are employed in a myriad of positions such as parent training, behavioral pediatrics, child welfare, and brain injury rehabilitation.

*\*Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2018). US employment demand for behavior analysts: 2010-2017. Littleton, CO: Author.*

**Supervised Experience**

Individuals seeking to sit for the BCBA® certification exam after January 1, 2022 must complete either 2000 hours of Supervised Fieldwork or 1500 hours of Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork. Supervision by SEMO Faculty is limited. Potential students should contact the SEMO Applied Behavior Analysis Program Coordinator prior to beginning the program if they do not have access to a qualified ABA Supervisor locally.

**Admission Requirements**

Students can only apply for Summer or Fall admission to the program. Students who are admitted in the summer will take an elective course. Students admitted for Fall will be required to take the elective in a different semester. All students in a cohort will begin taking ABA courses together in the Fall, and take all of the same courses together. The deadline for applications is **February 1**. To be considered for the program, applicants must have:

- /Undergraduate GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale
- OR
- Completion of two 3-credit hour graduate-level courses with a B or higher

Applicants must also submit the following materials to the Office of Admissions:

- /Two letters of recommendation
- / Letter of intent addressing preparation for graduate study, ability to succeed at the graduate level and professional goals and objectives. The letter should address what the applicant expects to achieve through graduate level study. The letter of intent should be typed and a maximum of 750 words in length.
- / Identification of potential site to obtain supervised experience.

All applications will be reviewed following the February 1 deadline, and only complete application packets will be considered.

To learn more  
Southeast Online  
(573) 651-2766

graduateonline@semo.edu  
semo.edu/online

To explore  
the College of Education,  
Health and Human Studies, visit  
semo.edu/education-health

Graduate Program Coordinator  
Eric Billington  
(573) 651-2132  
ebillington@semo.edu

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The program has a **cohort model**, so students will take classes with the same group of students throughout both years, helping to build a life-long behavior analytic community. Students may apply for admission for Summer or Fall; however, only electives are available during the first summer semester. ABA classes always begin in the fall.

This is a guide based on the 2020-2021 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

**CURRICULUM CHECKLIST****APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS – 42 Hours:**

- AB531 Basic Principles in Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- AB532 Methods for Studying the Behavior of Individuals (3)
- AB533 ABA I: Skill Acquisition and Assessment (3)
- AB534 ABA II: Function Based Assessment and Treatment of Challenging Behavior (3)
- AB535 Principles in Psychopharmacology (3)
- AB537 Behavioral Consultation & Management (3)
- AB601 Conceptual Topics in Behavior Analysis (3)
- AB603 Ethics, Disciplinary Systems, and Professionalism in Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- AB605 Research & Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis – I (6)
- AB607 Research & Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis – II (6)
- AB608 Research & Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis – III (3)
- GR698 Masters' Final Project (0)

**Choose one course:**

- CE614 Family and School Collaboration (3)
- CF506 Theories and Issues in Child Development (3)
- CF520 Professional Ethics & Practice (3)
- CF630 Advanced Family Systems (3)
- DS618 Environmental Design in Human Services (3)
- EX507 Families & the Child with Exceptionalities (3)
- EX555 Introduction to Autism (3)
- EX601 Education Assessment Technology (3)
- EX693 Special Education and the Law (3)
- HE601 Sustainable Environments in Human Services (3)
- PY525 Maturing and Aging (3)
- PY555 Health Psychology (3)

Other 500 or 600 level courses may be considered for electives but must be approved by the Program Coordinator or advisor. All elective courses must be taken at the graduate level.

**Recommended Sequence of Required Course Work**

Because of the intensive workload for this program, all courses must be completed in order with the exception of the approved elective that may be taken during any semester, though is recommended to be taken during the first summer semester.

**ACCELERATED MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM**

The accelerated Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis degree program allows undergraduate students to take classes in their senior year that count for both undergraduate credit and graduate credit. Students majoring in Education, Psychology, Child Development, Communication Disorders, or working towards an Autism Studies Certificate could benefit from this opportunity.

**Program Requirements:**

- Junior Standing with at least 75 credit hours completed
- Limit of 12 hours (500 level)
- Minimum grade point average of 3.0
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Personal statement

**Program Notes:**

- Must be admitted to the accelerated graduate program prior to taking courses
- Course fee will be at undergraduate rate.
- Course will be initially recorded as undergraduate class at the end of semester.

After grades are submitted at the end of the semester, the courses will be added to the graduate course list for graduate credit.