

**Master of Arts (M.A.)**

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 Disorder and other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. This 42-credit graduate program includes 24 credit hours of course work and 18 credit hours of Practicum Experience (minimum of 750 clock hours). The 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.

**About This Online Program**

The online format allows students the flexibility to complete a **rigorous** course of study while working around 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. 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 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.

**Applied Behavior Analysis students will...**

- Be able to gain real-time hands-on experience with Behavior Analysts.
- Get personal attention from a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of study.
- Complete course work online and at their own pace.
- Complete action research relating to issues in their own field work.
- Have the opportunity to complete an intensive program in two years.

**Career Planning**

The increase in demand for credentialed behavior analysts is constant, and the demand 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. 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.

**Internship Opportunities**

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.

**Admission Requirements**

**Master's Program:** 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 they will take all of the same courses together. The deadline for applications is **February 1**. To be considered for the program, applicants must have:

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

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

- Application for Graduate Admissions
- Proof of citizenship
- Official college transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- Personal Statement providing information on (a) why you are interested in Applied Behavior Analysis, (b) past experience working with individuals special needs and/or experience implementing ABA procedures, (c) location(s) in your area that you are considering for a practicum site, and (d) why you think you will be successful in an online program

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

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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.

### 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: Functional Assessment and Behavior Reduction (3)
  - AB535 Special Topics in Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
  - AB601 Conceptual Topics in Behavior Analysis (3)
  - AB603 Intro to Ethics and Professional Conduct in Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
  - AB604 Advanced Professional and Ethical Conduct of Behavior Analysts I (3)
  - AB605 Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I (3)
  - AB606 Advanced Professional and Ethical Conduct of Behavior Analysts II (3)
  - AB607 Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II (3)
  - AB608 Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III (3)
  - GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)
- Choose one course:
- CE614 Family and School Collaboration (3)
  - CF506 Theories and Issues in Child Development (3)
  - CF512 Family and Community Resources (3)
  - CF520 Family Assessment (3)
  - CF630 Advanced Family Systems (3)
  - DS618 Environmental Design in Human Services (3)
  - EX507 Family and the Exceptional Child (3)
  - EX555 Introduction to Autism (3)
  - EX601 Educational Assessment (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 work load 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.

### SAMPLE TWO-YEAR PLAN

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester		Summer Semester	
	Course #	Hrs	Course #	Hrs	Course #	Hrs
<b>FIRST YEAR</b>	AB531	3	AB533	3	AB535	3
	AB532	3	AB534	3	AB601	3
	AB603	1				
<b>SECOND YEAR</b>	AB604	1	AB606	1	AB608	6
	AB605	6	AB607	6		
	Approved Graduate Elective (Any Time*)					
	GR698	0	Master's Final Comprehensive Exam			

### ACCELERATED MASTERS' 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.