

Program Overview

The Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) pairs research and experience to prepare professionals to work with individuals with special learning and behavior needs using the principles of applied behavior analysis.

Program courses are designed to prepare students to focus on the population with whom they plan to work as well as to gain knowledge and skills to use ABA across a variety of individuals and settings. All courses are online, combining a range of resources and technologies to provide students the opportunity to interact directly with program faculty and classmates. Our graduates will be well prepared to provide evidence-based practices in ABA and consultative services and support to clients, community members and family members across a variety of settings.

ASU's Teachers College offers university coursework pre-approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board for students interested in sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst examination. BCBA certificants are equipped to meet and address diverse behavior needs and make a lasting difference in the community. The ASU course sequence meets the BACB-required 270 classroom hours of graduate-level instruction aligned with the Fourth Edition Task List. BCBA supervision hours, required for certification, are arranged and completed by the student separately from ASU coursework. Students interested in only the pre-approved university coursework for the national BCBA should apply to the graduate certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis.



For more information on becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, please see the Behavior Analyst Certification Board website: <http://www.bacb.com/>

Non-Arizona residents, please refer to the [ASU Online State Authorization Information](#) page for additional information.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services – Graduate Programs

For admissions information, please contact graduate-inquiry@asu.edu.

Current students, please contact your assigned Academic Success Specialist: Jodi Banzhaf (last name A-L) at Jodi.Banzhaf@asu.edu or Dawn Koths (last name M-Z) at Dawn.Koths@asu.edu.

Quick Facts

Campus Location: Online

Number of Credits: 30 Credit Hours

Start Terms: Fall Session A and B, Spring Session A and B, Summer Session A (see [Academic Calendar](#) for Session dates)

Time to Completion: 5 semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Application Deadlines: <http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines>

Application Requirements & How to Apply

Graduate Admissions Application Requirements

- Earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country
- Must have maintained a "B" (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) grade point average (GPA) in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate coursework
- Proof of English proficiency – International students only
 - If you are from a country whose native language is not English (regardless of where you may now reside), you must provide proof of English proficiency. For more information including additional requirements for international students, please visit the [ASU Graduate Admissions website](#).
 - Applicants to Non-Certification Masters, Graduate Certificates, and Doctoral Programs:
 - Must meet the English Proficiency score established by [ASU Graduate Education](#)

Items Needed to Apply to the Program

- Items that will be uploaded into the online application:
 - **Personal Statement:** Responses to short-answer questions provide the admissions committee with information regarding your personal or professional goals and how they align with the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis). The admissions committee pays particular attention to the quality of writing and ideas expressed in these responses as well as evaluating the relevance of goals to the aims of the program. Please respond to three of the four questions below. Responses should be limited to 150-200 words per question. The statement should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
 - Describe one or more personal or professional goals that motivate you to apply for this degree. How will completion of the M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis) program help you fulfill this/these goals?
 - Describe a quality that you believe is critical to working with an individual with special needs and at least one situation where you have demonstrated this quality.
 - Describe an individual with special needs and how you supported him or her.
 - Briefly discuss why you are interested in pursuing a graduate degree at this time. What steps have you taken (or will you take) to ensure that you will be successful in the program?
 - **3 professional recommenders** (names, emails, and institution/company) who will submit electronic letters of recommendation. Recommendations should come from individuals who have worked with you in professional or academic capacities, and who can attest to your aptitude in this field and your ability to succeed at graduate-level coursework.
 - **Resume** that includes relevant personal, professional, educational, and community activities (one – two pages). The resume should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
- Items that need to be mailed to [Graduate Admissions Services](#):
 - **Official transcripts** from every college and university from which you have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher
 - **Proof of English proficiency** – International students only

Complete and submit the Graduate Admission online application

- Review the application deadlines prior to applying: <http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines>
- Start the online application at this website: www.asu.edu/gradapp
- Select the degree: Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis) (MEd)
- Select the appropriate term for Planned Semester and Year of Enrollment
- For Location, select ASU Online
- Upload required items listed above

- Submit the application and pay the [appropriate application fee](#)
- Send the remaining items to Graduate Admissions

Requirements and Program of Study

Required Courses

SPE 520	Reading & Communication Strategies for Individuals w/ Autism	3
SPE 521	Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorders	3
SPE 541	Consultation Frameworks and Issues	3
*SPE 531	Methods of Applied Behavior Analysis for Exceptional Populations	3
*SPE 565	Behavior Change Systems	3
*SPE 566	Applied Behavior Analysis in Inclusive Setting	3
*SPE 567	Basic Concepts and Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis	3
*SPE 568	Behavior Assessment	3
*SPE 569	Research Methods Applied Behavior Analysis	3
SPE 597	Capstone	<u>3</u>
Total for Program		30

* Courses pre-approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (<http://www.bacb.com>) for students interested in sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst certification examination based on the Fourth Edition Task List.

Curriculum and tuition for all programs subject to change based on Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona Department of Education updates.

To review course descriptions please visit the ASU Online page for this program:

<http://asuonline.asu.edu/education/degree-programs/curriculum-instruction/teaching-learning-applied-behavioral-analysis>.

Culminating Experience

In the Capstone course, students synthesize their program focus, aligning knowledge and experience with each of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Task List 4 Content areas and the Guidelines for Responsible Conduct. The SPE 597 Capstone course is taken as the final course in the program and may be taken concurrently with one other class. Students are responsible for maintaining copies of the major assignments submitted for each course as well as copies of all textbooks to use as reference material and readings in the Capstone course.

Additional Resources

- Application Deadlines: <http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines>
- How to Apply: <http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply>
- Faculty: <http://education.asu.edu/faculty>
- ASU Graduate Education Policies: <https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures>
- Tuition and Fees: <https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees>

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to take the classes in any particular order?

The course sequence is based on the session in which you start the program. Upon admission you will receive a list of the courses and the order in which you will take them to meet the program requirements. Some program courses are only offered in the summer; therefore, the course sequence will require summer courses. If you take courses out of sequence, your time to degree completion or financial aid eligibility may be affected as not all courses are offered every session.

In accordance with BACB Task List 4 guidelines, ASU offers six courses pre-approved by the BACB. The courses are offered in two blocks. Courses in Block A (Foundational) must be completed prior to Block B (Advanced). Courses within either block can be taken in any order. For example, a student can enter into Block A and begin with SPE 531 or SPE 566 or SPE 567. After completion of the Block A courses, students may start Block B with any of the three courses (SPE 568, SPE 569 or SPE 565). The course sequence provided by your academic advisor will comply with this course rotation.

Block A (Foundational)		
SPE 531: Methods of ABA for Exceptional Populations	SPE 566: Applied Behavior Analysis in Inclusive Settings	SPE 567: Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis
Block B (Advanced)		
SPE 568: Behavior Assessment - FBA/BIP	SPE 569: Research Methods in ABA - Behavior Change	SPE 565: Behavior Change Systems

How many classes can I take at a time?

You take 1 class every session; 6 sessions are offered each year. If you begin the program mid-semester, you will enroll in 3 credits (5 credits being the minimum for financial aid) and may not be eligible for financial aid but will become financial aid eligible during the second full semester of your program.

When can I begin this program?

Each academic semester at ASU (Fall, Spring, Summer) has three sessions: Session A, Session B, and Session C. Session A and Session B are each 7.5 weeks, and Session C is 15 weeks. Students in the Applied Behavior Analysis program can begin the program at the start of either Session A (during Fall, Spring, or Summer) or at the start of Session B (during Fall or Spring). To be eligible for financial aid, a student must enroll in at least 5 credits in a given semester. Students starting an online program in Session B of any academic semester will take one 3-credit program-related course during the semester. The following tuition options are available for students starting the program in Session B of any semester:

Option 1: Pay tuition and fees for one 3-credit program-related course in Session B and become financial aid eligible in Session A of the following semester, OR

Option 2: In addition to one 3-credit program-related course in Session B, register to take another ASU course (2 or more credits) that will not count toward your degree. We recommend that you register for TWC 598: Writing for Educators. Apply financial aid for both courses.

If you are accepted to start the program in Session B of Fall or Spring and decide to defer enrollment until the next semester for financial aid or other reasons, the university will assess a \$30 fee. If you decide to defer prior to being accepted, we can defer your application to the next semester and the university will not assess a fee.

How soon can I graduate?

The program can be completed in 5 semesters. The university time limit is 6 years to complete the degree with continuous enrollment every fall and spring.

What types of jobs does this program lead to?

This program is designed for graduate students seeking to increase their knowledge and expertise in the field of applied behavior analysis; professionals preparing to work with individuals with autism, developmental disabilities and behavior challenges as well as those who intend to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam.

The program is relevant to a variety of occupations in education, business and health care. Applied behavior analysis expertise is valued in fields such as counseling and social work, speech pathology, teaching, behavioral consulting, therapy, and program management. Board certified behavior analysts work as teachers, school district behavior or autism specialists, ABA therapists, ABA program supervisors and business owners, researchers, and consultants for schools, businesses, and state or community agencies. The program is of interest to professionals providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges, early interventionists, school psychologists, speech pathologists, and behavior analysts.

Do I need access to a classroom during the courses?

Several courses in the program require direct contact with one or more learners, such as an individual with developmental disabilities and/or challenging behavior. This may be in a school, community, or family setting.

Can I transfer coursework into the M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis) program?

Because the coursework is preapproved by the BACB, the courses are unique to ASU and Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College. For this reason, courses from other institutions cannot transfer directly to the program.

Can I get certified in the state of Arizona as a Special Ed Teacher?

This program does not lead to Special Education Teaching Certification in the state of Arizona as it does not include the required coursework and clinical experiences.

Non-Arizona students interested in applying for an endorsement or other qualification to an existing teacher certification should contact their state's Board/Department of Education for information about using coursework from Arizona State University.