Program Overview

The Graduate Certificate in 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 pursuing a Masters degree with the embedded pre-approved university coursework for the national BCBA exam should apply to the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis).

This 18-credit hour certificate program consists of 6 classes. The graduate certificate can be completed within a two-year period while concurrently pursuing an online graduate degree or as a stand-alone certificate. A Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Applied Behavior Analysis is also available.

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 gradenrollment@asuonline.asu.edu.
Current students, please contact Dawn Koths, academic advisor, at Dawn.Koths@asu.edu.
Quick Facts

**Campus Location:** Online  
**Number of Credits:** 18 Credit Hours  
**Start Terms:** Fall Session A, Spring Session A, Summer Session A (see Academic Calendar for Session dates: [https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar](https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar))  
**Class Fee:** $100 per course (in addition to online tuition/fees)  
**Time to Completion:** 5 semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer)  
**Application Deadlines:** [http://education.asu.edu/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](https://students.asu.edu/graduate.admissions).  
  - Applicants to Non-Certification Masters, Graduate Certificates, and Doctoral Programs:  
    - Must meet the English Proficiency score established by [ASU Graduate Education](https://education.asu.edu/graduate-admissions)

**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 Graduate Certificate in 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 program. How will completion of the Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis 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 certificate at this time. What steps have you taken (or will you take) to ensure that you will be successful in the program?
  - **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
Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

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 certificate: Applied Behavior Analysis
- 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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 531</td>
<td>Methods of Applied Behavior Analysis for Exceptional Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 565</td>
<td>Behavior Change Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 566</td>
<td>Applied Behavior Analysis in Inclusive Setting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 567</td>
<td>Basic Concepts and Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 568</td>
<td>Behavior Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPE 569</td>
<td>Research Methods Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total for Program** 18

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

**Note:** Some courses are only offered in Summer sessions. Summer enrollment may be required to complete courses.

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.

Additional Resources
- Application Deadlines: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
- How to Apply: https://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-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

Does ASU offer a Master’s degree with the pre-approved university coursework for the national BCBA exam?
The Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College offers a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis) with the embedded pre-approved university coursework for the national BCBA exam. The Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis is designed for students who already possess a Master’s degree in behavior analysis or related field and are interested in taking only the pre-approved university coursework meeting the content area requirements to qualify to sit for the BCBA exam. Students interested in pursuing their Master’s degree in addition to taking the pre-approved
university coursework for the national BCBA exam should apply for the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis) program.

**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 completion 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block A (Foundational)</th>
<th>Block B (Advanced)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 531: Methods of ABA for Exceptional Populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPE 566: Applied Behavior Analysis in Inclusive Settings</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPE 567: Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
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<td>SPE 568: Behavior Assessment - FBA/BIP</td>
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<td>SPE 569: Research Methods in ABA - Behavior Change</td>
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<td>SPE 565: Behavior Change Systems</td>
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**How many classes can I take at a time?**
Depending on when a student begins the Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis they will take one to two courses each semester.

**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 Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis can begin the program at the start of Session A only (during Fall, Spring, or Summer).

**How soon can I complete the graduate certificate?**
The program can be completed in 5 semesters. The university time limit is 6 years to complete the graduate certificate with continuous enrollment every fall and spring.

**Will I be eligible for financial aid?**
If you are enrolled in the graduate certificate program only, you will not be eligible for financial aid. If you are enrolled in the graduate certificate program concurrently with a Master's degree, you may be eligible for financial aid. Please visit the Financial Aid site for additional information.

**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 Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis?**
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.