Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Special Education: 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 verified 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 verified 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 gradenrollment@asuonline.asu.edu.
Current students, please contact your assigned Academic Success Specialist:
- Student Last Name A-E: Jodi Banzhaf at Jodi.Banzhaf@asu.edu
- Student Last Name F-K: Dayna Bartoli at Dayna.Bartoli@asu.edu
- Student Last Name L-R: Rich Givens at Rich.Givens@asu.edu
- Student Last Name S-Z: Dawn Koths at Dawn.Koths@asu.edu

Quick Facts

Campus Location: Online
Number of Credits: 30 Credit Hours
Start Terms: Beginning Fall 2018: 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 MA in Special Education (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 MA in Special Education (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 references (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](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- Start the online application at this website: [www.asu.edu/gradapp](http://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.
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 563</td>
<td>Philosophical Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis in Educational Settings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>*SPE 567</td>
<td>Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*SPE 568</td>
<td>Behavior Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*SPE 569</td>
<td>Research Methods Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Elective Courses: Students Choose 2 courses (6 credits)**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 562</td>
<td>Personnel Supervision and Organizational Behavior Management in Educational Settings</td>
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<td>SPE 564</td>
<td>Science, Fad and Pseudoscience in Educational Settings</td>
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<td>SPE 520</td>
<td>Verbal Behavior</td>
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<td>SPE 521</td>
<td>Foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
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<td>SPE 541</td>
<td>Consultative Frameworks and Issues</td>
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**Culminating Experience**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPE 597</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPE 593</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
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</tbody>
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Total for Program 30

* Courses verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board ([http://www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)) for students interested in sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst certification examination based on the Fourth Edition Task List.

**Note** – Courses are offered in a prescribed sequence that includes summer terms. Summer enrollment may be necessary in order to complete program requirements.

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](http://asuonline.asu.edu/education/degree-programs/curriculum-instruction/teaching-learning-applied-behavioral-analysis).

**Culminating Experience**

Students will select to either complete SPE 597 Capstone or SPE 593 Applied Project as a culminating experience for the program. The culminating experience course is taken as the final course in the program and may be taken concurrently with one other course.

The Capstone option is based on all coursework taken over the 30 hours of the program. Through examination of each assignment/project, preparation of a professional digital archive, and a written paper,
students demonstrate analysis and synthesis of material learned in the master’s program. Students align experiences and artifacts with program objectives and Behavior Analyst Certification Board content areas, with focus on application of theoretical and practical information gained throughout their program to real world settings.

The Applied Project option provides students pursuing professional careers in the field of applied behavior analysis an opportunity to prepare a supervised applied project. As part of the applied project, students collect data on one or more individuals’ target behavior; identify research-based strategies to address the target behavior; design and implement a behavior intervention plan to systematically address the target behavior; collect data on the target behavior as the intervention is being implemented; analyze and draw conclusions from the data collected; communicate findings using evidence of best practice from current research.

Additional Resources
- Application Deadlines: [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- How to Apply: [http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply](http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply)
- Faculty: [http://education.asu.edu/faculty](http://education.asu.edu/faculty)
- ASU Graduate Education Policies: [https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures](https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures)
- Tuition and Fees: [https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees](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. Your academic advisor will provide you with the appropriate course sequence upon admission to the program. Individual courses are not offered every session, so it is important to stay on track with the course sequence. 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 verified 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>
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<tr>
<th>Block A (Foundational)</th>
<th>SPE 531: Methods of ABA for Exceptional Populations</th>
<th>SPE 566: Applied Behavior Analysis in Inclusive Settings</th>
<th>SPE 567: Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis</th>
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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 graduate course (2 or more credits) that will not count toward your degree. Your academic advisor may be able to assist you with course selection. Consult with financial aid to determine that your registration meets eligibility criteria.

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 (fall, spring, summer), which equates to approximately 1.5 calendar years, provided you follow the prescribed course sequence. 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 MA in Special Education (Applied Behavior Analysis) program?
Because the coursework is verified by the BACB, the courses are unique to ASU and Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College. For this reason, courses from other institutions cannot transfer to meet coursework that is part of the BACB verified course sequence.
Additionally, students who took courses in the M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction (Applied Behavior Analysis) program may not transfer any courses that are part of the BACB verified sequence except SPE 567.

**Can I be 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.