

7 May 2021

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Paul Loikith, Chair, Graduate Council

RE: Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

The following proposal has been approved by the Graduate Council and is recommended for approval by the Faculty Senate.

You may read the full text of the program proposal, as well as Faculty Budget Committee comments, at the [Online Curriculum Management System \(OCMS\) Curriculum Dashboard](#).

PROPOSAL SUMMARY FOR College of Education

Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

Certificate Type

Graduate Certificate: Admission to graduate status required

Effective Term

Fall 2021

Overview of the Program

The proposed graduate certificate offers a concentration of coursework in behavior analysis for those interested in pursuing advanced studies in applied behavior analysis (ABA). Further, for those interested in becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA®), the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) has verified the 7 courses within the proposed certificate (32 credits) toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® examination. Our coursework is considered a Verified Course Sequence (VCS) by the ABAI and is the only VCS program in Oregon offered fully online. Students will be able to complete the program in two years, part-time.

Courses within the proposed certificate have seen consistent enrollment (e.g., M 21; range 19-24) for the past 3 offerings and include non-traditional students, licensed teachers (general / special education), PSU alumni (graduate / undergraduate), individuals providing ABA services within local and out-of-state agencies, parents of children with disabilities, as well as individuals looking to change careers. This stackable graduate certificate in ABA will increase accessibility for students who currently take the coursework as non-degree as well as promote a pathway for undergraduates looking to advanced their knowledge in ABA while earning a MA / MS in Special Education. In addition, offering this VCS allows PSU graduate students the opportunity to pursue a BCBA® which enhances job opportunities in schools and programs (in-clinic, in-home) providing ABA services and, with a BCBA®, students will be able to apply for state licensure (i.e., Licensed Behavior Analyst, LBA).

Evidence of Need

Senate Bill 365 (SB 365) was approved in Oregon in 2013 which mandated insurance coverage of ABA services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In addition, the passage of SB 365 created a title act for ABA licensure

within the state ([Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board](#)) and later lead to the Oregon Health Plan's approval of ABA coverage in 2015 (ORABA.org) thus, increasing the in-state need for individuals with training in ABA services. In a recent employment demand report released by the BACB®, data suggest an increase in demand for BCBA's in every state since 2010 with an 80% increase from 2018 to 2019 (BACB 2020, p. 1). According to this report, job postings for BCBA's reached 28,967 nationwide in 2019. Providing a quality fully online graduate certificate in ABA that targets the content required for a BCBA®, will provide national and local school districts, agencies, and other community partners access to much needed content/training. Further, individuals with a BCBA® in Oregon, can apply for Oregon licensure (i.e., Oregon Licensed Behavior Analyst, LBA).

Course of Study

A 32-credit graduate certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) offers a concentration of coursework in behavior analysis for those interested in pursuing advanced studies in ABA. Each course in the sequence builds on each other, enhancing students' knowledge and skills in implementing evidence-based behavior support strategies. Further, for those pursuing a BCBA®, the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) has verified our 7-course sequence toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination. Please refer to the [BACB®](#) (bacb.com) for additional requirements.

Required Courses (no electives):

- SpEd 558 ABA: Concepts and Principles (5 credits)
- SpEd 559 Assessing Behavior (5 credits)
- SpEd 561 PBS: Behavior-Change Strategies (5 credits)
- SpEd 562 Ethical Issues in ABA (5 credits)
- SpEd 565 Research in ABA: Single-Subject Design (5 credits)
- SpEd 566 Advanced Research Methods in ABA (4 credits)
- SpEd 567 ABA Leadership Capstone (3 credits)