

PGSP BCaBA and BCBA Course Descriptions

Course 1001 (3 credits) - **Basic Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis** (30 hours in definitions and characteristics, principles, processes, and concepts).

This course covers the characteristics and basic concepts of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Students review literature on principles of behavior and prepare assignments that facilitate acquisition of the principles covered in class. The course emphasizes the application of ABA to students with special needs in home, school, and community settings. Specific topics include: assumptions and dimensions of ABA, behavioral terminology and principles, and basic behavior change techniques (i.e., reinforcement). Upon completion of this course, students are expected to have a beginning knowledge base of the basic concepts, principles, and techniques of applied behavior analysis.

Course 1002 (4 credits) – **Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Strategies** (10 hours applied behavior analysis theories and principles; 30 hours in behavioral assessment and selecting intervention outcomes strategies).

This course will cover theories of applied behavior analysis (including behavior change techniques such as shaping and extinction) and prepare students to observe, measure, and analyze behavioral data in home, school, and community settings. Students will learn the basics of behavioral assessment, including identifying and defining target behaviors, and conducting descriptive and functional analysis. Throughout the course, students will have several opportunities to practice collecting data in and out of class.

Course 1003 (3 credits) – **Experimental Applications of Interventions and Ethical Considerations** (20 hours in experimental evaluation of interventions, measurement of behavior, and displaying and interpreting data; 10 hours ethical considerations in behavior analysis).

Students will continue their learning about basics of behavioral assessment including measuring and displaying data. Students also will learn how to apply assessment results to modify challenging behaviors and how to use single-subject experimental designs to evaluate the effects of treatment interventions. This course also covers ethical issues in behavior analysis and in the data collection and implementation of intervention strategies in applied settings.

Course 1004 (4 credits) - **Behavioral Interventions and Systems Supports** (40 hours in behavior change procedures and systems support).

This course requires students to integrate and apply their knowledge of basic behavioral concepts and measurement to both the treatment of challenging behavior and the development of adaptive skills. Both antecedent- and consequence-based behavioral interventions are presented through text readings, case studies, and applied research articles. Students also learn how to analyze research articles published in peer-reviewed journals and discuss ethical issues in the application of behavioral principles and procedures in applied settings. This course requires completion of a comprehensive research project and paper that is written in journal format using APA style.

Course 1005 (4 credits) – **Advanced Topics in Applied Behavior Analysis** (5 hours ethical considerations in behavior analysis; 5 hours in definitions and characteristics, principles, processes, and concepts; 5 hours in behavioral assessment and selecting intervention outcomes strategies; 10 hours in experimental evaluation of interventions; 10 hours in measurement of behavior, and displaying and interpreting data; 5 hours in behavior change procedures and systems support)

Students will read, discuss, and review the research literature in the major areas of applied behavior analysis. Through active participation in seminar discussions on assigned readings, students will learn to formulate and articulate their positions in various ethical dilemmas as well as to analyze various issues, using behavioral concepts and principles. Students also write a research proposal paper, through which they will learn selection of assessments and subsequent intervention strategies, measurement and display of behavior change, and experimental evaluation of interventions.