

FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY



PANAMA CITY

The College of Arts and Sciences
4750 Collegiate Drive
Panama City, FL 32405

PSYCHOLOGY

Specialty in *Applied Behavior Analysis*

Master of Science Degree

<http://www.pc.fsu.edu>

Applied Behavior Analysis is a specialty that has been evolving since the mid 1960's as an area of extensive basic and applied research and as a profession of behavior change. Applied Behavior Analysis can be differentiated from other areas in psychology in that it is focused on analyzing and modifying behavior using well established principles of learning that stress environmental variables that can be manipulated directly to improve performance. FSU has been a leader in the generation of behavior analysis research and has achieved "Top 50" status in the world in both authors published and educational institutions represented. The Florida Panhandle has become a center of professional behavior analysis activity in the past ten years with over a dozen PhDs with specialty training in behavior analysis on the faculty of FSU or in active professional behavior analysis practice in the community.

The Master's degree in Psychology at the Panama City Campus has met the Certification standards set by the Association for Behavior Analysis; our graduate curriculum has been pre-approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Currently the BACB certifies professionals at the bachelor's and master's levels. There are many settings for behavior analysis practicum experiences in the Panama City area, which will provide students with ample opportunities to practice their behavioral skills. This is a 5- or 6-semester non-thesis program with a comprehensive exam at the end. Courses are taught by resident faculty from the Panama City campus and faculty from the Tallahassee campus. Some of these courses will be taught via Interactive Television Network with faculty from the Tallahassee campus.

Potential Careers: Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) are currently working in the following areas: autism, behavior and learning disorders, developmental disabilities, performance management, parent and child interactions, child abuse and neglect, behavioral safety, school consultation, curriculum development and evaluation, parent and staff training, and language development. BCBA's can be self-employed, serve as educational or behavioral consultants for local or national consulting firms, work in residential settings, or be employed by the state. Salaries for BCBA's range from \$45,000 - \$65,000.

Admission Requirements: To be considered for admission a student must have attained a GPA (Grade Point Average) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 system) on all work attempted while registered as an upper-division student working toward a baccalaureate degree, and a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 1000 on the GRE. Experience applying the principles of applied behavior analysis in a real-world setting is desirable. Students may be admitted from an allied field such as education, counseling or other related degrees. No student may be admitted under the exception policy or from the special student category without specific approval. See below for the prerequisite courses that must be completed prior to formal admission to the program.

A student must submit the following to be considered for admission:

- University Application for Admission to a graduate program at Florida State University and a \$30 application fee.
- Department of Psychology Applied Behavior Analysis program application.
- Two official copies of transcripts from all colleges attended.
- Official GRE scores.
- Personal statement describing your experiences with behavior analysis and your career goals.
- Three letters of recommendation (at least two letters must be from faculty).
- Resume (recommended).

Students admitted to this program will be required to undergo federal and state criminal background checks prior to first semester registration. Positive results may change a student's admission status because of the practicum requirements of the program.

Pre-requisite Courses: A minimum of 12-hours of undergraduate psychology courses is required, including:

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| • General Psychology | 3 hours |
| • Applied Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| • Conditioning and Learning | 3 hours |
| • Research Methods | 3 hours |

For the above courses, students must receive a grade of B- or higher. Students may apply to the program before completing the pre-requisites but must complete them before beginning graduate coursework in the program.

Application Deadline: February 1 for Fall enrollment (*the program does not offer spring and summer admission*)

Course Requirements: A total of thirty-nine (39) hours are required to obtain a Master of Science Degree in Psychology with a specialty in Applied Behavior Analysis. All students must take the following courses and obtain a grade point of 2.75 (B-) or better for a course to be credited toward the department requirements. The semester in which courses are offered is subject to change. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. has approved the following course sequence as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst examination. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify.

I. Basic Principles *These courses are taken during the first year of study*

- EAB 5700 Basic Principles of Behavior (*Fall*)
- EAB 5701 Basic Methods of Applied Behavior Analysis (*Spring*)

II. Fundamental Scientific Preparation *Students may decide whether to take these courses in the first or second year of study*

- DEP 5165 Developmental Psychology (*Fall*)
- PSB 5056 Biological Psychology (*Spring*)

III. Special Areas of Application Each student is required to complete three courses in areas of application that are the most fully researched and in which demand is greatest for professionals.

- EAB 5710 Behavior Analysis in Developmental Disabilities and Autism (*Summer of first year*)
- EAB 5711 Behavior Analysis in Mental Health and Aging (*Fall of second year*)
- EAB 5721 Behavior Analysis in Education & Performance Management (*Spring of first year*)

IV. Theory and Research in Applied Behavior Analysis

- EAB 5796 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis (*Fall of first year*)
- EAB 6130r Skinner's Theory of Behaviorism (*Spring of second year*)

V. Ethical and Professional Issues

- EAB 5780 Ethical & Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis (*Summer of first year*)

VI. Practicum

- EAB 5940 Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (*Summer of first year or Fall of second year*)
- EAB 5941 Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (*second year*)
- EAB 5942 Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum (*second year*)

[*Note: These are S/U graded courses that are taken sequentially. EAB 5941 and 5942 are taken after completion of EAB 5700, 5701, and 5780.*]

Faculty: The following individuals teach courses and/or supervise practicum in the Applied Behavior Analysis specialty:

FSU Faculty

Jon S. Bailey, PhD
Al Murphy, PhD
Kelley Kline, PhD

Courtesy Faculty

Maxin Reiss, PhD
Mary Riordan, PhD
Jerry Shook, PhD

For application materials contact the Office of Admissions at the Panama City Campus or Graduate Admissions, Dept. of Psychology, FSU, P.O. Box 3064301, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4301, (850) 644-2499, grad-info@psy.fsu.edu.

For questions about the program contact

Dr. Al Murphy (850) 770-2251 amurphy@pc.fsu.edu	Dr. Jon Bailey (850) 644-6443 bailey@psy.fsu.edu	Dr. Ellen Berler (850) 644-2040 berler@psy.fsu.edu
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