

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA)

ABA 522 — Developmental Psychology & Childhood Disorders

At the conclusion of this course, students will have an understanding of developmental considerations, risk and resilience factors, empirical research, and educational implications for the major psychological disorders relevant to children and adolescents. The roles of physical, motor, and cognitive growth, as well as social and affective behavior will be explored as it relates to abnormal psychological behavior. In addition, multicultural and socioeconomic factors will be discussed in relation to developmental issues. Students will be able to understand the DSM-5 and its framework in addressing issues in child and adolescent psychopathology as well as educational classifications. Active learning will occur through role playing, classroom activities, and group discussions.

3 credits

Hybrid

ABA 523 — Pediatric Behavioral & Pharmacological Interventions

This course is designed to introduce students to the philosophy and practice of behavior therapy as well as Pharmacological interventions. One of the main goals of this course is to teach students to effectively learn and utilize basic behavioral therapy techniques. They will also gain exposure to manualized treatment protocols to treat common pediatric disorders. Emphasis will be placed on students demonstrating knowledge of how learning principles inform the application of behavioral techniques and demonstrating the ability to link assessment data to an appropriate evidence-based intervention plan. Students will gain experience in numerous behavioral intervention strategies (e.g., contingency management, relaxation training, systematic desensitization, exposure, response prevention, acceptance, and commitment therapy). Behavior Analysts working with children adolescents receiving medication must also be knowledgeable about the main effects, side effects, and synergistic effects of psychotropic drugs. Students will also learn how to integrate this information into their assessment process, interventions, and overall case conceptualizations. This course will also introduce the student to the rationale and choices of psychotropic drugs used in medical practice and best practices in collaborating with medical professionals for progress monitoring of behavioral concerns. It is not intended that participants in this course will gain extensive clinical experience with behavioral procedures. However, it is expected that with the background resulting from the course, participants—with appropriate supervision and training—will be able to conceptualize and apply these behavioral techniques flexibly and effectively within idiographic case conceptualizations and in the actual conduct of therapy.

3 credits

In-Person

ABA 524 — Basic Principles in Applied Behavior Analysis

This course is an introductory course, which provides an overview of the basic principles of behavior as they relate to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Students will be provided with an overview of the philosophical and theoretical foundations of ABA, essential characteristics of ABA, and the history of basic and applied principles, processes, and concepts that inform the professional practice of ABA. This course will also provide an overview of measurement concepts.

3 credits

OnLine

ABA 525 — Behavior Change & Systems Support

This course provides a review of behavioral assessment, behavior change procedures, generalization programming and systems supports. Students will be expected to conduct a variety of behavior change procedures, as well as demonstrate an understanding of system concerns and system change procedures in the educational setting. Topics focusing on consultation with teachers and parents, as well as ethical principles in behavior change will be reviewed.

3 credits

OnLine

ABA 526 — Single Case Experimental Design

This course will review single case experimental design, with specific emphasis on the use of single case designs for evaluating behavior assessment and treatment procedures in applied settings. Further emphasis will be placed on developing skills to select appropriate measurement procedures and single case experimental designs to evaluate the relation between context and behavior in applied settings.

3 credits

Prerequisites: ABA 524

In-Person, OnLine

ABA 527 — Ethics, Law, and Professional Practice

This course will provide instruction on the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) ethical practice guidelines, and standards. Ethical professional practice standards relevant to legal and professional practice standards will be addressed. Relevant issues in the supervision of behavior analysts and behavior analysts in training will also be discussed.

3 credits

OnLine

ABA 528 — Behavior Assessment

This course will provide students with an overview of assessment strategies developed to inform behavioral programming in applied settings. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to describe a variety of assessment strategies to assist with developing interventions for increasing and decreasing socially important behaviors.

3 credits

OnLine

ABA 531 — Theories of Learning and Behavior

This course provides an overview of learning and behavior, as well as the philosophical underpinnings of behavior and applied behavior analysis. Emphasis will be placed on behavioral learning theory and the philosophical assumptions underlying learning theory and the science of behavior analysis. Topics related to learning and behavior such as reinforcement, punishment, operant and respondent learning, evolutionary perspectives, translational research and language development will be reviewed. Lectures, article discussion board posts, live synchronous meetings, midterm and final exams and small group activities are used to meet instructional goals.

3 credits

OnLine

ABA 535 – Clinical Supervision, Management & Training

This course will provide an overview of an applied behavior analytic approach to personnel supervision, management, and training. Emphasis will be placed on behavior assessment of personnel performance and the use of empirically-derived interventions for improving personnel performance. Additionally, students will be introduced to the application of behavior measurement and evaluation strategies to determine the effectiveness of personnel performance interventions. Students will also be introduced to training strategies that establish and maintain the professional repertoire of behavior analyst trainees.

3 credits

OnLine

ABA 536 – Experimental Analysis of Behavior

This course will review basic research (animal research and human operant research) in learning and behavior analysis. Students will become familiar with the basic principles of learning and behavior analysis by reading and discussing original laboratory research that lead to basic learning theories. Students will become familiar with basic research strategies and methods and replicate simulated laboratory experiments.

3 credits

In-Person

ABA 652 – Practicum: Supervised ABA Experience

This course will provide the student with supervised experience in the implementation of assessment and intervention with individuals, based in applied behavior analysis (ABA). The goals of this practicum are to obtain experiential training within the field of ABA by a nationally credentialed behavior analyst, qualified to supervise trainees. These experience hours should be obtained in a way that meets all national standards for board certification in behavior analysis, and activities should be in line with the BACB current Task List. The experiences sought will be designed to enhance the student's practical knowledge of the concepts of behavior analysis learned during coursework taken during their degree program in ABA.

1 credits

In-Person

ABA 680 – Comprehensive Exam (Practice Board Exam)

0 credits

ABA 683 – Applied Research Project I

This course is designed to give students experience in the research process associated with being a knowledgeable consumer of research and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions they use as a clinician. Students will participate in research by selecting a research topic, developing a research question, conducting a literature review, designing a research study, conduct research conditions following a pre-planned protocol, collecting and/or analyzing research data, reporting results or projected results, and discussing appropriate conclusions and relevance to the field.

1 credits

In-Person

ABA 684 – Applied Research Project II

This course is designed to give students experience in the research process associated with being a knowledgeable consumer of research and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions they use as a clinician. Students will participate in research by selecting a research topic, developing a research question, conducting a literature review, designing a research study, conduct research conditions following a pre-planned protocol, collecting and/or analyzing research data, reporting results or projected results, and discussing appropriate conclusions and relevance to the field.

2 credits

In-Person