Doctorate Degree

PhD in Applied Behavior Analysis with Specialization in Autism Intervention

• CIP code 422814 • 48 credits • 9 terms full time

Program Description — The PhD in Applied Behavior Analysis with Specialization in Autism Intervention will prepare students to serve in leadership positions in private companies and public entities that provide ABA services to underserved populations. Coursework is designed to further develop students' clinical skills and enhance their ability to conduct, evaluate, analyze, and apply research findings in their clinical settings. The curriculum will have two primary points of emphasis. First, clinical leadership training will be designed to prepare students for leadership roles within human service organizations and within the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. The second focus involves advanced research and dissemination of applied behavior analysis. Additional coursework will ensure that students develop the supervisory and management skills necessary to succeed in high-level leadership positions. The proposed ABA doctoral program will be a three-year, 48-credit course of study that will include summer residencies during the first two years. The program will follow a distance-learning model during all other semesters. An applied dissertation will also be required.

Students are expected to enroll in 5-9 total credits per (fall and spring) term during the first two years of the program. During the third year, students are expected to enroll in the Dissertation Research course. In all subsequent semesters and until completion of all degree requirements, students enroll in a Dissertation Continuation course.

Learning Outcomes — In this program, students will:

- Analyze published research across a range of behavior analytic content, including evaluating the experimental methods used and interpreting the results

- Synthesize published research on a particular topic and consider gaps in the research to develop research questions for their applied work and to articulate the impacts of these gaps on service delivery

- Formulate systematic research studies using valid experimental designs to enable them to qualify for full membership in the ABAI and to present findings at regional and national ABA conferences

- Develop experimental methods to address the research question in their applied dissertations

- Evaluate published research addressing skill development and behavior reduction procedures for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and synthesize that research to create a taxonomy of empirically supported treatment procedures.

- Create assessment procedures for evaluating treatments, conduct assessments, analyze the outcomes of those assessments, and synthesize the results of assessments to develop function-based treatment plans and instructional programs

- Propose and adapt empirically supported staff training models and systems

- Design and conduct trainings in advanced ABA content across a range of audiences (students, parents, stakeholders, etc.)

Upon graduation, eligible graduates may seek the BCBA-D designation from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

Courses .... 48 credits

This program combines summer residencies at Cambridge College's Boston campus during the first two years with a distance learning model during the non-residency semesters.

Term 1 .... Summer
PAB700   Introduction to Doctoral Studies (1 credit)
PAB705   Advanced Single Subject Research Design in ABA
PAB710   Communication and Dissemination of Advanced Principles of Behavior

Term 2 .... Fall
PAB715   Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI)
PAB720   Topics in Advanced Research

Term 3 .... Spring
PAB725   Evaluation and Treatment of Severe Behavior Disorders
PAB730   Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis

Term 4 .... Summer
PAB735   Experimental Analysis of Behavior I
PAB785   Dissertation Proposal Seminar I

Term 5 .... Fall
PAB745   Organizational Behavior Management
PAB780   Experimental Analysis of Behavior II
PAB786   Dissertation Proposal Seminar II

Term 6 .... Spring
PAB794   The Application of Behavior Analysis Across the Life Span
PAB740   Behavior Analytic Perspective on Child Development - Specialization in Applied Bahavior Analysis
PAB787   Dissertation Proposal Seminar III

Term 7 .... Summer
PAB795   Dissertation Research

Term 8 .... Fall
PAB788   Dissertation Research (1 credit)

Term 9 .... Fall
PAB789   Dissertation Completion & Defense (1 credit)

Admission requirements: BCBA Certification, live interview with Program Chair and faculty, and other School of Education requirements.

Program chair: Daniel Almeida, Ph.D.
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(All courses @ 3 credits except as noted.)