

Master of Science in Educational Psychology with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis

The master of science in educational psychology with a concentration in applied behavior analysis prepares master's-level clinicians with the education and training to sit for the examination to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA). The program's goals are (a) to provide a consistent and coherent program of study in educational psychology founded on specific conceptual frameworks (outlined below), (b) to teach and demonstrate best practices in behavior analysis in all program courses and activities, and (c) to prepare students for the practice of behavior analysis in Maine and elsewhere. The MSEPABA objectives pull together the mission and goals by providing courses and practical strategies for implementing best practices in school psychology by using empirically validated assessment, intervention, and consultation methods.

The M.S. in educational psychology program prepares students to meet competencies set forth by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Upon completion of the program, graduates have earned the academic requirements in the preparation for the practice of behavior analysis. The program is designed to meet the academic requirements necessary for the following credentials: Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Based on the models and professional standards found in the program philosophy, students in the M.S. program receive training in the following areas prior to and during the practicum/internship phases of the program: assessment: functional behavior assessment (e.g., indirect, direct, and analogue), clinical interviews; interventions, consultation, positive behavioral supports; social foundations training, applied research and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, and single case experimental design.

In addition to the academic requirements, BACB requires a 1,500-hour supervised work experience; this work experience must occur in a behavior analytic environment under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. The supervised work is designed to provide students or graduates with experience utilizing the knowledge and skills gained during and concurrent with coursework. The supervised work is conducted under the direct supervision of a BCBA and may or may not involve direct supervision by University faculty. The supervised work experience is arranged independent of the University or educational psychology program, by the student and may occur concurrent with or upon completion of the coursework.

Consistent with BACB Guidelines for Responsible Conduct For Behavior Analysts (August 2004), graduates of the program are encouraged to maintain a rigorous course of professional development throughout their careers and are bound to limit their practice to competencies and populations in which they are trained.

Graduates who are interested in further development in behavior analysis or as an educational or school psychology practitioner are encouraged to pursue doctoral training. Doctoral training typically prepares practitioners in advanced skills in school psychology practice (e.g., neuro-psychological assessment, behavioral assessment, counseling, applied behavior analysis, applied research, supervision) with specific populations (e.g., emotional disability, developmental disabilities, autism, learning disability).

Special Admission Requirements

Testing Requirements Applicants to the education psychology program must take the MAT or GRE. one of the tests must be taken within five years of application. For those taking the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) you must have earned a score of 40 points or above, or a score of 390 or above if the test was taken after September 30, 2004. For the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) you must have earned a score of 900 or above combined verbal and quantitative scores on (this requirement is waived for applicants already holding a graduate degree, except for admission to the Psy.D. program); and have earned a score of at least 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 79 or higher on the Internet-based test, or 213 on the computer-based test for students whose native language is not English.

Applicants who did not score 40, or 390 if the test was taken after September 30, 2004, on the MAT or 900 combined on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully. Without such a letter, applicants who fail to meet eligibility requirements may be automatically denied.

Transfer Credit Students admitted to the school psychology program can request permission to transfer up to 6 graduate credits toward the Psy.D. in school psychology, M.S. in educational psychology, or Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA). In order for credits to be eligible for transfer, they must meet the following criteria:

1. The credits must have been earned as part of a graduate course (e.g., 500 level or higher) offered at a U.S. institution of higher learning accredited at the time the credits were earned by a regional and/or national accrediting body and recognized as accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The credits must have been earned for a course which is equivalent in content covered and skills developed to one required in the student's USM program of study.
3. The earned grade for the course must be a B or higher (GPA equivalent of 3.0).
4. The credits must have been earned within 3 years from the date when transfer credit is requested.
5. The credits must not have been applied to any previously earned degree.
6. For students seeking certification for BCBA, any applicable course(s) must be transferred from a program that is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

Transferred credits will be noted on the student's USM transcript and counted toward the student's degree or certificate program of study. To request transfer of credit(s), a student must submit the course syllabus/i and official transcript(s) showing the course grade(s) for the course(s) already taken to the school psychology program coordinator. The coordinator will consult with program faculty to determine if the credit transfer is approved. Once approved, the program will notify the USM Registrar to enter the official transfer onto the student's record.

Course Waivers Students who have extensive prior graduate-level training in areas covered in the school psychology program courses can request to waive up to 5 courses or 15 credits of the required program of study. Waived courses are NOT transferred to the student's transcript. Students must replace waived courses with electives. Students are required to take enough electives to cover the number of credits or courses waived. In order for a course to be waived, the student must demonstrate the following:

1. The credits must have been earned as part of a graduate course (e.g., 500 level or higher) offered at a U.S. institution of higher learning accredited at the time the credits were earned by a regional and/or national accrediting body and recognized as accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The credits must have been earned for a course which is equivalent in content covered and skills developed to one required in the student's USM program of study.
3. The earned grade for the course must be a B or higher (GPA equivalent of 3.0).
4. The student can demonstrate ongoing competency in the knowledge and skills covered in the course for which a waiver is requested. For example, a student who has a prior master's degree in counseling and who has practiced and maintained state licensure as a counselor could be eligible for a waiver of a required counseling course.

Requests for course waivers follow the same procedure as requests for credit transfer. To request a course waiver, a student must submit the course syllabus and official transcript(s) showing the course grade(s) for the course(s) already taken to the school psychology program coordinator. The coordinator will consult with program faculty to determine if a course waiver is approved. Once approved, the program coordinator will notify the student in writing and a copy of the waiver agreement will be placed in the student's file.

Note: Course waivers are not available for those courses that are required for certification in behavior analysis.

Program Requirements (33 credits)	
Psychological Foundations (9 credits)	
SPY 671	Physical Bases of Behavior
SPY 673	Social Foundations of Behavior
SPY 676	Behavioral Principles of Learning
Assessment (9 credits)	
SPY 675	Indirect Behavioral Assessment
SPY 627	Advanced RTI for Reading
SPY 678	Functional Behavioral Assessment
Interventions (9 credits)	
SPY 629	ABA for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
SPY 603	Consultation in School Psychology
SPY 684	Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
Research (6 credits)	
EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques (Must be taken within first year)
SPY 659	Clinical Research Methods

Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

The Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA) includes an 18-credit program of study related to the research foundations, methods, ethics, and applications of applied behavior analysis. The certificate provides the coursework that leads to the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) credential. The certificate does not automatically lead to obtaining the BCBA. BCBA requires 1,500 hours of supervised work experience in a behavior analytic environment under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The supervised work may be completed concurrent with the coursework, and must be supervised and documented. Visit the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Web site for detailed information concerning the BCBA credentialing, supervised work, and examination requirements. Upon completion of coursework and supervised work, students must also pass a national exam. Those who complete the required coursework, the supervised work, and pass the national exam will earn the BCBA. The supervised work is neither arranged nor administrated through the educational psychology program.

Special Admission Requirements

Since the Certificate of Applied Behavior Analysis is a post-master's certificate program, applicants not currently matriculated in the M.S. or Psy.D. in school psychology programs must show evidence of a master's degree.

Transfer Credit Students admitted to the school psychology program can request permission to transfer up to 6 graduate credits toward the Psy.D. in school psychology, M.S. in educational psychology, or Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA). In order for credits to be eligible for transfer, they must meet the following criteria:

1. The credits must have been earned as part of a graduate course (e.g., 500 level or higher) offered at a U.S. institution of higher learning accredited at the time the credits were earned by a regional and/or national accrediting body and recognized as accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The credits must have been earned for a course which is equivalent in content covered and skills developed to one required in the student's USM program of study.
3. The earned grade for the course must be a B or higher (GPA equivalent of 3.0).
4. The credits must have been earned within 3 years from the date when transfer credit is requested.
5. The credits must not have been applied to any previously earned degree.
6. For students seeking certification for BCBA, any applicable course(s) must be transferred from a program that is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

Transferred credits will be noted on the student's USM transcript and counted toward the student's degree or certificate program of study. To request transfer of credit(s), a student must submit the course syllabus/i and official transcript(s) showing the grade(s) for the course(s) to the school psychology program coordinator. The coordinator will consult with program faculty to determine if the credit transfer is approved. Once approved, the program will notify the USM Registrar to enter the official transfer onto the student's record.

Students in the certificate program take the following courses:

SPY 603	Consultation in School Psychology
SPY 659	Clinical Research Methods
SPY 676	Behavioral Principles of Learning
SPY 678	Functional Behavioral Assessment
SPY 684	Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis

In addition, certificate students must take one elective chosen from approved courses offered in the College of Education and Human Development.