



**University  
of Houston  
Clear Lake**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AND  
CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS**

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**Program Description and Admission Information**

**Revised August 2020**

**Priority Deadline: January 5**

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## WHAT IS APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS?

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Applied behavior analysis is a science aimed at improving socially significant behavior through the application of learning principles, typically at the level of the behavior of the individual rather than of the group. The methods are empirically driven and focus on understanding, predicting, and changing behavior by examining interactions between directly observable behavior and the environment.

Research and practice in applied behavior analysis is wide-ranging, including work in developmental disabilities, behavioral medicine, and education. The effectiveness of behavior analytic interventions, along with the field's focus on accountability in service delivery, has generated a growing demand for professionals with expertise in applied behavior analysis.

Consumers of these services include public and private schools, state agencies, and various other non-profit and for-profit organizations. Most recently, the demand for applied behavior analysts who can provide school- or home-based services for individuals with disabilities, such as autism, has exploded both nationally and locally, as behavioral interventions are now considered the treatment of choice for this population. The demand for Master's level Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) is now growing at a rapid pace.

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## BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AT UHCL

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The goal of the Behavior Analysis M.A. Program is to provide students with a well-rounded foundation in applied behavior analysis through an integrated sequence of coursework, practicum, and research activities.

Students obtain competency in the basic principles of learning and the application of these principles with particular emphasis on interventions for individuals with developmental disabilities. Practicum and research experiences are provided in home, school, hospital, and clinic settings. All students complete a major research project prior to graduation.

The program, which is accredited by the Association for Behavior Analysis-International<sup>®</sup> Accreditation Board includes a course sequence and supervised experience that have been verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc<sup>®</sup>. Students completing the coursework and practicum requirements of the program will be eligible to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam and to become Licensed Behavior Analysts in Texas. Furthermore, graduates will be prepared to pursue doctoral degrees in psychology or behavior analysis.

The Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate is designed for individuals who have already earned a master's degree in Psychology or Education and who would like to complete the coursework and practicum required to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam and to become Licensed Behavior Analysts in Texas.

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## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR M.A. IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

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### *Prerequisites*

Bachelor's Degree or higher, preferably in a related field such as psychology, education, or special education. In addition, applicants should identify coursework or practical experience associated with Behavior Analysis.

### *Required Courses (39 hours)*

PSYC 5235 Learning Principles	3 hours
PSYC 6238 Applied Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 6338 Ethics and Professional Issues in Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 6339 Research Methods in Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 6031 Behavioral Assessment	3 hours
PSYC 6239/6331 Behavioral Intervention 1 and II	6 hours
PSYC 6430 Verbal Behavior	3 hours
PSYC 5435 Conceptual Issues in Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 5030 Advanced Topics in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior	3 hours
PSYC 6340 Personnel Management and Supervision	3 hours
PSYC 6330 Research & Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis**	6 hours

### *Select One From the Following Electives (3 hours):*

PSYC 5736 Behavioral Medicine
PSYC 6235 Behavioral/Cognitive Therapies
PSYC 5961 Research Topics in Psychology (requires pre-approval)
PSYC 6134 Biological Bases of Behavior
PSYC 5031 Human Growth and Development
PSYC 5131 Psychopathology of Childhood
PSYC 5532 Advanced Social Psychology
PSYC 6832 Advanced Cognitive Psychology

\*\*Research and field experience under the supervision of a BCBA/UHCL faculty member in home, school, or clinic settings. Requires completion of a research project, passage of a comprehensive exam, and at least 20 hours per week of field experience in home, school, or clinic settings for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

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### SAMPLE SCHEDULE (M.A. PROGRAM)

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- **Fall Year 1:** Learning, Applied Behavior Analysis, Ethics
  - **Spring Year 1:** Behavioral Assessment, Research Methods, Elective
  - **Fall Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions I, Conceptual Issues
  - **Spring Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions II, Verbal Behavior
  - **Fall and Spring Year 3:** Personnel Management; Advanced Topics in EAB; Research & Practicum
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### ABA CERTIFICATE-ONLY PROGRAM

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#### *Prerequisites*

Applicants must have a Master's Degree in behavior analysis, psychology, education, or special education from an accredited university.

#### **Students enrolled in the ABA Certificate Program complete the following (36 hours):**

PSYC 5235 Learning Principles	3 hours
PSYC 6238 Applied Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 6338 Ethics and Professional Issues in Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 6339 Research Methods in Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 6031 Behavioral Assessment	3 hours
PSYC 6239/6331 Behavioral Intervention 1 and II*	6 hours
PSYC 5435 Conceptual Issues in Behavior Analysis	3 hours
PSYC 5030 Advanced Topics in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior	3 hours
PSYC 6340 Personnel Management and Supervision	3 hours
PSYC 6330 Research & Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis**	6 hours

\*These seminar courses cover specialized applications of behavior analytic principles and methods; courses include class meetings and requires at least 20 hours per week of field experience under the supervision of a BCBA in home, school, or clinic settings.

\*\*Research and field experience under the supervision of a BCBA in home, school, or clinic settings. Requires completion of a research project, passage of a comprehensive exam, and at least 20 hours per week of field experience in home, school, or clinic settings for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

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### SAMPLE SCHEDULE (CERTIFICATE PROGRAM)

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- **Fall Year 1:** Learning, Applied Behavior Analysis, Ethics
  - **Spring Year 1:** Behavioral Assessment, Research Methods, Conceptual Issues
  - **Fall Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions I, Personnel Management, Research & Practicum,
  - **Spring Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions II, Advanced Topics in EAB; Research & Practicum
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## ABA FACULTY

### *Full Time Faculty*

Fritz, Jennifer N., Associate Professor (Ph.D., BCBA-D; University of Florida -- 2008)

Assessment, treatment, and prevention of severe behavior disorders; autism and developmental disabilities; and caregiver training

Lechago, Sarah A., Associate Professor (Ph.D., BCBA-D Western Michigan University - 2009)

Verbal behavior, motivating operations, treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities, social skills training

Lerman, Dorothea C., Professor (Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of Florida - 1995)

Autism and developmental disabilities, functional analysis, treatment of severe behavior disorders, and parent and teacher training

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## APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

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Students wishing to enroll in the Behavior Analysis Program or ABA Certificate Program must formally apply. Applications are accepted for the **fall semester only**. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Program Director, Dorothea Lerman (281-283-3437; behavioranalysis@uhcl.edu).

Application requires both **Steps 1 and 2** below be completed.

### **Step 1: Apply for admission to the University of Houston-Clear Lake:**

- a. Complete the ApplyTexas online university application and pay the university admission application fee. Go to [www.uhcl.edu](http://www.uhcl.edu). Select the “Admissions” tab, and click on “Apply” near the top of the page. Once you create a profile, you will complete the application. Select U.S. Graduate Application. If applying to the master’s program, select HSH-Behavior Analysis MA as your major. If applying to the certificate program, select HSH-Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate. The university application should be completed as early as possible before the admissions deadline to allow adequate time for the Office of Admissions to process the application and evaluate transcripts.
- b. We are waiving the GRE for Fall 2021 applications due to the pandemic**
- c. Submit official transcripts from all institutions attended. Transcripts should be mailed to this address:

Office of Admissions  
University of Houston-Clear Lake  
2700 Bay Area Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77058

### **Step 2: Submit Additional Supporting Documents for the Behavior Analysis Program**

- (a) You will be assigned a UHCL E-Services account after you have completed the ApplyTexas online application. You will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to access your account. The following supporting documents must be uploaded to your UHCL E-Services account (see additional, detailed instructions at the end of this packet):
  - Curriculum Vita: An expanded résumé describing previous education; all work experience; relevant course work and relevant volunteer activities; any

honors, presentations, papers, avocations or other relevant life experiences

- Brief Essay: A statement of purpose and goals, not to exceed 1,000 words, describing your reasons for wanting this degree and how it fits into career goals.

- (b) Two letters of recommendation, preferably at least one from an academic source, should be submitted directly by the recommenders to [behavioranalysis@uhcl.edu](mailto:behavioranalysis@uhcl.edu). No form is required. Recommendations from academic faculty and/or work supervisors who know you well are especially important.

**Deadline for Application:**

**Review of applications for fall admission will begin on January 5 of each year.** Applications submitted after this date will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that his/her application for university admission and supporting transcripts are received by the UHCL Office of Admissions, that all additional supporting documents have been uploaded, and that letters of recommendation are submitted directly by the references. All applicants can check the status of their application by logging into their accounts.

**Required Application Materials Checklist:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ApplyTexas University Application**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Transcripts**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Curriculum Vitae**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Brief Essay (maximum of 1,000 words)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Two Letters of Recommendation (one from an academic source)**

**NOTE: We are waiving the GRE for Fall 2021 application due to the pandemic.**

**Additional information regarding applications:**

Any evidence of tampering with recommendations or transcripts could result in disqualifying the applicant from admission. Applicants should note that admission to graduate status at the university is not equivalent to admission to the Behavior Analysis Program or ABA Certificate Program. Applicants are not admitted into the Behavior Analysis M.A. Program or Certificate Program until they receive formal notice from the Behavior Analysis Admissions Committee that they have been accepted.