



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

MASTER OF ARTS IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

AND

CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

Revised August 2009

WHAT IS APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS?

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.

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AT UHCL

The goal of the Behavior Analysis M.A. Program is to provide students with a well-rounded foundation in psychology and 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 children with developmental disabilities. Practicum and research experiences are provided in home, school, and clinic settings. All students complete a major research project prior to graduation.

The program includes a course sequence and practicum that have been approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc®. Students completing the coursework and practicum requirements of the program will be eligible to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam. The coursework also prepares graduates who are interested in becoming Licensed Psychological Associates. 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 a related discipline and who would like to complete the coursework and practicum required to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR M.A. IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Prerequisites

Twelve hours of undergraduate psychology with a grade of B- or better in each course and a course in statistics must be completed prior to enrolling in graduate courses. At least two of the four psychology courses must have been taken at the upper-level.

Required Courses

| | |
|---|---------|
| PSYC 5235 Learning Principles | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6238 Applied Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6031 Behavioral Assessment | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6239/6331 Behavioral Intervention 1 and II* | 6 hours |
| PSYC 6036/6037 Research Design and Statistics I and II | 6 hours |
| PSYC 6134 Biological Bases of Behavior | 3 hours |
| PSYC 5135 Professional Issues | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6330 Research & Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis** | 6 hours |

Select One of the Following Behavior Analysis Electives:

| | |
|---|---------|
| PSYC 5736 Behavioral Medicine | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6235 Behavioral/Cognitive Therapies | 3 hours |
| PSYC 5961 Research Topics in Psychology (Behavior Analysis) | 3 hours |

Select Two of the Following Psychology Electives:

| | |
|---|---------|
| PSYC 5031 Human Growth and Development | 3 hours |
| PSYC 5131 Psychopathology of Childhood | 3 hours |
| PSYC 5532 Advanced Social Psychology | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6832 Advanced Cognitive Psychology | 3 hours |

*This seminar course covers specialized applications of behavior analytic principles and methods, and includes class meetings and up to 10 hours per week of field activities in home, school, and clinic settings. This course is taken for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

**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 and 20 hours per week of field experience in home, school, or clinic settings for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE (M.A. PROGRAM)

- **Fall Year 1:** Learning, Research & Stats, Psych Core
- **Spring Year 1:** Applied Behavior Analysis, Research & Stats, Psych Core
- **Fall Year 2:** Behavioral Assessment, Behavioral Interventions I, Psych Core or ABA elective
- **Spring Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions II, Psych Core or ABA elective, Professional Issues
- **Fall and Spring Year 3:** Practicum and research project

ABA CERTIFICATE-ONLY PROGRAM

Students enrolled in the ABA Certificate Program complete the following courses:

| | |
|---|---------|
| PSYC 5235 Learning Principles | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6238 Applied Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6031 Behavioral Assessment | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6239/6331 Behavioral Interventions 1 and II* | 6 hours |
| PSYC 6330 Research & Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis** | 6 hours |

*This seminar course covers specialized applications of behavior analytic principles and methods, and includes class meetings and up to 10 hours per week of field activities in home, school, and clinic settings. This course is taken for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

**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 and 20 hours per week of field experience in home, school, or clinic settings for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

ABA FACULTY

Full Time Faculty

Fritz, Jennifer, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Florida -- 2008)

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

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

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

Short, Mary B., Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Western Michigan University)

Pediatrics, behavioral medicine, women's health

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

Students wishing to enroll in the Behavior Analysis Program or ABA Certificate Program must formally apply. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the faculty coordinator, Dorothea Lerman (281-283-3437; lerman@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 on-line university application. Currently there is a \$35 fee for the university admission application. Go to www.uhcl.edu. Select the “Admissions” tab, and click on the graduate application. 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. When completing the application, select “Behavior Analysis, MA.”
FOR APPLICANTS TO THE CERTIFICATE ONLY PROGRAM: Apply as a Non-degree seeking graduate student
- b. Submit GRE scores (not more than 5 years old) through the standard reporting procedures
- 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.
Box 13
Houston, TX 77058

Step 2: Apply to the Behavior Analysis Program

The following documents must be sent in a single envelope to:

Behavior Analysis Admissions Committee
University of Houston-Clear Lake
Box 245
2700 Bay Area Blvd.
Houston, TX 77058-1098

- a. [Program application form \(attached\)](#)
- b. 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).
- c. A Brief Essay of purpose and goals, not to exceed 1,000 words, stating reasons for wanting this degree and how it fits into career goals.
- d. Two Letters of Recommendation, at least one from an academic source. No form is required. You should collect all recommendations and return

them in the application envelope along with other application documents. The recommender should place the letter in a sealed envelope, and sign his/her name across the envelope flap and onto the body of the envelope before returning the envelope to the applicant. Recommendations from academic faculty and/or work supervisors who know the applicant well are especially solicited.

- e. Transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended (except University of Houston-Clear Lake transcripts which will be generated internally). **These transcripts are in addition to the transcripts sent directly to the university Office of Admissions.** The applicant should collect all transcripts and include them in the application envelope.

Deadline for Application and Notification of Admissions Decision:

Application to the program or certificate plan can be made at any point during the year. The deadline to be reviewed for admission for the fall semester is April 15. For the spring semester, the deadline is October 15. Review of application materials will take 6-8 weeks. It is the applicant's responsibility to insure that his/her application for university admission and supporting transcripts are received by the university **Office of Admissions** and the application envelope containing all required documents is received by the **Behavior Analysis Admissions Committee** by the dates given.

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.

Application for Admission

University of Houston-Clear Lake
Master of Arts in Behavior Analysis
and
Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate-Only Program

Applicants are responsible for insuring that the following materials are submitted in a single envelope by the application deadline (April 15 for Fall; Oct 15 for Spring):

1. Application form
2. Curriculum vitae
3. 1-2 page essay/statement of goals
4. Two recommendations (at least 1 academic)
5. Transcript(s)
6. GRE scores must also be submitted to the university by the official GRE reporting procedure.

State law requires that you be informed of the following: (1) you are entitled to request to be informed about the information about yourself collected by use of this form (with a few exceptions as provided by law); and (2) you are entitled to receive and review that information.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

Permanent Telephone (if different from above): _____

Email: _____

1. Please check if you are applying to the ABA certificate-only option (applicants must have already earned a Master's degree in psychology or related discipline): _____

2. Indicate what degree(s) you hold or are completing.

Undergraduate

Major ____ degree from _____ (College or University)

Date (or date expected) _____

Graduate

Major ____ degree from _____ (College or University)

Date (or date expected) _____

3. Please indicate your last 60 hours GPA.

Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____

4. Please indicate your GRE scores (must be current within the past 5 years).

Date _____ Verbal _____ Quantitative _____ Analytical Writing _____

5. Are you currently enrolled in an M.A. Psychology Program at UHCL? If not, have you submitted a university Application for Admission and transcripts to the UHCL Admissions Office?

____ Yes ____ No

[You must apply for university admission in addition to and separate from this application]

6. From whom are you requesting recommendations?

Return this form along with all other documents in a single envelope to:

Behavior Analysis Admissions Committee
University of Houston-Clear Lake
Box 245
2700 Bay Area Blvd.
Houston, TX 77058-1098