

MA APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS ADDENDUM 2018-2019



JOHN F. KENNEDY UNIVERSITY

An affiliate of the National University System

ON CAMPUS

ONLINE

ADVISOR@JFKU.EDU

(844) 890-6912

JFKU.EDU

MASTERS IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Program Overview

The John F. Kennedy University College of Psychology has developed a master’s degree in applied behavior analysis (MA in ABA). The MA in ABA will extend the university’s degree offerings in areas of applied mental health service delivery. Such a degree program complements psychology degree programs in marriage and family therapy, holistic counseling, sport psychology, conscious and transformative studies, and clinical psychology.

Applied behavior analysis is a science aimed at improving socially significant behavior through the application of learning principles, typically for individuals, not groups. A behavior analyst uses direct observation and data collection to find causes for desired and undesired behaviors. Behavior analysts design strategies to alter socially significant behavior by changing existing behaviors, teaching new behaviors, teaching what behaviors are appropriate to use in different situations, and consistently evaluating the effectiveness of their behavioral interventions.

The goal of the MA in ABA at John F. Kennedy University is to provide the student with a solid foundation in applied behavior analysis through an integrated and coordinated sequence of coursework, practicum, and supervision. Clinical practice and research in applied behavior analysis is wide-ranging and includes work in developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, chronic health conditions, health and wellness, and educational settings. It is the intent of our program to graduate students who will be prepared academically and clinically to become board certified behavior analysts (BCBA).

Careers in Behavior Analysis and Therapy

- Work with adults and children with autism and other developmental disabilities. In this capacity you can teach individuals how to communicate, interact with others, succeed in school, and live independently
- Consult with businesses to help improve employee performance safety or create a higher quality work environment
- Work with elderly in assisted-living care facilities and nursing homes
- Work with individuals with social/emotional disorders, anxiety, addictions, and brain injuries
- Work in a variety of settings such as schools, homes, primary care clinics, community mental health centers, community integrated living arrangements, day treatment centers, and child and family welfare agencies
- Teach courses at a college or university to promote the development of future behavior analysts

COURSE SEQUENCE FOR MASTERS IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS	
	VCS Requirements
<p>Concepts and Principles I (4 units)</p> <p><i>This course provides an introduction to the science of behavior analysis and the philosophical underpinnings of the science of behavior analysis, including goals, philosophical assumptions, dimensions of applied behavior analysis, radical behaviorism, experimental analysis of behavior, applied behavior analysis, and professional practice.</i></p>	<p>Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts & Principles</p> <p>90 hours</p>
<p>Concepts and Principles II (4 units)</p> <p><i>This course includes foundational concepts and principles of applied behavior analysis, including behavior, respondent and operant conditioning, contingencies, extinction, stimulus variations, and verbal operants.</i></p>	
<p>Concepts and Principles Ethics, Professionalism, and Compliance (4 units)</p> <p><i>This course will orient students to the ethical and professional guidelines for Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Students will gain knowledge of the BACB disciplinary systems and compliance code. The course will review ethical guidelines for assessment, treatment, and research. Students will learn to describe and apply professional and ethical guidelines specifying the Behavior Analysts’ responsibility to their clients, colleagues, the field of behavior analysis, and society.</i></p>	<p>BACB Compliance Code and Disciplinary Systems; Professionalism</p> <p>45 hours</p>
<p>Measurement and Experimental Evaluation of Behavior (4 units)</p> <p><i>This course provides students with the skills necessary to confirm the clinical efficacy of interventions by use of single-subject designs. Students will learn to develop valid and reliable systems for measuring behavior, to display data using graphing software, and to assess for systematic changes in behavior through visual inspection and interpretation of graphic data.</i></p>	<p>Measurement, Data Display and Interpretation; Experimental Design</p> <p>45 hours</p>
<p>Behavior Assessment (4 units)</p> <p><i>This course will provide an introduction to key concepts, methods, and ethical considerations associated with assessing behavior. Students will learn pertinent behavioral assessments (preferences, functional analyses, functional assessments, and skill assessments).</i></p>	<p>Behavior Assessment</p> <p>45 hours</p>



Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis - continued

<p>Behavior Change Procedures (3 units)</p> <p><i>This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of empirically supported behavior change procedures. Students will learn approaches to changing behavior that include reinforcement and punishment-based interventions, use of extinction, motivating operations, and contingency management techniques. Students will learn basics of Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior and how to teach verbal behavior.</i></p>	<p>Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Interventions</p> <p>60 hours</p>
<p>Selecting and Implementing Behavior Interventions (3 units)</p> <p><i>This course will prepare students to identify, implement, and maintain effective behavioral interventions in applied settings. Students will learn to select and implement function-based interventions for the reduction of problem behaviors, skill-building programs for skill deficits, and various behavioral teaching and training techniques to be applied to both client and supervisee populations.</i></p>	
<p>Personnel Supervision and Management (3 units)</p> <p><i>This course will prepare students to supervise and manage staff, including organizations' behavior management, performance management, behavioral systems analysis, behavior-based safety, and behavior analysis supervision. It also includes evaluation of past and current research on improving workplace productivity, quality, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety; and it addresses how performance management uses behavior principles as applied in business and industry.</i></p>	<p>Personnel Supervision and Management</p> <p>30 hours</p>

Yearly Schedule

1st YEAR			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer-Onsite Intensive
<p>Concepts & Principles I (4 units)</p> <p>Fieldwork 1 (.5 unit)</p>	<p>Concepts and Principles II (4 units)</p> <p>Ethics,</p>	<p>Measurement and Experimental Evaluation of Behavior (4 units)</p> <p>Fieldwork 2 (.5 unit)</p>	<p>Behavior Assessment (4 units)</p> <p>Fieldwork 3 (1 unit)</p>
2nd YEAR			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer-Onsite Intensive
<p>Behavior Change Procedures (4 units)</p> <p>Fieldwork 4 (1 unit)</p>	<p>Selecting and Implementing Behavior Interventions (3 units)</p> <p>*Elective 1 (1 unit)</p> <p>Fieldwork (1 unit)</p>	<p>Personnel Supervision and Management (3 units)</p> <p>Elective 2 (1 unit)</p> <p>Fieldwork (1 unit)</p>	<p>Elective 3 (4 units)</p> <p>Fieldwork (1 unit)</p>

**Elective Units will be used primarily to study the Certification Test Modules so that, at the completion of the program, students will be ready to take the Certification Examination.*





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