

Frequently Asked Questions

Master of Science

Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism

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- What are the program's application requirements?
- I saw on the website a **Notice to Applicants and Candidates**, "Services restricted to New York State licensed professionals, including licensed psychologists, cannot be rendered by program students or graduates unless: (a) they are licensed in New York State to provide such services, or (b) they provide those services in an exempt setting as salaried employees", what does this statement mean?
- How will I arrange practicum settings and how many hours are required?
- What would a person do for employment after graduating with an M.S. in ABA?
- What is the job outlook in this career?

Is the ABA program online?

Our ABA program is entirely online. The academic classes (the courses in applied behavior analysis are pre-approved by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board) include online access to lectures, assignments, student forums, and tests. Students upload papers and assignments to be reviewed by the course faculty. Students are not required to log in at required times for student forums or tests, and students are free to work on activities as they wish and take tests anytime they want, as long as they do so by the weekly deadlines.

What are the required prerequisites?

Completion of an Undergraduate Degree, a GPA of 2.75 or above is required. The following undergraduate courses are required but do not need to be completed prior to acceptance into the program: a Statistics course, a History and Systems of Psychology course and three Behavioral Sciences Courses which may be in Psychology or Sociology. Half of the total number of credits that you will need for prerequisite courses will need to be completed at a four year institution. We recommend that you send any undergraduate course descriptions to the program advisor, Mary Grace Luibrand at luibrm@sage.edu for approval prior to taking the course to insure that each course meets our criteria.

What if I am interested in receiving Board Certification only, not a Master's Degree in ABA?

We recommend the ABA Certificate which has a spring start date. A candidate who possesses a master's degree in a related field is eligible for the certificate program. The ABA certificate program is lockstep and, though it has a spring start time, it is completed the same time as the ABA master's.

What is a lockstep program?

The ABA program is a lockstep program. Each cohort begins in the fall semester. Each semester the ABA students will take one 3 credit Autism course, one 3 credit, ABA course and a 2 credit Practicum course. This schedule will continue during the spring and summer semesters as well as the following fall and spring.

How many credit hours are required for the Master of Science degree in ABA?

38 credits

When can I apply?

By April 15th, prior to the fall semester for which you seek admission.

What are the program's application requirements?

- Copy of Official Transcripts
- Two confidential letters of recommendation
- Career Goals Essay
- Current Resume
- Interview

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Due to the recent re-writing of the **American Psychological Association (APA)** practice act, now only psychologists can do "behavior analysis" type of activities --modifying behavior, conducting behavior analysis, etc. In New York, the New York psychologists have adopted this practice act. So, only licensed psychologists can technically do behavior analytic practice in New York, unless one works in a school, clinic, hospital,

etc. If your state does not adhere to this new definition of psychological practice, then this disclaimer will have no functional relevance to you.

How will I arrange practicum settings and how many hours are required?

For the practicum, we use a “triage” system. First, we try to arrange a BCBA local to where you are, to provide on site supervision. If that is unable to occur, then we first try distance real-time supervision using web camera. Lastly , we resort to mailing videotapes of your clinical sessions to the faculty who review and provide detailed feedback. The current practica rules as established by the BACB which requires 1 hour every week or 2 hours every 2 weeks. That is supervision. The student must complete 1000 hours of work in a practicum site. In terms of where the students work, it is their choice. The BACB simply requires a place where "behavior analytic methods can be employed." The student must work 10-30 hours per week The BACB sets this minimum hours per week number; as a student, you are responsible for learning and abiding by the BACB rules. It is the responsibility of the prospective student to learn the existing regulations of the BACB and abide by them.

What would a person do after graduating with an M.S. in ABA?

With the increase in autism, the BCBA is uniquely qualified to provide services for this population in a variety of settings, including home, preschools, public schools, and private organizations, such as residential treatment centers and group homes.

In addition, the BCBA will have a specialized set of skills that are directly related to working with people other than those who have autism; these strategies and tactics are suited for helping typical children, helping parents learn how to manage behavior, improve education, and teach a wide variety of skills and abilities to those of all ages.

What is the job outlook in this career?

The job outlook is promising as a result of the continuing increase in the incidence of autism. Schools/parents will need services of more and more BCBAs. We don't have enough now. BCBAs are competent to work not only with children with autism, but other children with other disabilities or typical children who have learning or behavioral problems, or training parents to deal with their own children.