

# Master's in ABA with Emphasis in Autism



## Needed: Human service professionals to fill a national shortage

If you're a human service professional who's facing a crossroads in your career, consider a field that's facing a national shortage: applied behavior analysis (ABA). ABA is a treatment to help children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities improve their language, motor, social, and reasoning skills.

Teachers, psychologists, ABA therapists, and other professionals are needed today to fill this gap with skills to develop and implement behavior intervention plans for those with developmental disabilities and behavior disorders.

## Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis with Emphasis in Autism

Why is now the perfect time to consider this field and Ball State's master's in applied behavior analysis?

- Our master's degree in applied behavior analysis is 100 percent online.
- The 30-hour program is approved by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI).
- We have a national reputation in professional education.
- Applied behavior analysis is now being used in business and industrial settings to teach precise job skills and enhance job performance and safety.
- Applied behavior analysts find jobs in schools, hospitals, mental health centers, behavioral centers, residential facilities, even corporations.

### Why Ball State's MA in ABA?

Our ABA degree is housed within Ball State's Teachers College, which holds numerous national rankings and recognitions. The 30-credit-hour program is offered completely online. Students can elect to complete the degree in less than two years. We were the first in the state of Indiana to offer the master's in applied behavior analysis with an emphasis in autism and it works for those from a variety of educational backgrounds, including psychology, criminal justice, social work, education and other areas.

### Application Deadlines

All application materials need to be received **two weeks prior** to the start of the semester you wish to begin. Our semester start dates can be found in Ball State's academic calendar.

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## Courses You Will Take

The master's degree in ABA with an emphasis in autism includes courses required to sit for the BCBA exam.

- SPCE 609: Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 610: Behavioral Consultation
- SPCE 611: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 619: Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 689: Verbal Behavior
- SPCE 691: Supervising Human Service Staff in ABA
- SPCE 680: Introduction to Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPCE 682: Interventions and Treatments for Persons with Autism
- SPCE 683: Field-Based Experience in Autism\* or
- SPCE 638: Field-Based Experience in ABA\*
- SPCE 630: Research Methods for Behavior Analysis

\*Either SPCE 638 or 683 (only one field-based experience course is required).

## Certificate Options

Another option is to enroll as a certificate-only student and complete the ABA or autism certificate. When you pursue the certificates independently, course work includes:

### Certificate in ABA

- SPCE 609: Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 610: Behavioral Consultation
- SPCE 611: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 619: Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 689: Verbal Behavior

\*Students will need two additional courses to be eligible to sit for the BCBA exam (SPCE 630 and 691).

### Certificate in Autism

- SPCE 609: Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 611: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPCE 680: Introduction to Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPCE 682: Interventions and Treatments for Persons with Autism
- SPCE 683: Field-Based Experience in Autism

## Field-Based Experience

The master's degree in applied behavior analysis with an emphasis in autism and the certificate in autism require a field-based experience course. This course is taken once the appropriate prerequisites have been met. If you are supervised by a BCBA, 20-130 per month can count towards the required 2,000 supervised fieldwork or 1,500 concentrated fieldwork hours.

## Preparation for Board Certified Behavior Analyst Exam

The Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) has verified this course sequence (VCS) as meeting the coursework requirements for the BCBA exam. To be eligible to take the BCBA exam, there are three requirements:



1. Complete the seven-course sequence of classes (SPCE 609, SPCE 610, SPCE 611, SPCE 619, SPCE 630, SPCE 689, and SPCE 691) preapproved by the ABAI.
2. Accrue 2,000 supervised fieldwork or 1,500 concentrated fieldwork hours by a BCBA. Supervisees must begin the courses designed to meet the ABAI course work requirements and register with the BACB before they can start accumulating fieldwork hours. In our program, this means you can start accumulating experience the first day of SPCE 609.
3. Hold a master's degree.

## Admission Requirements

1. Review admissions requirements and prepare materials:  
**Degree:** You must have a bachelor's degree from an institution recognized by a regional accrediting association.  
**GPA:** Have one of the following:
  - An undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
  - Students who don't meet the above criteria but have a GPA of 2.5-2.74 are eligible for probationary admission with an acceptable GRE score and should apply as a nondegree student.**GRE:** Our program does not require the GRE.
2. Prepare your transcripts. Ball State must receive transcripts for all applicants.
3. Apply online at [admissions.bsu.edu/apply](https://admissions.bsu.edu/apply)

If you are an international student, you must first complete the requirements of our Rinker Center for International Programs explained in detail at [www.bsu.edu/international](https://www.bsu.edu/international).

## Contact

Ball State Online  
1-800-872-0369  
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ONLINE**