About the Program

Are you empathetic and caring, kind and patient? If you enjoy helping others, consider becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). BCBA's can support all persons with exceptionalities and have been instrumental in the support of persons having Autism Spectrum Disorders. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, behavior analyst jobs are growing rapidly and the overall employment rate is expected to grow much faster than the average for all professions combined between 2012 and 2022.

In education, behavior analysts support a variety of individuals including parents, guidance counselors, healthcare providers, and others to provide evidenced based assessment and behavior based interventions. The focus is on the learning environment and teacher behavior as the primary methods to proactively address behavioral challenges. Behavioral analysts also contribute to classroom and schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). Areas of practice also include: autism, community based mental health, social work and counseling.

Slippery Rock University’s M.Ed. in Special Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a 36-39 credit program aimed at training practitioners in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services consistent with the standards set forth through the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB). The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® has verified the course sequence listed under curriculum as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify. Upon successful completion, students will meet to eligibility requirements to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Exam.

Curriculum (36 Credits)

SRU’s Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) consists of courses in the following areas:

Applied Behavior Analysis Courses (18 credits):
- SPED 660: Basic Behavior Principles
- SPED 661/861: Techniques Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPED 669/869: Applications in Behavior Analysis
- SPED 663: Ethical Issues in the Science & Practice of Behavior Analysis
- SPED 664: Issues in the Behavioral Treatment of Autism
- SPED 665/865: Research in ABA

Core Courses (15 credits):
- SPED 611: Special Education Law
- SPED 640: Advanced Studies of Autism
- SPED 645: Early Intervention for Young Learners with Disabilities
- SPED 602: Advanced Study of Exceptional Persons
- SPED 642: Communication and Social Competency

Practicum (3 credit minimum – optional 3-12 credits):
- SPED 666: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I
- SPED 667: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II
- SPED 668: Thesis in Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPED 648: Clinical Practicum (for students pursuing PA Certification in Special Education Birth to Grade 8 or Grades 7-12)

Program Highlights

SRU’s Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) offers:

- 100% Online courses
- World class faculty considered to be the leaders in Special Education in Pennsylvania
- A program curriculum grounded in theory and research supported by a practical, hands-on approach
- Course sequence alignment with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) that meets eligibility requirements to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Exam

*The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and it is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.
**Special Education: Applied Behavioral Analysis Concentration**  
**Master of Education**  
**College of Education**

**Admission Requirements**

All applicants must submit the following materials along with the completed application form and non-refundable application fee:

1. A final official transcript sent directly from the institution that conferred the applicant’s undergraduate degree as well as official transcripts from any other undergraduate or graduate coursework completed.
2. Copy of teacher certification (optional)
3. Resume
4. Recommendation forms: one academic reference from a former or current college or university faculty member with knowledge of the applicant’s academic abilities and one professional reference from a school administrator, teacher, or supervisor with knowledge of the applicant’s professional attributes. Recommendations must be on the appropriate forms, which are available electronically at www.sru.edu/graduate, under “Forms”.

Unconditional admission may be offered to applicants who submit acceptable credentials as listed above, and who have earned an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale).

Applicants who do not meet all of the above criteria may be offered conditional admission upon recommendation of the graduate coordinator and approval by the Director of Graduate Admissions. Applicants should have their final official transcripts forwarded directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions.

**Clearances**

Clearances are due no later than one (1) week prior to deadline for course registration for each program’s practicum/field experience. No student will be permitted to register for their program’s practicum and take part in practicum/field experiences without Clear clearances on file at SRU. Students are to send the following by the established due date:

- Clear Act 34 Criminal History Record NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Clear Act 114 FBI Record Check NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Clear Act 151 Child Abuse Background Check NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.
- Act 24 Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification NO record...NONE concerning prohibitive offenses. A meeting headed by the Dean of the College of Education is required if clearances show non-prohibitive offenses. Clearance must be less than one year old at the time of submission.

Applicants should file an updated Act 24 with SRU if any additional arrests/convictions occur while enrolled at SRU.

**Tuition & Assistantships**

Information on current tuition and assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through Financial Aid Office or Graduate Admissions.