ABOUT THE APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (M.ED.) 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 the additional requirements to qualify. Upon successful completion, students will meet the eligibility requirements to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Exam.

ABA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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

- 100% online
- 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

CURRICULUM (36-39 CREDITS)

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

Area I - Core Courses (9 credits; Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer):

SPED 611: Special Education Law
SPED 617: Current Research in Special Education
SPED 625: Instructional Strategies for Learning and Behavior Problems

Area II - Applied Behavior Analysis Courses (18 credits; Fall/Spring only):

SPED 660: Basic Behavior Principles
SPED 661/861: Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis
SPED 669/869: Applications in Applied 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

Area III - Additional Concentration Courses (6 credits; Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer):

SPED 602: Advanced Study of Exceptional Persons
SPED 643: Communication and Social Competency

Practicum (3 credit minimum – optional 3-12 credits; Fall/Spring only):

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)
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM (18 CREDITS)

The content of this program will focus upon the application of ABA in special education and pediatric clinical settings, supporting the needs of learners having autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities and emotional or behavioral disorders.

This course sequence has been specifically aligned with classroom and experiential requirements recommended by the international accrediting body for professionals providing ABA services, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), to develop, design, implement, and evaluate behavior analytic techniques that produce meaningful change for learners.

At a minimum, upon completion, students participating in these courses will have fulfilled coursework requirements to sit for examination to be recognized a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). To better serve the need of professional students, optional practicum courses will also be available to students to fulfill the experiential requirements also required to be eligible to complete the BCBA certification examination. SRU’s Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Certificate consists of courses in the following areas:

Applied Behavior Analysis (15 credits, Fall/Spring only):
- SPED 660: Basic Behavior Principles
- SPED 661/681: Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPED 669/688: Applications in Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPED 663: Ethical Issues in the Science & Practice of Behavior Analysis
- SPED 664: Issues in the Behavioral Treatment of Autism

Research in Applied Behavior (3 credits, Fall/Spring only):
- SPED 665/686: Research in Applied Behavior Analysis

Practicum (optional 3-6 additional credits, Fall/Spring/Summer/Winter):
- SPED 666: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I
- SPED 667: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II
- SPED 640: Advanced Studies of Autism

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 the Financial Aid Office at www.sru.edu/FinAid or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:
Eric J. Bieniek, PhD, BCBA-D
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FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:
Office of Graduate Admissions
104 North Hall, Welcome Center
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
www.sru.edu/graduate
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD
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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 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.

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