



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

MASTER OF ARTS IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Program Description and Admission Information

Revised August 2023

Application Deadline: January 15, 2024



WHAT IS APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS?

Applied behavior analysis is a science aimed at improving socially significant behavior through the application of learning principles, typically at the level of the behavior of the individual rather than of the group. The methods are empirically driven and focus on understanding, predicting, and changing behavior by examining interactions between directly observable behavior and the environment.

Research and practice in applied behavior analysis is wide-ranging, including work in developmental disabilities, behavioral medicine, and education. The effectiveness of behavior analytic interventions, along with the field's focus on accountability in service delivery, has generated a growing demand for professionals with expertise in applied behavior analysis.

Consumers of these services include public and private schools, state agencies, and various other non-profit and for-profit organizations. Most recently, the demand for applied behavior analysts who can provide school- or home-based services for individuals with disabilities, such as autism, has exploded both nationally and locally, as behavioral interventions are now considered the treatment of choice for this population. The demand for Master's level Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) is now growing at a rapid pace.

BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AT UHCL

The goal of the Behavior Analysis M.A. Program is to provide students with a well-rounded foundation in applied behavior analysis through an integrated sequence of coursework, practicum, and research activities.

Students obtain competency in the basic principles of learning and the application of these principles with particular emphasis on interventions for individuals with developmental disabilities. Practicum and research experiences are provided in home, school, hospital, and clinic settings. All students complete a major research project prior to graduation.

The program, which is accredited by the Association for Behavior Analysis-International® (ABAI) Accreditation Board, includes a course sequence that has been verified by ABAI. Students completing the coursework and practicum requirements of the program will be eligible to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam and to become Licensed Behavior Analysts in Texas. Furthermore, graduates will be prepared to pursue doctoral degrees in psychology or behavior analysis.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR M.A. IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Prerequisites

Bachelor's Degree or higher, preferably in a related field such as psychology, education, or special education. In addition, applicants should identify coursework or practical experience associated with Behavior Analysis.

Required Courses (39 hours)

| | |
|--|---------|
| PSYC 5235 Learning Principles | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6238 Applied Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6338 Ethics and Professional Issues in Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6339 Research Methods in Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6031 Behavioral Assessment | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6239/6331 Behavioral Intervention 1 and II | 6 hours |
| PSYC 6430 Verbal Behavior | 3 hours |
| PSYC 5435 Conceptual Issues in Behavior Analysis | 3 hours |
| PSYC 5030 Advanced Topics in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6530 Personnel Management and Supervision | 3 hours |
| PSYC 6330 Research & Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis** | 6 hours |

Select One From the Following Electives (3 hours):

| |
|---|
| PSYC 5736 Behavioral Medicine |
| PSYC 6235 Behavioral/Cognitive Therapies |
| PSYC 5961 Research Topics in Psychology (requires pre-approval) |
| PSYC 6134 Biological Bases of Behavior |
| PSYC 5031 Human Growth and Development |
| PSYC 5131 Psychopathology of Childhood |
| PSYC 5532 Advanced Social Psychology |
| PSYC 6832 Advanced Cognitive Psychology |

**Research and field experience under the supervision of a BCBA/UHCL faculty member in home, school, or clinic settings. Requires completion of a research project, passage of a comprehensive exam, and at least 20 hours per week of field experience in home, school, or clinic settings for two semesters (3 credits per semester).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE (M.A. PROGRAM)

- **Fall Year 1:** Learning, Applied Behavior Analysis, Ethics
- **Spring Year 1:** Behavioral Assessment, Research Methods, Elective
- **Fall Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions I, Conceptual Issues
- **Spring Year 2:** Behavioral Interventions II, Verbal Behavior
- **Fall and Spring Year 3:** Personnel Management; Advanced Topics in EAB; Research & Practicum

ABA FACULTY

Full Time Faculty

Fritz, Jennifer N., Associate Professor (Ph.D., BCBA-D; University of Florida -- 2008)

Assessment, treatment, and prevention of severe behavior disorders; autism and developmental disabilities; and caregiver training

Lechago, Sarah A., Associate Professor (Ph.D., BCBA-D Western Michigan University - 2009)

Verbal behavior, motivating operations, treatment of autism and other developmental disabilities, social skills training

Lerman, Dorothea C., Professor (Ph.D., BCBA-D, University of Florida - 1995)

Autism and developmental disabilities, functional analysis, treatment of severe behavior disorders, and parent and teacher training

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

Students wishing to enroll in the Behavior Analysis Program must formally apply.

Applications are accepted for the **fall semester only**. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Program Director, Dorothea Lerman (281-283-3437; behavioranalysis@uhcl.edu).

Application requires both **Steps 1 and 2** below be completed.

Step 1: Apply for admission to the University of Houston-Clear Lake:

- a. Complete the ApplyTexas online university application and pay the university admission application fee. Go to www.uhcl.edu. Select the "Admissions" tab, and click on "Apply" near the top of the page. Once you create a profile, you will complete the application. Select U.S. Graduate Application. Select HSH-Behavior Analysis MA as your major. The university application should be completed as early as possible before the admissions deadline to allow adequate time for the Office of Admissions to process the application and evaluate transcripts.
- b. The GRE is no longer required.**
- c. Submit official transcripts from all institutions attended. Transcripts should be mailed to this address:

Office of Admissions
University of Houston-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd.
Houston, TX 77058

Step 2: Submit Additional Supporting Documents for the Behavior Analysis Program

- (a) You will be assigned a UHCL E-Services account after you have completed the ApplyTexas online application. You will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to access your account. The following supporting documents must be uploaded to your UHCL E-Services account (see additional, detailed instructions at the end of this packet):
- Curriculum Vita: An expanded résumé describing previous education; all work experience; relevant course work and relevant volunteer activities; any honors, presentations, papers, avocations or other relevant life experiences
 - Brief Essay: A statement of purpose and goals, not to exceed 1,000 words, describing your reasons for wanting this degree and how it fits into career goals.
- (b) Two letters of recommendation, preferably at least one from an academic source, should be submitted directly by the recommenders to behavioranalysis@uhcl.edu. No form is required. Recommendations from academic faculty and/or work supervisors who know you well are especially important.

Deadline for Application:

Review of applications for fall admission will begin on January 15 of each year. Applications submitted after this date will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that his/her application for university admission and supporting transcripts are received by the UHCL Office of Admissions, that all additional supporting documents have been uploaded, and that letters of recommendation are submitted directly by the references. All applicants can check the status of their application by logging into their accounts.

Required Application Materials Checklist:

- _____ **ApplyTexas University Application**
- _____ **Transcripts**
- _____ **Curriculum Vitae**
- _____ **Brief Essay (maximum of 1,000 words)**
- _____ **Two Letters of Recommendation (one from an academic source)**

NOTE: We no longer require the GRE

Additional information regarding applications:

Any evidence of tampering with recommendations or transcripts could result in disqualifying the applicant from admission. Applicants should note that admission to graduate status at the university is not equivalent to admission to the Behavior Analysis Program. Applicants are not admitted into the Behavior Analysis M.A. Program until they receive formal notice from the Behavior Analysis Admissions Committee that they have been accepted.