

The Autism/ABA Program: Undergraduate Opportunities



Berry College ABA Program Mission Statement
**Empowering students to improve lives with
behavior analysis.**

Minor in Applied Behavior Analysis (19 hours)

The ABA Minor introduces students to applied behavior analysis and the experimental analysis of behavior. Students will learn foundational principals of skill acquisition and behavior reduction, single-subject design methodology, and how these principles are translated into real-world applications from assessment to treatment addressing issues of social significance. The minor also addresses ethical considerations for professional conduct.

- ♥ **Open to ALL majors- only prerequisite is PSY101**
- ♥ **includes our Verified Course sequence approved by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) for courses needed for becoming a Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)**

Requirements for ABA minor

- I. **Academic Credit for PSY 101- Introduction to Psychology**
- II. **Completion of Verified 5-Course Sequence-** This verified course sequence for becoming a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) helps prepare students to become competent practitioners of behavior analysis. The BACB has approved the following course sequence as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst Exam. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), one of the fastest growing careers in the helping profession, is a scientific approach to helping people change behaviors with strong empirical support. In fact, ABA is the primary evidence-based treatment to teach skills and reduce problematic behaviors in people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. In addition, ABA is used in business and industry, education, mental health, substance abuse treatment, geriatrics, parenting, and animal training. Currently there is a shortage of Behavior Analysts throughout the world.
 - **PSY 222 Concepts/Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
Offered every semester and some summers
 - **PSY 352 Applied Practice of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
Offered every semester and some summers
 - **ABA 353 Single Subject Design in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
Offered fall semester
 - **ABA 454 Advanced Strategies for Behavior Change**
Offered spring semester

- **PSY 371 Ethics and Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis and Psychology**
Offered spring semester

III. One elective course

- **PSY 432 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Disabilities**
Offered each spring
- **PSY/EDU 434 Psychology and Education of Exceptional Children and Youth**
Offered each semester
- **ABA 496 Internship in ABA**
Limited internships during academic year, must apply
- **ABA 298 Research practicum in ABA**
Approval of professor required
- **ABA 498 Directed study in ABA**
Approval of professor required
- **ABA 445 Special topics course in ABA**
As available

Autism Endorsement (12 hours)

- ♥ **For students in the Teacher Education Program**
- ♥ **4 courses, one of which is already embedded in the teacher education coursework (EDU/PSY 434)**

- **PSY 222 Concepts/Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
Offered every semester and some summers
- **PSY 352 Applied Practice of ABA**
Offered every semester and some summers
- **EDU/PSY 434 Teaching Children with Exceptional Needs (a required course for students in the TE program)**
Offered every semester and some summers
- **PSY 432 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities**
Offered spring semesters and some summers.

Benefits of the Autism Endorsement

- Skill Enhancement in addressing skill acquisition and addressing challenging behaviors.
As a teacher in a public or private school it is very likely you will have children included in your classes who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (of ASD), or have characteristics of ASD. As part of this endorsement, you will take two courses in Applied Behavior Analysis, an empirical approach to understanding behavior and

developing strategies that can increase learning of specific skills and decrease behaviors that interfere with learning.

- Increasing the likelihood of being hired in a school system of your choice
1 in 68 children in the U.S. are living with ASD. School administrators are eager to hire classroom teachers that are familiar with the characteristics of ASD and how to collaborate with other skilled professionals to include them in regular education classes.
- A multidisciplinary understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder, including:
 - How to collaborate more effectively with parents, administrators, special educators, Speech Language Pathologists, OTs and others supporting these children in your school.
 - An understanding of the various curriculums and programs commonly used to support children and youth with ASD
 - A legal and historical framework for making informed decisions about your teaching when including and advocating for students with ASD and other disabilities in your classroom.

If you are interested in learning more about careers and interventions that support positive outcomes for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities, consider taking **PSY 222 (offered every semester)**. Concepts/Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (PSY 222) is the first course in our Autism/ABA concentration. The ABA 5-course sequence (verified by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board) allows you to complete coursework needed to sit for the Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst exam (BCaBA). The only prerequisite for taking PSY 222 is Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101).

If you are not necessarily interested in working with special needs populations, the 5 course ABA sequence of classes (beginning with PSY 222) provides a foundation in understanding and changing animal behavior, teaching people of all ages, and strategies that support the acquisition of desirable behaviors that enhance functioning in many settings such as the work place (industry) and groups of all kinds.