



Why should I pursue certification in behavior analysis?

Marketability:

The demand for behavior analysis services is great. Job opportunities are plentiful for behavior analysts. Because the demand is high for well-trained behavior analysts and supply of these individuals is low, behavior analysts are being paid more than other treatment providers with comparable degrees.

Career Advancement:

For bachelor-level individuals, advanced degrees are not the only way to advance your career. With certification in behavior analysis, you can qualify for professional positions in a variety of treatment settings. For master's-level individuals, certification in behavior analysis qualifies you for a broad range of positions. Also, certified individuals at either level can bill Medicaid and other third-party-payers.

Effectiveness:

ABA gets results! Clinicians will see quicker treatment progress when behavioral interventions are used in conjunction with other therapy approaches.

Early intervention programs incorporating an ABA approach have been proven to achieve significant gains in adaptive skills. Teachers will see improved learning as classroom behavior stabilizes. Direct care staff will be more effective in managing residents with behavioral difficulties.

Florida Tech offers a Professional Development Program in Behavior Analysis

Courses may be used to meet the instructional requirements for certification in behavior analysis from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® (BACB®)

The BACB® has approved Florida Tech's two Professional Development course sequences as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst™ (BCBA®) and the Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst™ (BCABA®) examinations. Please visit www.bacb.com for more information about certification in behavior analysis.

Three-course sequence for those seeking certification as a BCABA:
BEH 5000 – Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis
BEH 5001 – Behavioral Assessment and Program Evaluation
BEH 5002 – Behavior Change Procedures and Ethical Considerations

Cost: \$750 per course for Professional Development credit

Refund Policy: A student who has paid for any of the ABA Professional Development courses and withdraws before the start of a course will be refunded 100% of their tuition. There will be no refunds once the course begins.

Five-course sequence for those seeking certification as a BCBA:
This sequence consists of the above courses (BEH 5000, 5001 and 5002) plus two additional courses (BEH 5003 and 5004). At this time no dates have been planned to offer these two additional courses. See below for more details.

All of courses are at the graduate level and are offered for academic credit.

Students may enroll in courses in one of two ways:

- 1) As a non-matriculating student for transferable credit.
- 2) As a professional development student for professional development non-transferable credit.

The cost and application paperwork is less for the second option.

However, both types of students may enroll in the same course; will have the same work requirements and grading criteria; and will receive a grade of Pass or Fail for any one course, which will be recorded in a university transcript.

Students who choose the second enrollment option may convert their professional development credits to transferable credits provided they complete the application paperwork for the first option and are accepted as a non-matriculating student by the Graduate School prior to enrollment in a course, and also pay the difference between the two types of credit within one year of completing a course.

ABA Professional Development Curriculum

A highly-structured, time-tested curriculum with tests, developed by Dr. Martinez-Diaz, is used for each course. The curriculum carefully covers each of the tasks in the BACB examination Task List[®]. All instructors teach this curriculum under the author's supervision.

Students receive, free of charge, an instructional handbook for each class which contains study guides with objectives, guided notes, examples, active student responding exercises, reading assignments, and PowerPoint slides.

ABA Professional Development Program Coordinator

Dr. Jose Martinez-Diaz, associate professor, is the chair and department head of the behavior analysis graduate programs at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne and Orlando. He also coordinates the Florida Tech ABA Professional Development Program and is the president of ABA Technologies, Inc. In addition, he is on the adjunct faculty at the University of Central Florida and Penn State University's Distance Learning Center. Dr. Martinez-Diaz started conducting workshops to prepare individuals for certification in behavior analysis in 1989, and has conducted these workshops in numerous states. His mock certification examinations are administered by several universities as part of their curriculum.

Dr. Martinez-Diaz is a member of the executive council of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board serving as its treasurer and is a member of the Florida Behavior Analysis Certification Committee and the Florida Behavior Analysis Peer Review Committee. He is past president of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, which awarded him the Charles H. Cox Award for Outstanding Service and Advancement of Behavior Analysis in Florida in 2005.

Dr. Martinez-Diaz's main interests are professional and legal issues, practitioner training and supervision, management and administration, conceptual and philosophical issues, verbal behavior, and the role of motivating operations in behavioral assessment and treatment.

Having worked as an ABA practitioner and administrator since the 1970s, Dr. Martinez-Diaz is highly experienced in focusing on persons with diagnoses of autism spectrum disorders, mental retardation, disruptive behavior disorders, schizophrenia, and traumatic brain injury. He completed his doctorate at West Virginia University.

Additional Facts about ABA

What is ABA?

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications to produce socially significant improvements in behavior.

Does ABA get results?

ABA focuses on outcome rather than process. Behavior analysts continuously measure behavior to determine if progress is being made. Applied behavior analysis is data-based and has the best scientifically demonstrated track record for teaching skills and replacing problem behavior with appropriate social skills.

Positive outcomes: Experience indicates that intensive programs with ABA at their core are the most promising for teaching and maintaining skills.

Characteristics of ABA:

Applied: ABA focuses on the implementation of basic principles to behaviors of significance to the participants.

Behavioral: ABA focuses on behavior in its own right as a target for change. The target behavior is directly observed and measured in the real-life environments.

Analytic: ABA seeks to identify functional relations between environmental events and behavior through systematic manipulations.

Technological: Procedures are completely identified, and precisely described and defined.

What are the requirements for certification in behavior analysis?

Requirements are set by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. (BACB) and change periodically.

For a detailed description and for more information please visit the official Web site of the BACB: www.bacb.com.

There are three basic requirements for certification in behavior analysis: a degree, approved or accepted instruction (classes) in behavior analysis, and supervised experience. The type of degree, the instructional requirements, and the amount of supervised experience required differs for each level. There are two levels of certification:

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst(BCBA)
- Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst(BCABA)

More Facts

What is the difference between a BCABA and a BCBA?

The requirements to take the BCABA certification examination are lower than the requirements to take the BCBA examination. The pay and type of positions may differ depending on the agency and the state. The BACB strongly recommends that a BCABA work under the supervision of a BCBA and not independently. Some states adhere to this BACB recommendation while others have different stipulations depending on the type of client and/or specific practices.

Will I be certified in behavior analysis when I complete all the courses in one of the two Professional Development Programs?

No. Only the BACB can certify behavior analysts. In order to be certified in behavior analysis one must first meet all certification requirements, including the coursework (done by completing one of the Florida Tech programs), apply to the BACB, be deemed eligible by the BACB to take one of their examinations, and pass one of the examinations.

Do these classes count toward a bachelor's or master's degree?

These classes are offered as a Professional Development course—not as part of our degree programs. However, universities and other institutions may choose to accept them if a student enrolls in a degree program, when taken for transferable credit, but are not required to do so. Students will receive a grade for each course on a university transcript and a certificate of completion, but not a degree. In order to receive a degree from our university you have to apply and be accepted as a degree-seeking student by our Graduate School *and* by one of our degree programs. Florida Tech offers three graduate degree programs in behavior analysis.

Do these classes count toward the supervised experience requirement?

No. Supervised experience consists of working with individuals in a human service setting under supervision of a BCBA. Supervised experience is not at all like taking a course. However, certification applicants may not start accumulating experience until they have begun the coursework required to meet the BACB coursework requirements.

Does Florida Tech offer supervised experience?

We offer supervised experience in our degree programs but not in our Professional Development Programs. However, we have relationships with myriad agencies that are willing to offer supervised experience and seek out our students as trainees and employees.

When and where will a 3-course-sequence be offered?

For future courses Florida Tech will advertise in cities throughout the country in areas where we have identified a qualified instructor. We may have qualified instructors in your area. Complete our questionnaire and application, and we will contact you directly.

Once we have 25 students who have applied to our program for a given location, we will set dates and contact them. We then will continue to advertise. If 25-30 students who are accepted register and submit payment by the deadline, we will begin a 3-course sequence. Course sequences could begin as early as January 2007 at several locations.

Will Florida Tech offer the two additional courses to complete the 5-Course Sequence for those seeking certification as a BCBA?

Florida Tech has BACB approval to offer a 5-course sequence that meets instructional requirements for certification as a BCBA. This sequence consists of the following courses: BEH 5000, BEH5001 and BEH 5002; plus two additional courses: BEH 5003 and BEH 5004.

Dates and times for BEH 5003 and BEH 5004 will be determined upon completion of 3-course sequences. However, the first 3 courses may be combined with additional courses taken at another university to meet certification requirements.

Which courses do I need to take to get certified?

If you have not taken any courses that meet instructional requirements for certification you will need all our courses (either three or five depending on the level desired) to qualify for certification.

I've taken similar courses before. Do I still have to take all the courses offered by Florida Tech?

This question may best be answered by emailing BACB at info@bacb.com. This depends on which course you took, when you took it, and from whom you took it.

The BACB has specific course content requirements. It may be easier to count a course you took before starting our program if it was part of a BACB pre-approved course sequence, than if it was a course that was not part of such sequence. Even so, it may be difficult to mix and match the content of previous courses as their content allocation may differ from ours.

When is the next certification exam?

The BACB currently offers the certification exams three times a year. All degrees, courses and supervised experience must be completed prior to qualifying to take an examination, though a person may apply before completing all the requirements. For more information visit www.bacb.com.

Updates and details: <http://uc.fit.edu/pdp/programs.html>

Applications/registration: Joan Silvester, Assistant to the Director, Professional Development Division, (321) 674-8824, jsilvest@fit.edu; or consultingpdp@fit.edu