

**Special Education – Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration**

***Master of Education Program in Special Education with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Concentration***

***ABAI VCS 5th Edition Task List (BCBA)***

*BACB Verified Course Sequence #51024*

**Handbook**

College of Education, Texas Tech University, Box 41071

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www.educ.ttu.edu

Special Education

*Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Special Education and a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis*

# Program Overview

The M.Ed. in Special Education with a concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is unique in that it provides students the opportunity to advance their skills through a hybrid online learning program with required virtual live class meetings from anywhere in the world. In addition, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® has verified the following course sequence as meeting coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Examination® 5th Edition Task List. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify for certification (for latest requirements refer to [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com/)).

**Career Opportunities with this degree:**

Behavior analysts often work as consultants to individuals, to schools, or to agencies such as child welfare organizations and residential treatment programs where their goal is to enhance abilities, performance, and overall quality of life of the children or adults who receive their services.

Behavior Analysts often specialize in working with specific populations of individuals such as autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, traumatic head injuries, mental health issues, early childhood populations, geriatric populations, etc.

***The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the following courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.***

***Completion of this degree program does not qualify you to work in any state and it does not lead to any form of teacher certification or licensure. Please check with your individual state to determine work/licensing requirements as these will vary from state to state.***

# Faculty

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**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

**Due Date for Fall Admissions – August 1** (applications received after this date may be deferred for Spring admission review)

**Due Date for Spring Admissions – December 1** (applications received after this date may be deferred for Fall admission review)

**Cohort policy**

Approximately 20 students will be admitted as a cohort each **Fall and Spring** semester **(no cohort will be admitted in the Summer semester)**, and they will progress through the program as a group (typically in two years as this concentration requires summer classes).

**Course cap policy**

Students should expect ABA courses to include approximately 20-22 students. Courses are kept at this size or smaller in order to provide quality instruction and mentoring.

**MEd Special Education with Concentration in ABA**

* ***Applicants will be admitted to begin coursework in the Fall and Spring semesters only.***
* All applications for Fall admissions must be received by August 1 and all applications for Spring admissions must be received by December 1 with all required components included (incomplete applications will not be reviewed).
* Applications will be deferred to following semester if they are not received by the due date or if they are incomplete.

**Specific Application Requirements for the ABA programs:**

1. GPA of 3.0 or better from undergraduate and, if applicable, all graduate school coursework
2. Two recommendation letters required from professionals (preferably a BCBA, or a BCaBA, a special education teacher or behavior therapists/specialists, administrator, etc.).
3. Applied experience in behavior analysis or providing behavior services (e.g., work in a clinic, as a SPED teacher or paraprofessional) as evidenced in your resume *and* personal statement.
4. A typed single-spaced personal statement covering the following areas: (1) prior coursework in or related to ABA, (2) applied/clinical/teaching/volunteer experiences in ABA (e.g., BCaBA, Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), psychology, special education teacher, paraprofessional, internship or volunteering in schools or centers for autism or developmental disabilities,] (3) Future career goals.

All applications are reviewed holistically based on the above criteria(a-d).

**All Admitted Students**

*All admitted students are required to:*

1. Complete the TTU ABA orientation at beginning of first semester at TTU. This will be offered in EDSP 5342.
2. All students admitted into the MEd ABA program are bound to the BACB Professional & Ethical Compliance code <https://www.bacb.com/ethics-information/ethics-codes/>
3. **Purchase access to commercially available ABA practice modules and BCBA certification exam practice tests as specified by the program faculty.**
4. Release ABA practice test module scores to program faculty.
5. Complete Responsible Scholarship Training *during the first semester* of
6. enrollment. [https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/training/responsible-academic-](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/training/responsible-academic-conduct-training.php) [conduct-training.php.](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/training/responsible-academic-conduct-training.php)
7. Complete a commercially available BCBA certification mock exam at 80% accuracy or better.
8. Complete any other concentration learning activities as required by the program faculty.
9. TTU only provides VCS (coursework). The students must obtain all other requirements for certification on their own (e.g., practicum hours, supervision, examination).

**This Special Education ABA Concentration contains the ABAI Verified Coursework (5th Ed) meeting academic preparation for BCBA coursework for Task List 5th Ed requirements. The sequence number is 51024 (5th Ed).**

“The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the following courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.” The students are responsible for checking the BACB website ([www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com/)) for most current information about certification.

**Scope and Sequences of the Courses (36 hours required)**

**Special Education Courses ( 9 hours)**

* EDSP 5306 Strategies for children with Low incidence Disabilities
* EDSP 5320 Children & youth with Low Incidence Disabilities
* EDSP 5093 Internship (must register for 3 credit hours)\*

**ABA-specific content Courses (VCS Approved Coursework Sequence; 21 hours)**

* EDSP 5342 Concepts and Principles of ABA
* EDSP 5343 Single-subject Designs in ABA
* EDSP 5346 FBA and Function-based interventions
* EDSP 5347 Behavior Change Procedures
* EDSP 5349 Ethical and Professional Conduct
* EDSP 5360 Behavior Analytic Supervision and Management of Personnel
* EDSP 5361 Philosophical Underpinnings of ABA

**Core Courses (6 hours)**

* EPSY 5379 Introduction to Educational Research
* EPSY 5331 Human Development in Education

\*This internship (EDSP 5093; 3 credit hours required) is for the MEd Special Education degree and does not contribute toward the supervised experience hours required by the BACB. The students must procure an appropriate supervisor on their own to obtain supervised experience hours for the BACB.

**Sequence for Fall Cohort**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fall** | **Spring** | **Summer 1****& 2** | **Fall** | **Spring** | **Summer 1****& 2** |
| *EDSP 5342\* (ABA 1)* | *EDSP 5343\* (ABA 2)* | *EDSP 5347\* (ABA 4)* | EDSP 5361\* (ABA 5) | EDSP 5360(ABA 7) | EPSY5379\*\* |
| EDSP 5320***Orientation Required*** | *EDSP 5346\* (ABA 3)* | EPSY 5331\*\* | EDSP 5349\* (ABA 6) | EDSP 5093\* (**ABA Internship with an Applied Project**) | EDSP 5306**Graduate in August** |

**\***Indicates the course requires completion of specific learning modules before proceeding to next ABA course in the sequence.

\*\*Make sure to register early for EPSY 5331 & EPSY 5379 to ensure access to the course as these courses fill up quickly

**Required course sequence for students admitted during the Spring Semester (referred to as Spring Cohort)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Spring** | **Summer 1&2** | **Fall** | **Spring** | **Summer** **1&2** | **Fall** |
| *EDSP 5342\* (ABA 1)* | *EDSP 5343\* (ABA 2)* | *EDSP 5347\* (ABA 4)* | EDSP 5349\* (ABA 6) | EDSP 5361\* (ABA 5) | EPSY 5379\*\* |
| EDSP 5320***Orientation Required*** | *EDSP 5346\** *(ABA 3)* | EDSP 5093\* (**ABA****Internship with an Applied Project**) | EPSY5331\*\* | EDSP 5360(ABA 7) | EDSP 5306**Graduate in December** |

**\***Indicates the course requires completion of specific learning modules before proceeding to next ABA course in the sequence

\*\*Make sure to register early for EPSY 5331 & EPSY 5379 to ensure access to the course as these courses fill up quickly

**Responsible Scholarship Training**

This is required by the TTU Graduate School *during your first semester* of enrollment. You should take the ‘**Social and Behavioral’** Responsible Conduct of Research Course. <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/training/responsible-academic-conduct-training.php> Watch for TTU emails (including your TTU email junk folder).

**Master’s Program Options:**

**The TTU Graduate School requires that all students earning a master’s degree must complete a thesis or comprehensive exam/project.**

Thesis Option 1

Each Master’s Degree student will have an option of completing a thesis as part of the requirements for the Master’s Degree in Special Education. Under this option, students enroll in 6 semester hours of EDSP 6000, and this becomes part of the minimum of 36 semester hours on the degree plan. Students completing a Master’s thesis are exempt from taking the BCBA certification mock exam. However, students must complete a final oral defense.

If you are interested in completing a Master’s thesis, students should discuss these plans with their advisor. A thesis committee of at least two full-time faculty members of the College of Education will be recommended by the advisor and approved by the Graduate School. This committee will provide ongoing guidance as the student prepares the proposal, carries out the research project, and completes the written document. The process of planning the thesis, ideally, should begin in the semester in which the student takes Introduction to Educational Research.

The final copy of the thesis is prepared in accordance with the requirements in Instructions for Preparing and Submitting Theses and Dissertations, available online and in the Texas Tech University Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ttu.edu/>).

Evaluation for the Master Degree Thesis

1. Check with your advisor, and with your advisor’s help, choose at least a 2- member thesis committee. This committee should match your degree plan.
2. Set up a meeting with your thesis committee to talk about your selection for an appropriate topic.
3. Your thesis committee should guide you through the process, including the Need for Human Subject approval. However, it is the responsibility of the student to fill out and submit paperwork to his/her advisor.
4. Thesis defenses should be completed by early November for fall or late March for spring to file the thesis with the Graduate School. Remember that the Graduate School has deadlines for submission, and students must adhere to these guidelines. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of all deadlines. Should a student miss the deadlines or fail the thesis defense, he or she has one semester to complete and successfully defend the thesis. Otherwise, a failing grade will be recorded.

**Master’s Program Options:**

**Option 2 (**Non-thesis)**: M o c k E x a m / C o m p r e h e n s i v e E x a m**

**For MEd (ABA) Students:**

1. **Register electronically with the College of Education Graduate Office** for the Comprehensive Examination by the due date. Let your advisor know that you will be completing the Comprehensive Examination (Mock Exam).
2. Submit your **Intent to Graduate** electronically with the Graduate School at the very **beginning of your final semester**. The College of Education (COE) may require additional documentation and notification. Failure to meet the deadlines may result in an inability to graduate and requirement to take additional coursework as required by the Graduate School. **If you are pursuing additional certificates (e.g., Autism), you must submit a separate Intent to Graduate form for each certificate.**

 **Instructions for Mock Exam/Comprehensive Exam:**

* + - The Mock Exam Post-test on BDS is required to be completed by all students in order to meet TTU Graduation Requirement.
		- First make sure you have completed ***all*** BDS Modules (Acquisition & Fluency) even if not required during coursework before attempting the Mock Exam – Post test. Please review any content needed to improve your performance on these modules. You should prepare thoroughly before attempting the Mock Exam – Post test.
		- Once you complete all 7 ABA courses or during your graduation semester, you will complete the Mock Exam – Post test.
		- If you are unable to obtain 80% or higher in the first attempt of the Mock Exam – Post test, you will be required to complete all fluency modules (A through I) with 90% by the due date for Comprehensive Examination (typically March for Spring Graduation and June for Summer Graduation, October for Fall Graduation). In your graduating semester, you will need to watch for emails from the COE or TTU regarding the deadlines for comprehensive exam, intent to graduate filing, etc. ***It is your responsibility to complete all paperwork and Comprehensive Exam (Mock Exam) in time to graduate. Failure to meet these graduation requirements will result in additional coursework and delay graduation.***

Tips for getting started as a new Fall/Spring Cohort Graduate Student in the ABA concentration within the Special Education Department at TTU.

1. Register for EDSP 5342 and EDSP 5320 for Fall/Spring. Review the Handbook for course sequence and other information. All ABA courses must be taken in a sequence > Click the link in red “Student Program Handbook”.
* <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/education/graduate/special-education/applied_behavior_analysis_med.php>
* If you have difficulty with enrollment, please contact Dr. LJ Gould at lj.gould@ttu.edu and mention that you are admitted into ABA Fall Cohort group for registration.
1. There is an orientation you must complete during your first semester at TTU. It will occur the first live class session of ABA1/EDSP 5342 (Dr. Richman).
2. Familiarize yourself with:
* [www.degreeworks.texastech.edu](http://www.degreeworks.texastech.edu) – this is what TTU will evaluate when you are ready to graduate. Revisit this webpage at least one per semester to see remaining degree requirements. Here you will also see a link to the requirement of completing “Responsible academic conduct training” that is required during your first semester as a graduate student. Please complete the training ASAP – if you forget – it can delay your eventual graduation.

* <https://www.coursicle.com/ttu/courses/> - All of you were admitted as part of a cohort of either Spring or Fall semester admission and you should follow the course sequences in the tables of the student handbook. It lists all classes to register for each semester. But if you get off track with your cohort due to personal reasons – the Coursicle webpage above lists what semesters specific classes are typically offered in.
1. Read, take notes, dissect the 5th edition Handbook (link above in #1) thoroughly. It gives the information about requirements, courses, comprehensive exam, etc. If still not clear, email your advisor.
2. You should also frequently visit the BACB website at [www.bacb.com](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bacb.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CD.Richman%40ttu.edu%7C3a9af427aae5457781e808db44f1e0a0%7C178a51bf8b2049ffb65556245d5c173c%7C0%7C0%7C638179577861491871%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LECwYSW31%2Bo8xDAMt%2B7euLa419iO10%2BYjf3SkPmf9Uo%3D&reserved=0) and review the BCBA certification requirements. We only offer BACB approved coursework. You should meet additional requirements (Experience and Certification Exam) to obtain the credentials/certification.
3. You should check your state requirements for licensure. TTU only provides VCS coursework for the BCBA.
4. **Behavior Development Solutions (BDS)**CBA Learning Modules Series TL5 (v9). Students are required to purchase subscriptions to BDS CBA Modules 5th edition through BDS directly from [https://www.behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com/cba-learning-module-series-tl5-v9](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com%2Fcba-learning-module-series-tl5-v9&data=05%7C01%7CD.Richman%40ttu.edu%7C3a9af427aae5457781e808db44f1e0a0%7C178a51bf8b2049ffb65556245d5c173c%7C0%7C0%7C638179577861491871%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BKQ7Vi1ELNwbnzRqWjGSHeiDWkkngFMDgNE05An29A8%3D&reserved=0) or contact support@behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com. This will be a large up-front cost for two years of access to the modules that you will complete while you are learning about the topic in your ABA classes.
* Tell BDS (support@behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com) that you are a TTU student. BDS might offer a discounted rate – tell them you are purchasing for coursework while your prepare for the certification exam.
* You must use your TTU email address when registering with BDS.
* BDS will activate student subscriptions *and assign them to faculty admin accounts\* for the following ABA faculty: Devender Banda, Stacy Carter, Jennifer Hamrick, Haven Niland, and David Richman (you will add other ABA adjunct faculty when you take their classes)*. Students will receive a confirmation email from BDS that their subscription has been activated. When students log in for the first time, they will be prompted to grant access to faculty accounts.
* If purchased through TTU Bookstore contact BDS (above email) proof of purchase (receipt) and access code.
* Please note that all ABA Faculty will have access to all your BDS scores.

Here is the course sequence for Fall admitted students (see the handbook for Sp admit cohorts):

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fall** | **Spring** | **Summer 1****& 2** | **Fall** | **Spring** | **Summer 1 & 2** |
|  *EDSP 5342\* (ABA 1)* EDSP 5320 ***Orientation******Required*** | *EDSP 5343\* (ABA 2)* *EDSP 5346\* (ABA 3)*   | *EDSP 5347\* (ABA 4)* EPSY 5331\*\* |  EDSP 5361\* (ABA 5) EDSP 5349\*(ABA 6)     | EDSP 5360 (ABA 7) EDSP 5093\* (**ABA Internship with an Applied Project**)   | EPSY 5379\*\*EDSP 5306 **Graduate in August**  |

**\***Indicates the course requires completion of specific learning modules before proceeding to next ABA course in the sequence.

\*\*Make sure to register early for EPSY 5331 & EPSY 5379 to ensure access to the course as these courses fill up quickly

Please use your TTU email for all correspondence. If you have more questions, you can email your advisor to set up an appointment to clear up any concerns you may have.

End document.