



Master of Science in
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Come Back With In-Demand Expertise for a Career in Behavior Analysis

With an online master's in applied behavior analysis, you'll help clients with autism spectrum disorder, developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and behavior-related issues develop the skills to live independently and better engage with their environments. This program provides you with a direct path to certification¹ as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst[®] (BCBA[®]), so you can take charge of your career in this fast-growing field. You can become an autism specialist or behavior analyst in a variety of settings including education, health care, social services, and the public and private sectors.²

Why Earn Your Master's Online at Purdue Global?

Built for Working Adults

Complete courses online, without compromising your work or family schedule. Our faculty and support staff are longtime leaders in online learning and are committed to creating an enriching online student experience.

Backed by the Power of Purdue

Earn a degree you can be proud of — and that employers will respect. Achieve more in the behavior analysis profession with a name that opens doors in your career.²

Direct Path to BCBA® Certification

Board Certified Behavior Analyst® exam prep and academic requirements are built into the curriculum, to better prepare you to sit for the certification exam upon graduation.¹

Hands-On Experience

The program includes an optional fieldwork experience to put your learning into practice. It can be completed with your own employer if you already work in the behavior analyst field in your community, or within our network of more than 350 partner organizations.³

Comprehensive Online Resources

The online Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Resource Center and ABA student site offer information and multimedia study tools related to your degree program. As an online graduate student, you'll also have access to an extensive online library to meet your research needs. Our Academic Support Centers provide tutoring, writing assistance, and technology help at no additional cost. Academic and Career Advisors are dedicated to helping you successfully navigate the work-school-life balance.

An Education That's Proven and Respected

Purdue Global is backed by Purdue University. One of the most prestigious universities in the world, Purdue ranked #16 overall and #1 in education among *Fast Company* magazine's prestigious **World's Most Innovative Companies**.⁴

Distinguished. Experienced. Committed.

As the largest provider of behavioral sciences master's degrees in the U.S.,⁵ we've supported the career and educational advancement of many dedicated professionals like yourself. You'll join a wide network of students, alumni, faculty, and employers.

Expertly Combine Theory and Practice to Help Others

WITH A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Examine how assessment and intervention procedures in applied behavior analysis are derived from behavioral theories and concepts.
- Evaluate psychological and behavioral theories and concepts in relation to various real-world situations within the field of applied behavior analysis.
- Develop appropriate evidence-based practice strategies using the theoretical and conceptual foundations of applied behavior analysis.
- Integrate relevant legal, ethical, individual, cultural, and social validity standards and guidelines established within the field of applied behavior analysis.

Curriculum

The Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis is pursuing recognition through the Association for Behavior Analysis International's (ABAI's) Tiered Model of Education. Pursuit of recognition does not denote recognition status. This comprehensive curriculum helps you build the academic and professional competencies necessary to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.²

The select program courses below have been designed to meet the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) Pathway 2 coursework requirements. Applicants will need to meet additional Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®) eligibility requirements, including evidence of residency in an authorized country, before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.

Courses Include:

- PS507 Ethics for Behavior Analysts
- PS558 Behaviorism and Philosophical Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis
- PS560 Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis
- PS561 Concepts of Measurement and Experimental Designs
- PS562 Assessment in Applied Behavior Analysis
- PS563 Implementing Procedures for Behavior Change
- PS564 Clinical Applications, Supervision, and Management

Please refer to the BACB's website for full eligibility requirements (www.bacb.com).

Fieldwork Experience

Through an optional applied behavior analysis fieldwork experience, you'll take what you've learned in your online courses and apply it to a professional setting.³ Locate a site to complete your required hours and submit it for review and approval by our Clinical Placement Team. This can include your current employer if you are already working in the field. Purdue Global has also established partnerships with more than 350 organizations that are willing to work with our students as ABA site hosts or placement resources.

Program Details

Credit Hours: 45

Program Length: 1 year

Course Load: 2 classes per term

Terms: 10 weeks

Start Dates: Throughout the year

Admissions Requirements: A bachelor's degree is required to enroll in a master's degree program. You will need to provide an official transcript that shows completion of your bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, though an unofficial copy may be provided during the application process. For complete requirements, refer to the University Catalog.



Additional Programs

- Master of Health Care Administration
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Educational Psychology
- Master of Science in Health Education
- Master of Science in Human Services
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Master of Science in Psychology

Career and Networking Opportunities

Industry Outlook

Employment of substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors in the U.S. is expected to grow 19%, much faster than average, from 2023 to 2033.⁶ According to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, the demand for board-certified behavior analysts increased 58% from 2021 to 2022.⁷

Career Pathways and Outcomes

Roles

- Autism behavior specialist
- Autism consultant
- Behavior analyst

Settings

- K-12 schools
- Colleges and universities
- Outpatient clinics
- Mental health centers
- Hospitals
- Nursing and group homes
- Rehabilitation centers
- Home health care

The Center for Career Advancement

Our team of Career Specialists connects you with job and networking opportunities, and offers the following assistance:

- Career assessment/exploration
- Resume and cover letter review
- Interview preparation/mock interviews
- Portfolio development to showcase your skills
- Assistance in building an online presence
- Job search and networking support
- Virtual career fairs
- 24/7 online access to job openings and career development tools

Student Organizations and Honor Societies

- Autism Speaks U
- Psi Chi International Honor Society
- Psychology Club

Purdue Alumni Association

Upon graduation you'll become part of the Purdue Alumni Association, an extensive and prestigious network of professionals representing a variety of fields and interests. You'll be able to make connections and access alumni benefits, including affinity networks, events, group travel, lifelong learning opportunities, and more

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

Purdue Global is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC (HLCCommission.org) is an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Military Friendly

We offer reduced tuition rates for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses.

Contact an Admissions Advisor at 844-PURDUE-G or visit PurdueGlobal.edu.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ

1 Refer to Purdue Global's State Licensure and Certifications page for state-specific licensure information. Visit the BACB website (www.BACB.com) for full eligibility requirements. The BACB verifies university training as meeting its eligibility requirements; it does not accredit university programs. Students are responsible for understanding the requirements of optional certification exams. The University cannot guarantee students will be eligible to sit for or pass exams. In some cases, work experience, additional coursework beyond the Purdue Global program, fieldwork, and/or background checks may be necessary to be eligible to take or to successfully pass the exams. It is important to understand that requirements for behavior analysts vary by state and can change with little to no warning. Students seeking employment as a behavior analyst should inquire directly to the jurisdiction where employment is desired, as some states require additional licensure or certification. The BACB U.S. state licensure requirements may be viewed at the following link: <https://www.bacb.com/u-s-licensure-of-behavior-analysts/>. The Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis meets the educational requirements to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam that is required for the Behavior Specialist certification in Pennsylvania. Additional educational requirements for certification may be required in Pennsylvania.

2 Purdue Global does not guarantee employment placement or career advancement. Actual outcomes vary by geographic area, previous work experience and opportunities for employment.

3 The field work experience provides the student with a supervised onsite learning experience in conjunction with an online course. The student is responsible for identifying an appropriate field experience site, submitting all required documentation, and obtaining approval from the appropriate school staff.

4 Sources: www.fastcompany.com/most-innovative-companies/2023 and www.fastcompany.com/90846988/most-innovative-companies-education-2023. Rankings apply to Purdue University West Lafayette and not Purdue Global.

5 Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2022-2023 Total Master's Degrees Conferred, First Major, Behavioral Sciences, nces.ed.gov/IPEDS. Based on total number of master's degrees granted by Purdue Global compared to other degree-granting institutions.

6 Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm>. National long-term projections may not reflect local and/or short-term economic or job conditions, and do not guarantee actual job growth.

7 Behavior Analyst Certification Board®. US Employment Demand for Behavior Analysts: 2010-2024. www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Lightcast2025_250204-a.pdf.

National long-term projections may not reflect local and/or short-term economic or job conditions, and do not guarantee actual job growth. Association for Behavior Analysis International® and ABA International™ are registered trademarks of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. Board Certified Behavior Analyst® and BCBA® are registered trademarks of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board®.