



## FOR ABA PROGRAM *Program Eligibility*

In order to be eligible for the Project MABAS program, a student must:

- Have been accepted into the ABA Master’s Program at USF (online or campus program)
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Be a current Florida resident or willing to move to Florida
- Have goals consistent with the program (e.g., work in interdisciplinary teams)
- A strong interest in working in the school system to enhance the promotion of mental health wellbeing of children and youth with or at risk for behavioral and mental health challenges

## *Application Process*

All students accepted in the online or campus ABA Master’s Programs are eligible to apply to participate in Project MABAS. The ABA Master’s Program will distribute a Project MABAS application form to each student during the first week of classes. Interested applicants should submit the completed application form, a letter of intent, and a curriculum vitae to Dr. Catia Cividini-Motta in the Department of Child and Family Studies at the University of South Florida.

## *More Information*

Please contact:

- **Dr. Catia Cividini-Motta**  
catiac@usf.edu
- **Tracy-Ann Gilbert-Smith**  
tgsmith@usf.edu | 813-974-3096



## Project MABAS

Enhancing the Promotion of Mental Health Wellbeing of Children and Youth in High-Need Schools through Preparing School-Based Behavior Analysts and Social Workers

## PROJECT TEAM

- Director Dr. Catia Cividini-Motta  
 Co-Directors Dr. Kwang-Sun Cho Blair  
 Dr. Kimberly Crosland  
 Dr. Alison Salloum  
 Coordinator Tracy-Ann Gilbert Smith



## Project MABAS

Enhancing the Promotion of Mental Health Wellbeing of Children and Youth in High-Need Schools through Preparing School-Based Behavior Analysts and Social Workers

**Project MABAS**  
*is a collaboration between the*  
**ABA MA/MS Program**  
 Department of Child & Family Studies  
*and the*  
**School of Social Work MSW Program**  
*at the*  
**College of Behavioral & Community Sciences**  
**University of South Florida**  
*in partnership with*  
**Hillsborough, Hernando, and Manatee**  
**School Districts**



OFFICE OF  
Elementary & Secondary Education



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**

College of Behavioral & Community Sciences



## ABOUT PROJECT MABAS

Project MABAS aims to prepare 40 high-quality scholars (trainees) to serve as either school-based Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) or School Social Workers (SWs) who can collaboratively design and deliver integrated behavioral and mental health services in high-need schools.

Using an interdisciplinary approach, the project will prepare the interdisciplinary scholars to employ evidence-based and inclusive practices and evaluation, foster family engagement, and access to mental health counseling, and serve as home-school liaisons. These scholars will be prepared to promote high expectations, use differentiated and inclusive instruction, and improve the quality of behavior analytic and social work services for children and youth experiencing behavioral or mental health problems.



*Project MABAS is a 5-year, \$3.9 million grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (S184X230042)*

## FOR ABA PROGRAM *Scholarship Support*

- Paid tuition for the entirety of the Master's program
- Monthly stipends
- Financial assistance for conference attendance
- Financial assistance for travel to school districts during school-based fieldwork

## *Program Requirements*

Program MABAS requires 51 credit hours (42 credits in ABA, 9 credits in Children's Mental Health) for campus ABA Master's Program scholars, and 47 credit hours (38 credits in ABA, 9 credits in Children's Mental Health) for the online ABA Master's Program scholars. Beyond the master's degree in ABA, the Project MABAS program students will be prepared to graduate with a Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health, and to sit for the examination to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Features of the project include:

- Graduate Certificate Program in Children's Mental Health
- Coordinated and supervised fieldwork
- Monthly seminars
- Summer Institute
- Florida Center for Inclusive Communities Trainee Program
- Case studies or thesis research in high-need schools
- Portfolio development
- Conference participation

Upon exiting the program, all students receiving scholarships through this project are required to maintain eligible employment on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis and provide related services to children in the school system for a period of two years for every one academic year for which assistance is received. For more information about the programs service obligation component, please visit the Project MABAS service obligation webpage.