



PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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

- Have been accepted into the Applied Behavior Analysis Master's Program at USF
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Have goals consistent with the program
- A strong interest in providing services to children with autism in the public school system

APPLICATION PROCESS

All students accepted in the ABA Master's Program are eligible to apply to participate in Project ABA. The ABA Master's Program will attach a Project ABA application form to each student's offer of admission letter. Interested applicants should submit an application including an application form, a letter of intent, and a curriculum vita to Dr. Kwang-Sun Blair in the Applied Behavior Analysis Program of the Department of Child and Family Studies at the University of South Florida.

For more information, please contact:

- Dr. Kwang-Sun Blair:
kwangsun@usf.edu / 813-974-2129
- Tracy-Ann Gilbert-Smith:
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Project ABA

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Preparing Related Services Personnel in Applied Behavior Analysis for Children with Autism

The purpose of Project ABA is to prepare 20 highly-qualified school-based behavior analysts to provide quality related services for high-need children with autism of all grade levels. Project ABA will prepare the graduate students to:

- Select and incorporate evidence-based practices (EBP) in designing intervention plans for children with autism across all grade levels for children with autism
- Use various assessment methods to identify child strengths and needs and to develop goals and objectives in the core deficit areas related to autism
- Assess child behaviors using functional behavioral assessment methods

- Develop positive behavioral interventions and supports
- Design multi-component intervention plans with contextual fit
- Collaborate with educators, families, and other team members in all aspects of intervention development, implementation, and evaluation
- Provide training and consultation support to educators and families to implement interventions with fidelity
- Collect and analyze monitoring data to assist teams with decision-making
- Incorporate technologies into interventions and service delivery
- Evaluate EBP outcomes for children with autism.

The Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program at the University of South Florida has been awarded a 5-year grant (2014-2019) from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs to establish the Project ABA (H325K140309).

ABA PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Paid tuition (in-state)
- Out-of-state tuition waiver available for non-Florida residents
- A yearly stipend for full-time 12-month participation
- Financial assistance for conference attendance and textbooks

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The ABA program requires 49 credit hours (40 credits in ABA, 6 credits in PBS and 3 credits in Autism). Beyond the Master's degree in ABA, the Project ABA program students will be prepared to graduate with certification as a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBA) and the Positive Behavior Support Certificate, and to sit for the examination to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Specialization in ABA and autism will be achieved through:

- Research-based curriculum
- Supervised practicum
- Thesis research in high-needs schools
- Portfolio development
- Monthly seminars
- Summer institute on technology
- Conference presentations
- FCIC trainee program

Upon exiting the program, all students receiving scholarships through this project are required to maintain employment on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis and provide related services to children with autism for a period of two years for every one year for which assistance is received. For more information about the programs service obligation component, please visit the National Center on Service Obligation (NCSO) website: <http://www.serviceobligations.ed.gov/>