CFS Continues to Grow in Academic Programs, Teaching, and Training Grants for Students

This issue will profile each of the Department of Child & Family Studies’ (CFS) academic programs.

CFS’s growth from a research and training department to offering academic degrees and certificates is remarkable. The number of students, as well as the number of both undergraduate and graduate courses taught by CFS faculty has grown since 2006. CFS’s undergraduate teaching has grown by 1,154% and its graduate teaching has grown by 607%!

Most of the undergraduate teaching increase is attributable to the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) undergraduate minor, which outreaches to other departments on campus including Psychology, Communication Sciences & Disorders, and Criminology.

The graduate teaching increases are attributed to all of the three graduate programs in CFS:

- The ABA PhD and Masters Programs
- Fully-online Master of Science in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (MSCABH) Program
- Master’s in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (RMHC) Program

Six graduate certificates are also offered as part of CFS’s academic portfolio (see page 5). Certificates provide students with valuable educational experience. They offer the same courses as the degree program and are open to students across campus.

The following pages offer a general overview of our academic programs. For more specific details, visit www.usf.edu/cbcs/cfs.
Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling (RMHC)

Helping the state and nation meet their human service and workforce needs through teaching, research and service.

Ranked 24th in the U.S. News & World Report’s Best Graduate School Rankings in 2016, the RMHC Program at USF trains a workforce of professionals that promote quality behavioral health care for all, particularly people with disabilities. Both non-thesis and thesis programs provide high quality teaching and inspire learning in rehabilitation and mental health counseling and related disciplines. Various courses are offered to ensure students’ competence in dealing with psycho-social, medical, psychological, and vocational issues for people with disabilities. Students may pursue the M.A. degree on a full or part-time basis. The 54-hour core curriculum offers concentrations in Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy. Field training and working directly with consumers is a critical component in the professional preparation of rehabilitation and mental health counselors. It provides students with an opportunity to practice concepts and skills learned in the classroom, and to see how different rehabilitation and related human service agencies and programs function.

The program is dual accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE), which prepares RMHC students to become licensed mental health counselors and certified rehabilitation counselors.

For more information, http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/

Rehabilitation Scholars (RSA) Specialized Training Program

This program, funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), U.S. Department of Education, provides scholarship opportunities for students who agree to work (for full pay and benefits) in the public, non-profit, or private vocational rehabilitation system after graduation for a designated period of time in exchange for tuition and other educational expenses. In keeping with the priorities established by the RSA, the RMHC graduate program is designed to provide the student competencies in the rehabilitation of adults with complex physical, mental or emotional disabilities, and to provide a special relevance to state vocational rehabilitation services and closely related cooperating private agencies and programs.

For more information, http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/RSAScholarProgram/RSAScholarProgram.cfm

Chih-Chin Chou, PhD, Associate Professor and RMHC Program Director

Dr. Chou’s teaching and research interests include psychiatric rehabilitation, research methodology, social support, vocational outcomes for people with disabilities, rehabilitation education, international rehabilitation, and positive psychology.

RMHC faculty: http://rmhc.cbcs.usf.edu/facultyStaff/
The Master of Science in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (MSCABH) Program was established in 2014 to support the growing demand for professionals to serve in public and non-profit agencies and schools that work with diverse children and adolescents experiencing behavioral health challenges. More than 50 students are currently enrolled in the fully online program which includes core courses covering child and adolescent behavioral health conditions and services, cultural competency, research design, developmental disabilities, and policy in behavioral health. A thesis track is designed for those interested in possibly furthering their education beyond a masters degree or working in a more research-based setting. An applied track offers a field experience component.

“If you are looking for a degree that can train you to create change in mental health, then apply for this program. If you are an avid learner and want to take that love for improving the lives of those affected with mental health by becoming a director or supervisor, then this is the program for you.”

– KARI KLEIN, MSCABH STUDENT

Concentrations
The MSCABH degree program is unique in that it offers four areas of concentration within the overall program curriculum:

- Developmental Disabilities: Prepares professionals to provide services for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities and mental health needs.

- Leadership: Students will develop leadership knowledge and skills in innovation, communication, organizational capacity building, change management, values-based action, and research translation.

- Research & Evaluation: Students will gain the knowledge and practical skills of translational research and implementation science in child and adolescent behavioral health.

- Youth & Behavioral Health: Students will gain the knowledge and practical experience to effectively infuse child and adolescent behavioral health principles and values into evidence-based practice, with an understanding of practical application.

For more information,
http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/cfs/academics/cabh/

Specialized Training through the Institute for Translational Research Education in Adolescent Drug Abuse (ITRE)
Each year, 12-15 students are accepted into a cohort of Institute scholars who are a diverse group of students representing a variety of academic departments at USF. The mission of the ITRE, funded by the National Institute of Health, is to develop, cultivate and disseminate an innovative model of research education focused on children and adolescents who have an array of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders that can have devastating effects on adolescent development. A unique feature of the Institute is a team mentoring approach to completing service learning projects. Community partners and academic mentors work together to guide scholars in the latest science of alcohol and drug abuse prevention, intervention and sustainability with an added emphasis on translational issues of evidence-based practices.

The Institute is designed to cover all costs associated with scholar experiences, including annual conference participation and required web-based training. Individuals who historically have been under-represented in behavioral health services research, or persons who self-identify as belonging to another under-represented group are encouraged to apply.

For more information,
http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/cfh/itre

Debra Mowery, Research Assistant Professor and Interim MSCABH Program Director
Dr. Mowery's teaching & research interests include children and families, behavioral health, behavior analysis, early childhood education, cultural competence, and health disparities, and community based research. Her interests and skill areas include quantitative and qualitative research and program evaluation, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, policy implementation, and research integrity and compliance.

MSCABH faculty: http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/cfs/academics/cabh/overview/faculty.aspx
ABA focuses on meaningful behavior change to increase the quality of life for individuals in all walks of life. Our nation’s current demand for skilled behavior analysis practitioners is outpacing the field’s current capacity for training them. To help meet the growing demand, USF’s ABA Program offers options for students to reach their academic goals.

The ABA Program has six faculty members, all productive researchers and excellent teachers committed to student success. Their research areas include: ABA in child welfare (Dr. Croslan), trial-based functional analysis (Dr. Bloom), translational research (Dr. Samaha), ABA in schools (Dr. Blair), and ABA and autism (Dr. Cividini-Motta). There are currently 16 students enrolled in the PhD program and a total of 93 students in the Masters programs. Since the first graduating class in 2013, 114 students have graduated with a minor in ABA.

PhD Program

The PhD Program is designed to meet the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) accreditation requirements and admits a small cohort of top-performing students with an ABA masters degree each Fall Semester. Students are exposed to a broad breadth and depth of research while working closely with faculty mentors on dissertation research and independent research projects. All doctoral students receive mentored teaching experiences as they teach undergraduate classes. Graduates will be ready to assume a position as a faculty member or as clinical director of a behavior analytic agency.

Master of Arts Online Program

The M.A. Program provides coursework and practicum experience needed to become a BCBA. Students complete their course work online and complete their directed research and practicum training in a local agency, school, or other approved site. The course sequence and practicum are both approved by the BACB.

Undergraduate Minor

The ABA Minor, which consists of five courses taken in a sequence, meets the requirement for certification as a Behavior Analyst.

Continuing Education Credits

Online CE learning modules are sponsored by Dr. Ray Miltenberger, approved continuing education (ACE) provider of Type 2 continuing education hours for BCaBA and BCBA certificants. Courses are designed for the practicing BCaBA or BCBA or anyone who works with individuals with problematic behaviors. For more information on all the ABA programs, visit http://aba.cbcs.usf.edu/

Specialized Training through Project ABA

All students accepted in the ABA Master’s Program are eligible to apply to participate in Project ABA, which aims to prepare students to contribute to evidence-based practices (EBP) in ABA for children with autism spectrum disorders. With funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, the program provides course work and practicum experience which prepares students to graduate with a Master’s degree in ABA as well as with a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst certification and a graduate certificate in Positive Behavior Support.

Project ABA recipients receive:

- Paid tuition (in-state rate)
- 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

For more information, visit http://aba.cbcs.usf.edu/projectABA/

Raymond Miltenberger, PhD, BCBA-D
Professor and Director, ABA Program

Dr. Miltenberger is the author of an internationally used textbook and a leader in the field as a Fellow and former President of the Association for Behavior Analysis International. He is well known for his research in a number of areas including safety skills training for children.

ABA Faculty: http://aba.cbcs.usf.edu/
CFS Graduate Certificates

Graduate certificates are specialized graduate-level credentials reflecting knowledge of the most up-to-date research in the selected field. Once completed, the certificate is notated on transcripts, and a USF certificate of completion is awarded. Certificate completion increases a student's competitiveness, enhances their performance, and helps prepare them for the changing nature of business. Certificates generally take one to two years to complete, depending on course load per semester and course schedule offerings. Up to 12 credits are eligible to transfer to a graduate degree.

Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling (15 credits)
Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling is primarily designed for graduate students in rehabilitation counseling, mental health counseling, social work, psychology, or other human services disciplines, or for human services professionals who desire to learn about addictions and substance abuse counseling.

Children's Mental Health (15 credits)
Children's Mental Health provides a rigorous, empirically-based education to individuals in the behavioral health services field who wish to work with agencies and systems that serve children and families with mental health challenges. Students will learn to assist children at different developmental stages, within the contexts in which they live.
www.usf.edu/innovative-education/programs/graduate-certificates/childrens-mental-health.aspx

Leadership in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (15 credits)
Leadership in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health provides students with tools and strategies for leading organizations that serve the behavioral health needs of children, youth, and their families in a variety of contexts including mental health, education, juvenile justice, and child welfare.
www.usf.edu/innovative-education/graduate-certificates/programs/child-and-family-studies.aspx

Marriage and Family Therapy (15 credits)
Marriage and Family Therapy enables professionals in the mental health counseling, rehabilitation counseling, counselor education, social work, psychology, and other human service fields to enhance their knowledge and skills in marriage and family therapy.
www.usf.edu/innovative-education/graduate-certificates/programs/marriage-and-family-therapy.aspx

Positive Behavior Support (12 credits)
Positive Behavior Support is one of few in the nation and designed for educators, school or mental health administrators, school psychologists, social workers, school counselors, and behavioral health staff who want to specialize in an evidence-based approach to resolving challenging behavior, and supporting the prosocial behavior of children and youth within schools and early education settings.
www.usf.edu/innovative-education/graduate-certificates/programs/positive-behavior-support.aspx

Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health (15 credits)
Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health is part of the Institute for Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health that provides a team mentoring approach with student researchers and professionals in the field.
http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/itrabh/index.htm

CABA Poster Session

The ABA master's program hosts an annual poster session highlighting the work of students during their practicum placements. The 2017 Community Application of Behavior Analysis (CABA) student poster session will be held on April 26 from 2 – 5 PM at the USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences. Alumni, community partners, faculty, staff and USF students are all encouraged to attend.
Tampa Interbay Rotary Club Provides Scholarship Fund through Annual Cycling for Autism Event

Since 2010, the Tampa Interbay Rotary Club Cycling for Autism Fundraising event has raised over $165,000 to support programs in the Tampa Bay community focused on helping individuals with autism and their families. They have supported CARD-USF's many efforts in the community, as well as a scholarship fund for students in the Applied Behavior Analysis program at USF.

Anna Garcia, current recipient of the Tampa Interbay Rotary ABA Scholarship has used the funds to conduct her research, which is focused on enhancing parent participation, improving behavioral services and access to services for Hispanic children with autism, and helping kids with autism cope with teaching demands.

“We are proud to be able to offer this scholarship to a well-deserving student,” said ABA Director, Dr. Raymond Miltenberger. “As we continue to build tomorrow’s workforce through combined coursework and practicum experiences, we appreciate the fundraising efforts of the Tampa Interbay Rotary.”

The 2017 Cycling for Autism event, which encourages both onsite and virtual riders, will be held March 25 at the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail.

For more information, visit www.RotaryCyclingForAutism.org

Giving to CFS

Please consider partnering with us in our efforts to support student research, scholarship and activities. Donations can be made online, or by mail. For more information, visit http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/donations/, or contact Lisa Isenbeck at (813) 974-2327, or lisenbeck@usf.edu.

ABA Student Assistance Fund supports the student work and initiatives of the Applied Behavior Analysis doctoral programs. Expenses may include items such as equipment for student projects/research, scholarships, travel expenses for students to conferences and assistance with the costs of data collection/analysis.

Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Fund provides support for faculty research and development, student loans, receptions for students and professionals who volunteer time for lectures, field training supervision, etc., and other professional and training benefits not currently provided by the university.

Marriage and Family Therapy Program Fund helps professionals in mental health, rehabilitation counseling, counselor education, social work, psychology, and other human service fields to enhance their knowledge and skills in marriage and family therapy.

RMHC Student Textbook Scholarship Fund helps RMHC students defray the cost of graduate course textbooks.

Calvin M. Pinkard Scholarship Fund provides support for RMHC graduate students pursuing a degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health involved in community service activities with a 3.0 GPA.

To find out more about specific programs, visit our website at http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/donations.