

— GRADUATE TESTIMONY —

Spring 2023 CABH Master's Graduate

Jennifer Sansone, M.S.

Jennifer graduated in Spring 2023 from the **Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health (CABH) Master's Degree Program at USF**. During her time in the program, Jennifer gained knowledge on effectively guiding, assisting, and implementing behavioral health strategies into school systems.

Jennifer specifically focused on school-wide positive behavior interventions and support (SWPBIS) at the high school level to enhance school climates, promote positive behaviors, and decrease problem behaviors leading to office discipline referrals and suspension rates among adolescents. SWPBIS focuses on reducing the reaction to challenging behavior through the use of punishment, and instead emphasizes the use of rewards (i.e., verbal praise, tangible rewards, etc.) to restructure discipline systems.

Jennifer conducted her field experience at Auburndale Senior High School, and shared the school saw meaningful results for the goals they set and grew in their skills and capabilities. "As other students around campus saw the rewards given to other students, and began asking why they were rewarded, more students found interest in following the school-wide expectations and wanted to be rewarded and acknowledged as well," said Jennifer.

Her post-graduate plans are to stay within the school system and transition into a district-level position as a PBIS coordinator.



"I am excited to put my skills to use to produce better outcomes for children and adolescents in Florida! The Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Policy course gave me an experience the other classes did not. I learned how to navigate policy writings, and include specific and direct research in an attempt to influence and persuade stakeholders. Additionally, Dr. Levin who instructed the course, taught a new referencing style (JBHS&R) which happens to be the style I now prefer. I thoroughly enjoyed every course that USF offered in the program. GO BULLS!"

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