

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health



What Students are Saying:

The fully online Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (CABH) Program at USF prepares professionals to serve in public and nonprofit agencies and schools that work to positively impact the lives of children, adolescents, and emerging adults. Read below about what one of our students in the Leadership Concentration, Lisa Alchin, had to say about the program.

An interview with Lisa Alchin, student in the Leadership Concentration

Why did you choose the MSCABH program at USF?

I chose USF for its proximity, convenience of the online program, and the positive interaction I experienced with faculty at the informational session.

Tell us about your undergraduate degree.

I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

When did you decide that you wanted to work in this field?

The decision came to me over time during my undergrad internship while working with children, youth, and their families. Even during my graduate work at USF my direction evolved slightly, which allowed me to remain open to new possibilities within this field.

Have you had any experiences working in the field of child and adolescent behavioral/mental health?

Throughout my adult life, I have spent time both as a volunteer and an employee in positions that contribute to the welfare of children and adolescents. After completing my undergrad, I was eager to acquire a deeper understanding of the nuances that encompass facilitating effective programs dedicated to helping this population. I knew that furthering my education would provide me with the knowledge and credentials necessary to ensure a productive and effective career, specifically within the child welfare arena. During my undergrad coursework, I interned at a local emergency shelter for children and youth who were removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. While there, I was able to observe the challenges of running a non-profit

agency, working with staff members, and collaborating with outside agencies and services. In addition, this experience shed light on the growing need for well-trained staff in the field of child and adolescent behavioral health and the dedication that is required to meet the needs of this vulnerable population. It was an eye-opening and valuable learning experience that altered my academic and professional path.

Where was your field experience and what stands out about that experience?

It was in the USF Office of Student Affairs and Student Success. The goal of the internship was to investigate the feasibility of developing campus-based services that support alumni from the foster care system. The field placement offered the opportunity to reflect on how lessons learned in the classroom translate into a real world setting.

What can you say about the coursework?

At the end of my course work, I was able to reflect on the interrelatedness of all the classes and their value in the field of child and adolescent behavioral health. The faculty provided an engaging curriculum, which supported my interest across each of the courses.

I found the leadership concentration courses particularly interesting. I believe this was in part due to my awareness of the direction that I hope to move in throughout my career, combined with my background and current skill set.

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Child
& Family
Studies

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