

## 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 Developmental Disabilities Concentration, Caitlyn Mankin, had to say about the program.

### An interview with Caitlyn Mankin, student in the Developmental Disabilities Concentration

#### Why did you choose the CABH program at USF?

Classes were offered that I couldn't find anywhere else, including positive behavior support, family-centered practices, and evidence-based practices. The flexibility of an online program allowed me to continue working and living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida while also obtaining a master's degree from one of the highest-ranking universities in Florida.

#### Tell us about your undergraduate degree.

I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida.

#### What made you want to work in the field of children's mental health?

I began working in the aftercare program of an elementary school while working on my Bachelor's degree. Shortly after, administration at the school asked if I would be interested in working with English Language Learners. I quickly accepted the position. I was often asked by other staff members if a student's struggle was due to their limited English proficiency or something else. Being asked that question led me to want to study more about the various disabilities that youth can experience and how it may impact their education.

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

I worked with administration and support staff at the elementary school where I am currently employed. We developed materials for students to increase awareness about bullying and developed

strategies for students to use in bullying situations. A lesson plan on empathy was administered to students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. Finally, an intervention was also designed and implemented in the cafeteria, where a majority of the bullying incidents seemed to be occurring. The intervention in the cafeteria is yielding positive results.

#### Do any of the classes or program experiences stand out for you?

I was also able to obtain a Graduate Certificate in Positive Behavior Support. While taking courses to earn credits towards the Master's in CABH, I was advised that I could take certain courses as electives, where the credits earned could also be used to obtain a Graduate Certificate.

#### What can you say about the coursework?

The two years I spent in this program flew by. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have gone through this journey with the professors and other students. This program is designed for students to learn and practice the skills they are learning through different projects and collaborations. I look forward to utilizing the skills I have learned to help youth with disabilities in a school setting.

*"The flexibility of an online program allowed me to continue working and living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida while also obtaining a master's degree from one of the highest-ranking universities in Florida."*

[WWW.USF.EDU/CABH](http://WWW.USF.EDU/CABH)

Child  
& Family  
Studies

MARIO HERNANDEZ, PHD, CHAIR

For more information, contact  
**Debra Mowery, PhD**

Program Director  
mowery@usf.edu | 813-974-6191

**USF**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL  
& COMMUNITY SCIENCES