



Mario Hernandez, PhD
CFS Department Chair

CFS Academic Programs

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

- PhD
- MS
- MA Online
- Undergraduate Minor
- Continuing ED & RBT Training

Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (CABH)

Earn an online MS Degree focusing on:

- Development Disabilities
- Leadership
- Research & Evaluation
- Youth & Behavioral Health

Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling (RMHC)

- MS

Graduate Certificates

- Addictions & Substance Abuse Counseling (undergrad certificate also)
- Children's Mental Health
- Leadership in Behavioral Health
- Marriage & Family Therapy
- Positive Behavior Support
- Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health

CFS Academic Programs Continue Growth in Traditional and Online Programs



CFS faculty, students and guests attend the College's 10th Anniversary Scholarship Breakfast with CBCS Dean Julianne Serovich and CFS Chair Dr. Mario Hernandez. Several students shared presentations about their own personal journeys at USF, and how the CBCS scholarships they received, and the faculty who mentored them, have helped them stay on track to graduate. Learn more about CFS scholarship opportunities in this issue.

Welcome to our Fall 2019 Academic Issue! CFS's unique blend of experience in research, training and technical assistance – combined with its strong interdisciplinary academic programs focused on addressing issues that impact the well-being of children, adults and families – makes the department a one-of-a-kind on the USF campus. Each of our academic programs – led by Dr. Chih-Chin Chou (RMHC), Dr. Ray Miltenberger (ABA), and Dr. Debra Mowery (CABH) – have an excellent team of faculty with broad expertise in both research and their fields of practice.

SCHs (Student Credit Hours) have grown 72% for both undergraduate and graduate courses since CFS began tracking them in 2006. In addition, graduate certificates, as well as an undergraduate minor in ABA, and successful ABA Registered Behavior Technician /Continuing Education online programs are creating more options for everyone.

Fully Online Options

To meet student needs for flexibility, master's programs in ABA and CABH are offered fully online. Online graduate certificates are also offered in Children's Mental Health, Leadership in Behavioral Health and Positive Behavior Support.

Job Outlook

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, job growth is much faster than average for careers in substance abuse, behavioral disorders and mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, applied behavior analysis, and rehabilitation counseling.

Take a look inside to learn more about each of our exciting programs!



About the CABH Program

The fully online Master of Science in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Program supports the growing demand for professionals to serve in non-clinical positions in public and non-profit agencies and schools that work with diverse children and adolescents experiencing behavioral health challenges. Thesis and applied tracks are offered.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Dr. Debra Mowery



Core Courses

- Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health
- Cultural Competency in Children's Mental Health
- Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Policy
- Evaluation & Research Methods in Community Health

Program Highlights

Four focus areas are offered within the overall program

Developmental Disabilities

Gain skills and knowledge to provide services for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities and mental health needs.

FOCUS AREA DIRECTOR: Dr. Christopher Vatland



Leadership in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health

Develop knowledge and skills for the opportunities and challenges of leadership in public and private child-serving organizations.

FOCUS AREA DIRECTOR: Dr. Linda Callejas



Research & Evaluation

Gain the knowledge and practical experience to conduct research and evaluation relevant to child and adolescent behavioral health.

FOCUS AREA DIRECTOR: Dr. Tom Massey



Youth & Behavioral Health

Learn to infuse child and adolescent behavioral health principles and values into evidence-based practice, with an understanding of practical application.

FOCUS AREA DIRECTOR: Dr. Carol McKinnon-Lewis



To learn more about the CABH program, visit:

www.usf.edu/cabh

Affiliated Graduate Certificates

Graduate certificates are specialized graduate-level credentials reflecting knowledge of the most up-to-date research in the selected field. Certificate completion increases a student's competitiveness, enhances their performance, and helps prepare them for the changing nature of business. There are currently three graduate certificate programs affiliated with CABH:

- Addictions & Substance Abuse
- Children's Mental Health
- Leadership in Behavioral Health
- Positive Behavior Support
- Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health

The Institute for Translational Research Education in Adolescent Drug Abuse (ITRE) Scholarship Program

This graduate certificate program curriculum prepares students to be successful working with community agencies as well as in health and behavioral health research organizations. ITRE invites graduate students and working professionals with a Master's degree (or in a doctoral degree program) to apply for a fully paid 15 credit Graduate Certificate Program in Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health. Student scholars are matched with a team of academic mentors, national experts, and community agencies to conduct service-learning projects. Past scholars have described the program as giving them "real world experience" that has been "priceless" and "a turning point in my career."



Scholars from the Institute for Translational Research Education in Adolescent Drug Abuse (ITRE) attend the 2019 Annual Conference on Child, Adolescent & Young Adult Behavioral Health. Institute scholars present their Service Learning Projects during the annual conference in their fourth semester.



Children’s Mental Health Network Provides Field Placement Opportunities for CABH Program

“It is everything I wish I would have had in graduate school!”



Scott Bryant-Comstock

Scott Bryant Comstock, President and CEO of the Children’s Mental Health Network (CMHNetwork) provides practicum and field placement opportunities for graduate programs including USF’s Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health (CABH) Master’s Program. The CMHNetwork promotes and advocates for the availability and effectiveness of high-quality services for children with mental health needs and their families.

“When working with students, my goal is to help them feel and experience real-life situations,” said Bryant-Comstock. “If they are going to do policy work, they need to know what that means. I like to help them learn to ask the right questions while talking to a variety of individuals including clinicians, researchers and a cross section of people and agencies working with children and families. Students even get to talk to lawyers representing real families with children in the system. Where else are you going to get that real-life experience?”

CABH student Aniya Bess-Rosa is one of Scott’s recent field experience placements. Her experience involved assessing the impact of recent immigration reform efforts on the mental health of children, youth, and families.

“Scott was able to connect me with people who had first-hand experience working with immigrant families and children who have experienced trauma,” said Aniya. “The interviews were a great way to ask specific questions. They also helped me narrow my focus for my field experience topic.”

“We are able to provide access to our professional search resources and great cutting-edge tools,” added Bryant-Comstock. “With that, interns help us by providing articles for our network readers while teasing out advocacy positions.”

In 2018, Scott also offered an intern opportunity for Rachel Lettieri, who is passionate about policy decisions in favor of children’s mental health. During her internship with the CMHNetwork, Rachel conducted a 50-state scan of existing and proposed legislation designed to strengthen quality standards for residential care programs. In addition, Rachel assisted the CMHNetwork in building an online platform where families in crisis can receive appropriate and pertinent information that will help guide their decision-making about treatment options for their child.

“Ultimately, it’s about interns getting to be exposed to the real world,” said Scott. “They hear passion in people’s voices. They also hear their pain and see the many complexities. It is everything I wish I would have had in graduate school!”



Aniya Bess-Rosa



Rachel Lettieri

What students are saying...



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

—Caitlyn Mankin



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 effective programs dedicated to helping this population. I chose USF for its proximity, convenience of the online program, and the positive interaction I experienced with faculty at the informational session.

—Lisa Alchin



Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling (RMHC)

The USF Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program trains a workforce of professionals that promote quality behavioral health care for all, particularly people with disabilities, including those of a physical, mental, emotional or chemical nature. Both non-thesis and thesis programs provide high quality teaching and inspire learning in rehabilitation and mental health counseling and related disciplines.

RMHC Online Program Options

- MS Program

Graduate Certificates

- Addictions & Substance Abuse Counseling
- Marriage & Family Therapy

Program Highlights

- Ranked 27th in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate School Rankings in 2018.
- Dual accredited by CACREP and CORE.
- Practicum Placement results in over 70,000 hours of student providing community service each year.

Licensure and Certification

Based on course of study, graduates of the RMHC Program are eligible to apply for licensure as:

- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Certified Addiction Professional
- Certified Rehabilitation Counselor



USF's RMHC Program Listed Among Top Programs in U.S. News & World Reports' "Best Grad Schools"



The USF's RMHC program tied for #27th out of 96 schools in the 2019 U.S. News and World Report's Best Rehabilitation Counseling Programs. Through teaching, research, and service, the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (RMHC) program promotes quality services for individuals with disabilities, and helps the state meet its human service needs in the areas of rehabilitation and mental health counseling.

The RMHC curriculum prepares graduates for both national certification in rehabilitation [Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)] and state licensure in mental health counseling. The program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and is among a select number of Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CLRC) programs in the country. Rehabilitation counselors are the most highly paid counseling specialty on average and earn over \$13,000 more than Clinical Mental Health Counselors, Mental Health Counselors, or Community Counselors.

RMHC's Addictions & Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate Program See Much Growth in Enrollment

The RMHC program also offers undergraduate and graduate certificates in Addictions & Substance Abuse.

"We are attracting students from across campus including psychology, interdisciplinary social sciences, biomedical science, health science, and criminology," said Dr. Vickie Buckles, Addictions and Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate Director.

Completion of the certificate program meets partial requirement for state certification as an addiction professional (CAP). According to the Florida Certification Board, the CAP designation is a professional substance abuse credential for people who assess, develop and provide substance abuse treatment services and plans. "I recently met with all of the certificate students and all have indicated they will pursue professional credentialing," said Dr. Buckles. "This will help increase the number of highly qualified and well trained professionals prepared to address the state's and nation's growing issues with addiction."

Marriage & Family Therapy Graduate Certificate

The RMHC program also offers a Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy. The certificate enables 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 Students Scholarship Programs

RMHC students can benefit from several scholarship programs currently available:



Julieth Hoyos spoke at the 10th Anniversary CBCS Scholarship Breakfast about her own personal journey at USF.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Scholar Program

RSA Scholarships are made available through the U.S. Department of Education to help increase the number of highly qualified rehabilitation counselors available to work within the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system. Scholars agree to work (for full pay and benefit) in the public, non-profit, or private vocational rehabilitation system after graduation for a designated period of time in exchange for tuition and other qualifying expenses.

The RSA scholar training program is entering its final year. Among the 32 current scholars, 17 are in the payback period, 4 are in internships and 10 are currently completing the coursework for the master's degree program. The remaining scholar works as a rehabilitation counselor serving Veterans with disabilities.

“The RSA Scholar program gave me the opportunity to network with amazing people in the field, attend conferences such as the National Council on Rehabilitation Education conference in Washington, DC, become involved in research and get a paid internship with the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation,” said Magdhalini Thodhori.



Magdhalini Thodhori
RSA Scholar

“The RSA scholarship program assisted me in getting a position in VR. I really appreciated the financial assistance while in school and the intensity of the required classes because it gave me a little insight into the intensity of VR,” said scholar Brianne Roberts.



Brianne Roberts
RSA Scholar

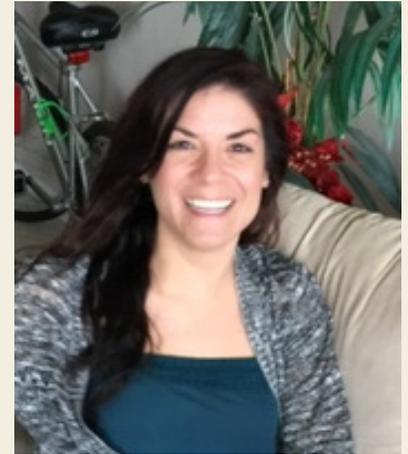
Calvin Pinkard Scholarship

This scholarship provides support for RMHC students who have been in the RMHC program for at least one year and have a 3.2 GPA or higher.

“I was grateful to be a scholarship recipient,” said recent graduate Julieth Hoyos. “I was once a young girl who didn’t know if I could even attend elementary school, but while giving my speech at the college scholarship breakfast, and seeing myself in graduate school about to graduate was a dream come true. The scholarship was like a little push that I would hope other students get because every bit counts.”

“The RMHC program provided me with top quality education and it certainly expanded my horizon. I can now understand the mental health healing process at a deep level and from various angles,” said student Julieth Hoyos.

In Memory



RMHC student Lynn Bartolotta, passed away suddenly on November 17, 2018.

New Scholarship Honors Life of RMHC Student Lynn Bartolotta

Lynn was a student in the RMHC Masters program who passed away during her last semester in the program. She was a top student and compassionate student counselor. Following her passing, the Lynn Bartolotta Memorial Scholarship was started by her father to honor Lynn and to support current students.

“Lynn loved USF,” said her father Victor Battolotta. “Her education changed her life. At USFSP, she completed her MA in psychology and then went right on to get a masters at USF Tampa in the RMHC program. She loved the courses, her professors and her peers. Lynn liked the idea of providing mental health services for people of limited means. The Scholarship is a way to continue Lynn’s memory and the mission and passion she possessed in the field of mental health.”

For more information on RMHC and to view program outcomes, visit www.usf.edu/rmhc



Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

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. USF is helping to meet that demand.

ABA Degree Programs

PhD The emphasis of the ABA doctoral program is on the development of behavior analysts who are scientist practitioners. Students receive training to be independent researchers and university teachers in applied behavior analysis.

Master of Science This fully on-campus program provides training through coursework, practicum experiences, and the completion of master's thesis. Graduates have the training and supervised experience needed to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts or seek admission into an ABA doctoral program.

Master of Arts Online This fully online program provides training through coursework, practicum experiences, and directed research. Graduates have the training and supervised experience needed to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts.

Undergraduate Minor is for students seeking knowledge and skills in the field and is especially valuable for those seeking to become a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) or those seeking to prepare for a graduate program in ABA.

ABA Continuing Education

Online CE articles and training modules are offered by the ABA program at USF and sponsored by Dr. Ray Miltenberger, approved continuing education (ACE) provider of Type 2 continuing education hours for BCBA and BCaBA certificants.

Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT) Training is designed to meet the 40-hour training requirement for the RBT credential.

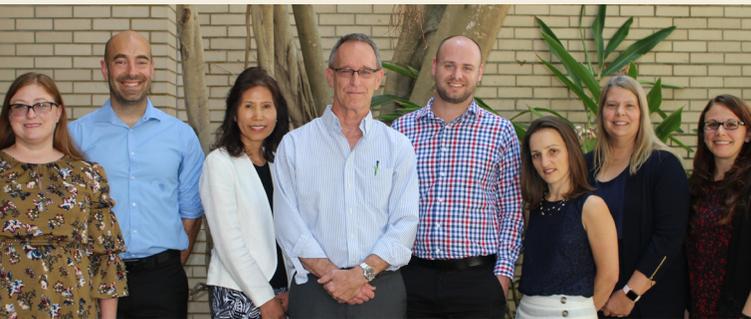


Photo left to right: ABA Faculty Drs. Sarah Bloom, Andrew Samaha, Kwang-Sun Blair, Raymond Miltenberger (Program Director), Rocky Haynes, Catia Cividini-Motta, Kimberly Crosland and Rachel Scalzo.

Scholarship Opportunities for ABA Master's Students

Several scholarships funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs are helping to prepare high-quality scholars to serve as Board Certified Behavior Analysts for school-aged children with severe emotional and behavioral disorders or for children with autism in all grade levels.

Project ABA

Now in its final year, Project ABA has served 4 cohorts of 5 students on 2 year cycles. In addition to paid tuition, students received a yearly stipend and financial assistance for textbooks and conference attendance.



Project ABA Scholars Melanie Byrne (left) and Ashley Knochel (right).

“Project ABA provided me the opportunity to work alongside a variety of school based behavior analysts who taught me what to do and what not to do for my future career in schools. I was able to take specialized courses, including a course dedicated to positive behavior intervention and supports, which deepened my knowledge of school specific intervention,” said Melanie Byrne. In June, Melanie successfully defended her thesis defense, *Increasing Engagement and Academic Performance of Children with Learning Disabilities: Do Fidget Spinners Help?*

“My experience as a Project ABA scholar afforded me the unique opportunity to work alongside school district behavior analysts and learn about the application of ABA in classrooms settings,” said Ashley Knochel. “Additionally, my faculty advisor provided me with one-of-a-kind support and mentorship in designing and conducting research studies.”

Project EBAS: Enhancing Behavior Analytic Services

Through 2022, Project EBAS will prepare 15 scholars from the ABA Master's Program within the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and 14 scholars from the School Psychology Educational Specialist Program within the College of Education. Interest in becoming a school-based behavior analyst or school psychologist and willingness to provide related services as a collaborative team member for children with disabilities in educational systems will be emphasized in the selection process.

To learn more, visit: www.usf.edulaba, select student scholarships in the Master of Science tab.



ABA Scholar: Jennifer Weyman

ABA Scholarship Recipient Jennifer Weyman earned her ABA doctoral degree at USF in Spring 2019 and is now working at the University of Missouri as an Assistant Teaching Professor. She will be teaching in the Department of Special Education and supervising students at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.



Dr. Jennifer Weyman

“During my time at USF, I had the opportunity to discuss the conceptual foundations of behavior analysis as well as conduct research to improve the lives of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and their families. The knowledge and friendships I’ve made at this university will follow me throughout my career. I thank CFS and the ABA Program for funding my education and allowing me to do what I love, which is to learn, teach, and conduct research, all with the common goal of making the world a better place,” said Dr. Weyman.

ABA Scholar: Marissa Novotny

Dr. Marissa Novotny also earned her ABA doctoral degree at USF in Spring 2019 and is now working at the University of Texas at San Antonio as a Visiting Assistant Professor. She will be teaching ABA classes within their Master’s program in the Department of Education Psychology. She will also be helping on a variety of ongoing grant-funded research projects while continuing to pursue her area of research in teaching safety skills to children. “I believe the program has done a great job preparing me for my future career in academia and I cannot wait to share everything I have learned with future BCBA’s.”



Dr. Marissa Novotny with Dr. Ray Miltenberger

ABA Student Karie John Receives Second Place in State Research Competition

After the 2019 USF Graduate Research Symposium, ABA student Karie John had the opportunity to advance and represent USF at the 2019 Conference of Graduate Schools held at Florida International University. During the conference, a Statewide Graduate Research Symposium is held to celebrate and recognize the outstanding scholarly accomplishments of Florida graduate students.

Karie’s research project, “Functional Analysis and Behavioral Contrast: Problem Behavior Outside of Session” was awarded second place in the behavioral sciences category.



ABA student Karie John (center), with USF’s Dr. Gary Oliver (left) and Dr. Ruth Bahr (right) at the 2019 USF Graduate Student Research Awards Ceremony.

ABA Practicum Provides over 70,000 Hours of Community Service

The USF ABA Practicum follows the guidelines of the Behavior Analysis Certification Board, which requires 1,000 total hours of practicum experience. Students work at their practicum site under the direct supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Practicum placements are required for both the M.S. and online M.A. Programs. Each year, the ABA programs provide over 70,000 hours of community service.

“My practicum supervisors have spoken highly about the structure of the practicum track at USF and how it makes creating a supervision plan straightforward. I have been able to rehearse to fluency the skills that I am learning during my coursework. My research project has focused on an Organizational Behavior Management literature review and hypothetical intervention for increasing on-task behavior among direct care staff. I am eager to grow my knowledge of OBM interventions as I pursue my BCBA credential and know that USF has allowed me to make that goal an achievable reality.”

— Jennifer Smith

Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education, TX



ABA faculty and students at the Spring 2019 Graduation



Quick Guide to CFS Student Scholarships

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 Melissa Thammavongsa at (813) 974-2327, or thammavongsa@usf.edu.

ABA Graduate Student Support (#530044)

To support an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) graduate student fellowship for doing research on Autism related issues in CFS.

ABA Student Assistance Fund (#530025)

This 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. Restrictions: students must be full-time, currently enrolled graduate students in the ABA Doctoral or Master's Program.

Calvin M. Pinkard Scholarship Fund (#420033)

Dr. Calvin Pinkard, Jr. was the founding Chair of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at USF, where he served as chairman for 30 years. Upon his retirement, Dr. Pinkard was honored with a scholarship in his name for graduate students who were pursuing a degree in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling and who were involved in community service activities.

Lynn Bartolotta Memorial Scholarship (#530058)

Lynn was a student in the RMHC Masters program who passed away during her last semester in the program. She was a top student and compassionate student counselor. Following her passing the Lynn Bartolotta Scholarship was started by Lynn's father to honor Lynn and to support current students in good standing who are experiencing significant financial need.

Susan D. Kelley RMHC Textbook Scholarship (#530021)

Dr. Susan Kelley was a former Director of Graduate Studies and Interim Vice-Chair of the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program at USF. During her tenure at USF, Dr. Kelley was active in disability policy work, providing analyses and consultation to advocacy organizations, professional associations, and service providers concerned with the disability perspective in state and national health care reform. This fund helps RMHC students defray the cost of graduate course textbooks.



Mark Your Calendar!

January 17-19, 2020

26th Annual CARD Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder
<http://cardconference.info>

March 15-18, 2020

33rd Annual Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health
www.cmhconference.com/

April 9, 2020

FCIC Employment Virtual Conference: Talent Actualized!
<http://flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu/conferences.html>

April 21-24, 2020

15th Annual National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior
<http://nti.cbcs.usf.edu>

May 8, 2020

CARD's Fiesta by the Bay
<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/fiesta>

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