

Joint Bachelor's/ Master's Applied Behavior Analysis Program

Advising Guide

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Students who have been accepted in to the joint bachelor's/ master's in applied behavior analysis program should plan to take two courses in the graduate program each semester their senior year. The elective courses (6 credits) count toward the 120 credits toward the undergraduate graduate. The required courses (PSY 510 and PSY 520) count toward the 30 credits to graduate the master's program.

While the student is classified as an undergraduate, they must fill out the following form each semester and have it signed by their advisor and the current ABA program director.

Form for undergraduate student taking graduate courses (joint bachelor's/ master's program):

[Course authorization form](#)

Optimal Plan:

Senior year	<i>Fall semester</i>	<i>Spring semester</i>	<i>Summer semester</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 520: ABA Concepts and Principles • Graduate elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 540: ABA Behavior Change Procedures • Graduate elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate elective (optional but recommended)
Joint bachelor's/ master's year (5th year)	Fall semester	Spring semester	Summer semester
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 530: ABA Measurement, Data, and Research • PSY 560: ABA Systems, Management, and Supervision • PSY 570: ABA Practicum • Graduate elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 510: ABA Ethics and Professional Conduct • PSY 550: ABA Assessment • PSY 570: ABA Practicum • Graduate elective 	

**On this plan, in order to get your undergraduate degree on time, your academic evaluation should be at 126 credits by the end of spring semester senior year.

**The joint bachelor's/ master's spring semester can be particularly challenging. Taking 1 or 2 graduate electives in the summer can make that semester more manageable.

Alternate Plan:

Senior year	<i>Fall semester</i>	<i>Spring semester</i>	<i>Summer semester</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 520: ABA Concepts and Principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate elective (required*)
Joint bachelor's/ master's year (5th year)	<i>Fall semester</i>	<i>Spring semester</i>	<i>Summer semester</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 530: ABA Measurement, Data, and Research • PSY 560: ABA Systems, Management, and Supervision • PSY 570: ABA Practicum • Graduate elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 510: ABA Ethics and Professional Conduct • PSY 540: ABA Behavior Change Procedures • PSY 550: ABA Assessment • PSY 570: ABA Practicum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate elective

Note: See next page for list of approved electives. Other electives may allowed with approval from the program director.

Elective list:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSY 511: History of Behaviorism PSY 513: Educational Psychology PSY 521: Health Psychology PSY 523: Autism: Characteristics and Treatment PSY 525: Abnormal Psychology PSY 533: Organizational Behavior Management PSY 551: Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Psychology PSY 570: Applied Behavior Analysis: Intensive Practicum PSY 580: Applied Behavior Analysis: Individual Research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHB 508: Developmental Issues in Counseling RHB 513: Systems Theory and Family Therapy RHB 520: Practicum and Seminar I (Motivational Interviewing) RHB 523: Cultural and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability RHB 540: Medical and Psychological Aspects of Disability HLC 505: Interpersonal Helping Skills |
|---|--|

Advising scenarios:

Problem: The student is unable to take 6 extra credits. In other words, the students schedule is full and they need all of the credits their senior year to count towards the 120 credits they need to graduate.

Best solution: The student should take PSY 520 in the Fall semester and take 1 graduate elective in the Spring semester. The student will still be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies, but will need to complete a contract by April 15 (spring semester) indicating how they will fulfill the remaining 3 credits to graduate. They can do so by taking 1 graduate elective in the summer following their undergraduate senior year. However, on this plan, if the student plans to graduate with honors, those honors may not be calculated in time to wear special attire at the graduation ceremony.

Alternate solution: The student should take 1 graduate elective each semester. If the student still wants to graduate by spring of the following year, they should plan to take 1 or 2 additional graduate electives the summer immediately following their senior undergraduate year. This option may

be better for students in the joint bachelor's/ master's program who are considering transferring to a different graduate program once they obtain their undergraduate degree.

Problem: The student obtains fewer than 12 credits in graduate courses their senior year.

Solution: Students can still participate in the joint bachelor's/ master's program; however, they will need to obtain a total of 36 graduate credits before they are awarded their master's degree. For example, if a student obtains only 3 credits of graduate courses during their senior year, they will need to complete 33 credits worth of classes in the following semesters before they graduate with a master's degree in ABA. In this case, it may take more than 2 graduate semesters to complete all of the remaining requirements. Students should definitely consider taking graduate electives during the summer semester.

Problem: The student is not sure whether they will enjoy working as a behavior analyst.

Solution: Work at one of our practicum sites as an independent study (PSY 499). Contact the program director for more information.