M.A. Applied Behavior Analysis

About the Program

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a scientifically valid, systematic approach to behavior change that examines the variables that reliably influence socially important behaviors.

Salve Regina University’s new 36-credit master’s degree program in Applied Behavior Analysis incorporates the six Master’s-level courses and practicum experience required by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) to qualify to sit for the national certification exam. Elective courses allow students to select academic study in areas that fulfill personal and professional objectives. This curriculum has been reviewed and approved by the BACB.

The combination of coursework and practicum experience allows students to integrate theory and practice necessary to build strong behavior analytic skills in the field. Course work in areas such as ethics and professional conduct, measurement and data analysis, behavior change techniques, assessment and systems management prepare students for the national certification exam. Sites for practicum placements can be coordinated through the graduate program, or if sufficient supervision is available, students can complete practicum at their current job.

Graduates of the MA Applied Behavior Analysis degree program, who successfully complete BACB certification, are prepared for work in a variety of settings such as law enforcement and corrections, business, hospitals, and treatment centers. Applied Behavior Analysis is probably best known as a treatment for children with autism, and represents one of the fastest growing professional areas in psychology.

This curriculum has been approved by the BACB to meet the requirements for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) credential.

Courses are taught at Salve Regina University’s Center for Adult Education in Warwick, R.I. and our Newport, R.I. campus.

“Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is used in many settings, including business, sports, law enforcement and corrections, but it is probably best known as the one empirically validated therapy for people with autism. With the prevalence of autism estimated at 1 in 88 children, there is a desperate need for trained ABA professionals. Salve Regina University’s Master’s in ABA is the only program in the State of Rhode Island whose curriculum has been approved by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board. Students completing our program and taking advantage of our internship opportunities are qualified to sit for the national certification exam, considered the gold standard for professional practice in this field.”

– Dr. Sheila Quinn
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology

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About Salve Regina
Salve Regina University is an independent, coeducational institution serving approximately 2,500 men and women from 35 states and 16 nations. Its 80-acre oceanfront campus is in the Ochre Point historic district of Newport, Rhode Island, and includes 48 new and adapted buildings. The University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Admissions requirements
Salve Regina University evaluates the total application package. Individuals with a bachelor’s degree in any undergraduate major from a regionally accredited college or university (or an equivalent degree from an accredited institution outside of the United States) are qualified to apply.

To apply to the master’s program
You must submit the following supporting materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions:
• Completed graduate application form
• Official transcripts from all degree-granting institutions attended
• Personal statement
• Two professional letters of recommendation
• Non-refundable application fee
• Admission interviews will be arranged by the Director

Courses are offered on campus in Newport, R.I. and at our Center for Adult Education in Warwick, R.I.

Curriculum
(36 credits required)

Required courses: (6 courses, 18 credits)
• PSY510: Applied Behavior Analysis: Ethics and Professional Conduct
• PSY520: Applied Behavior Analysis: Concepts and Principles
• PSY530: Applied Behavior Analysis: Measurement, Data Analysis and Research Design
• PSY540: Applied Behavior Analysis: Behavior Change Techniques and Procedures
• PSY550: Applied Behavior Analysis: Behavioral Assessment
• PSY560: Applied Behavior Analysis: Systems, Management and Supervision
+ 1,500 hours of supervision or 6 credits of PSY570

Students also choose six of the following: (18 credits)
• PSY511: History of Behaviorism
• PSY513: Educational Psychology
• PSY521: Health Psychology
• PSY523: Autism spectrum and other Developmental Disabilities
• PSY525: Abnormal Psychology
• PSY533: Organizational Behavior Management
• PSY551: Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Psychology
• PSY570: Applied Behavior Analysis: Intensive Practicum
• PSY580: Applied Behavior Analysis: Individual Research
• RHB508: Developmental Issues in Counseling
• RHB513: Systems Theory and Family Therapy
• RHB520: Practicum and Seminar I (Motivational Interviewing)
• RHB523: Cultural and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability
• RHB540: Medical and Psychological Aspects of Disability
• HLC505: Interpersonal Helping Skills

CAGS: Applied Behavior Analysis
The CAGS in Applied Behavior Analysis provides further graduate education to students who have completed a master’s degree in a related program and are interested in seeking national certification as an Applied Behavior Analyst. The CAGS in Applied Behavior Analysis requires a minimum of 18 classroom credit hours.

Required courses:
• PSY510: Applied Behavior Analysis: Ethics and Professional Conduct
• PSY520: Applied Behavior Analysis: Concepts and Principles
• PSY530: Applied Behavior Analysis: Measurement, Data Analysis and Research Design
• PSY540: Applied Behavior Analysis: Behavior Change Techniques and Procedures
• PSY550: Applied Behavior Analysis: Behavioral Assessment
• PSY560: Applied Behavior Analysis: Systems, Management and Supervision
+ 1,500 hours of supervision or 6 credits of PSY570 to sit for the national certification exam.

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