

# APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

*Learn the science of behavior so that you can influence  
change and solve socially significant problems.*



GRADUATE STUDIES  
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

Light the way.



“The partnership between Assumption College and Seven Hills Foundation provides students a unique fieldwork placement in a large human service organization working with adults across a number of community settings.”

– TRISHA RODRICKS  
O'CONNELL '98, G'01

(PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR)  
BCBA AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF CLINICAL SERVICES  
SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES

## What Is Applied Behavior Analysis?

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the science of learning and behavior used in order to solve socially significant problems (to influence changes in behavior that are meaningful to individuals and those around them). ABA emphasizes the influence of the environment in behavior change and involves direct observation of behavior, data collection and analysis, and systematic changes to the environment in order to understand the cause of socially significant behavior and improve that behavior. By first understanding the cause, we are able to develop more effective, long-lasting and socially acceptable methods of changing our own behavior and the behavior of others.

### Your Path to Becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) is an independent practitioner who conducts



behavioral assessments, interprets the results of behavioral assessments, and designs behavioral interventions for clients in a variety of fields. A BCBA may also supervise BCaBAs (behavior analysts certified at the Bachelor's degree level), registered behavior technicians (RBTs), and students wishing to gain supervised fieldwork experience. To become a BCBA, you must hold a master's degree in behavior analysis, education, or psychology, complete a number of graduate courses in ABA, gain 1,500 fieldwork experience hours (with supervision by a BCBA), and pass a certification exam. A BCBA must obtain continuing education to maintain certification and, to practice in Massachusetts, must be licensed as an Applied Behavior Analyst (some exceptions may apply). Assumption's ABA course sequence and practicum courses meet the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's (BACB) requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®. Applicants may need to meet additional requirements to qualify.

## Solve Socially Important Problems and Improve Outcomes

### MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

### CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY (C.A.G.S.) IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Welcome to the ABA programs at Assumption College. We prepare students for careers as applied behavior analysts, and graduates of our programs will be well-prepared for both clinical and research-based positions. Our programs teach the science of behavior, which is essential for individuals interested in autism, general and special education, developmental and intellectual disabilities, social work and related fields.



### Distinguishing and Sought-After Features of the Applied Behavior Analysis Programs:

- **A multi-disciplinary focus** emphasizes how to use behavior therapy across the fields of psychology, human services, and education
- Coursework covers both **typical and atypical development**
- **A comprehensive curriculum covers the applied, experimental, and conceptual branches of behavior analysis**
- **Fieldwork experience is supervised by Board Certified Behavior Analysts**
- Students in the MA program have **the ability to pursue either an applied or research track through tailored coursework**
- Course sequence and practicum experience is **verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board**
- **Program meets coursework and fieldwork requirements for licensure** as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts
- **Graduates are well-prepared to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam**

As a graduate of the ABA program, you will be positioned to enter a field with increasingly great demand. You will have the skills necessary to create meaningful improvements in the lives of your clients and their families. We look forward to accompanying you on this exciting journey.

*Karen Lionello-Denolf*

**KAREN LIONELLO-DENOLF, PH.D., BCBA-D, LABA**  
DIRECTOR, APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM



# A Rewarding High-Demand Career

**Students graduate with the coursework and fieldwork requirements to apply for licensure as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts.**

## Diverse Career Path Options

With a Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis from Assumption College, your career path options are diverse. ABA is the only evidence-based intervention available for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Given the increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with ASD, it is likely that most people, in any career, will be required to work with or provide services for individuals on the spectrum. Completing coursework in ABA will therefore be relevant for students who will be working with individuals with ASD in a wide variety of settings.

The most common association with ABA is working with children with ASD and other developmental and intellectual disabilities, and our programs will prepare students to do that. In addition, there are many other fields where the interventions and teaching procedures based on ABA have an impact. An ABA degree is relevant in clinical psychology, behavioral medicine, counseling, job effectiveness, sports

training, environmental protection, education, exercise and health, business, criminology, and other areas. Our coursework emphasizes the multi-disciplinary nature of ABA and demonstrates how behavioral principles can be applied in a variety of settings.

## A Well-Rounded Education that Gives You Options

Our program includes coursework in applied, basic and conceptual behavior analysis and is designed for students who wish to become well-rounded behavior analysts with the flexibility to work in a range of settings. We teach evidence-based approaches to assessment and treatment that are widely applicable. Our program has a multidisciplinary focus, and students will have the opportunity to work with faculty in the Psychology, Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies, and Education departments and to complete coursework in both typical and atypical development.

Both the M.A. in ABA and C.A.G.S. in ABA programs at Assumption College fulfill the current educational and fieldwork requirements for licensure as an Applied Behavior Analyst in Massachusetts. Moreover, both programs meet the requirements for students to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam under the 4th Edition Task List.

# The Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis

The Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis is a 45-credit program. It can be completed in two years, including two summer sessions. Two to three classes are taken each semester, and the classes are held once per week in the evening. The coursework includes the applied, experimental and conceptual branches of behavior analysis, so students receive a strong foundation in the science of behavior that will enable them to successfully solve problems for clients in diverse situations. The program also includes required practicum classes that will allow students to obtain supervision of fieldwork hours prior to graduation. Students interested in gaining research experience can pursue a thesis option in which they conduct an applied research project. Students who complete this program will have met the coursework and fieldwork experience requirements to apply for licensure as Applied Behavior Analysts in Massachusetts and to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam under the 4th Edition Task List. Applicants may need to meet additional requirements to qualify.

## Required Courses:

### Core Behavior Analysis Courses:

- ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis\*
- ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis\*
- ABA 503:** Behavior Analysis and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment\*
- ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I\*
- ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II\*
- ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis\*

### Advanced Behavior Analysis Courses:

- ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis
- ABA 605:** The Experimental Analysis of Behavior
- ABA 700:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I\*\*
- ABA 701:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II\*\*
- ABA 702:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III\*\*
- ABA 804:** Integrative Seminar in ABA

### Interdisciplinary Courses:

- RCP 530:** Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice
- PSY 502:** Psychology of Development OR
- SCP 545:** Human Growth and Development through the Life Span

### Optional courses:

- ABA 800:** Pre-thesis Seminar in ABA
- ABA 801:** MA Thesis in ABA I
- ABA 802:** MA Thesis in ABA II
- ABA 803:** MA Thesis in ABA III

*\*BACB Verified Course Sequence course*

*\*\*BACB Verified Practicum course*

*Assumption cannot guarantee that students successfully completing the program will pass the certification exam or become licensed.*

## COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

*Accredited by:*

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.**
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education**
- Council on Rehabilitation Education**

## COLLEGE'S MISSION

Assumption College, rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, strives to form graduates known for critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service. We pursue these ambitious goals through a curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and extending to the domain of professional studies. Enlivened by the Catholic affirmation of the harmony of faith and reason, we aim, by the pursuit of the truth, to transform the minds and hearts of students. Assumption favors diversity and ecumenically welcomes all who share its goals.

## ASSUMPTIONIST SPONSORSHIP

The order of the Augustinians of the Assumption, founders of Assumption College, was begun by an educator whose most cherished project was the establishment of a Catholic university. Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon envisioned an institution committed to academic excellence. Father d'Alzon was also devoted to helping people learn, adapt, grow and change in various ways.





## Practicum

Fieldwork experience is gained by working or volunteering in natural environment settings in which you can use ABA when working with people. Assumption's ABA program includes required practicum classes that will allow students to obtain supervision of all of their fieldwork hours prior to graduation.

There are certain fieldwork requirements that need to be met to apply for licensure and to sit for the BCBA exam. These include working at a site that allows you to work with more than one person, working a minimum of 10 hours per week related to behavior analysis; being supervised by a BCBA who has completed supervisor training, meets the current BACB supervision requirements and is licensed as an LABA in Massachusetts; and receiving the minimum percentage of supervised hours per supervisory period. The BACB has verified Assumption College's supervised fieldwork experience at the practicum level. This verification means that you will receive 7.5% of your fieldwork hours supervised each week you are enrolled in practicum and that you need to accumulate 1,000 fieldwork experience hours (instead of the 1,500 fieldwork hours required at the independent fieldwork level).

To participate in practicum, you must work or volunteer at a clinical setting where a BCBA who has met the current BACB supervision requirements and is licensed as an applied behavior analyst in Massachusetts can provide one hour of individual supervision per week. In addition, you must be able to work with multiple clients providing behavior-analytic services for at least 25 hours per week. Students will be asked to identify a practicum placement during their first semester and secure site/supervisor approval from the Program Director. Each week a student is enrolled in practicum, half of the supervision hours will be provided on campus by the practicum instructor and half will be provided by the on-site supervisor. The Program Director is available to assist students in identifying an appropriate placement.

The Behavior Certification Board, Inc.® has verified the following practicum courses toward the experience requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®. Applicants may need to meet additional requirements to qualify.



### Practicum courses:

**ABA 700:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I

**ABA 701:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II

**ABA 702:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III

### Course Sequence and Schedule

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® has verified the following course sequence as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination® under the 4th Edition Task List. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify.

### The following courses are part of Assumption's BACB Verified Course Sequence

**ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis

**ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

**ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment

**ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I

**ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II

**ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis

## SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

### YEAR 1

#### FALL

**ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis

**ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment

#### SPRING

**ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

**ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal, and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis

**ABA 700:** Practicum I

#### SUMMER

**ABA 503:** Behavior Analysis and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I

### YEAR 2

#### FALL

**ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II

**ABA 701:** Practicum II

**RCP 530:** Counseling Theory and Practice

#### SPRING

**ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis

**ABA 702:** Practicum III

**PSY 502:** Developmental Psychology

#### SUMMER

**ABA 605:** The Experimental Analysis of Behavior

**ABA 804:** Integrative Seminar in Applied Behavior Analysis

### Qualifying Exam

## Applying to the Master of Arts Program

You must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university to gain admission to the Applied Behavior Analysis program. The admissions committee takes a holistic approach to each candidate's application in assessing their potential to successfully complete the graduate program. A minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required. Your application file will consist of the following:

- **Graduate Application**

- **Application Fee** – waived for Assumption students and alumni

- **Official College Transcript(s)** of undergraduate and graduate records

- **Three letters of recommendation** – professional and at least one academic

- **Current resume**

- **A personal statement** indicating your reason for interest in the field, an assessment of personal strengths and limitations, and goals for graduate study

- Once the application is complete and forwarded to the program office, the ABA Program Director may contact the applicant to arrange an interview.

*For more information about admissions requirements and applying, visit [www.assumption.edu/aba](http://www.assumption.edu/aba)*



## Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

A Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (C.A.G.S.) in Applied Behavior Analysis is a 30-credit program offered to students who have completed a Master's Degree in behavior analysis, psychology, or education and wish to complete the BACB Verified Course Sequence courses under the 4th Edition Task List. The C.A.G.S. consists of six courses on ABA (the BACB Verified Course Sequence), three practicum courses, and an integrative seminar in ABA.

### Requirements

#### Required Courses\*:

**ABA 500:** Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis

**ABA 501:** Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

**ABA 600:** Behavioral and Functional Assessment

**ABA 601:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions I

**ABA 602:** Behavior-Analytic Interventions II

**ABA 603:** Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis

**ABA 804:** Integrative Seminar in ABA

*\*Students may choose to take additional courses from among the following electives for additional credit:*

**ABA 503:** Behavior Analysis and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**ABA 604:** Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis

**ABA 605:** The Experimental Analysis of Behavior

**PSY 502:** Psychology of Development

**SCP 545:** Human Growth and Development through the Life Span

**RCP 530:** Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice

#### Required Practicum Courses:

**ABA 700:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I

**ABA 701:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II

**ABA 702:** Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III

## Applying to the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study Program

Candidates for the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study should already **hold a master's degree in behavior analysis, psychology or education**. Your application file will consist of the following:

- **Graduate Application**
- **Application Fee** – waived for Assumption students and alumni
- **Official College Transcript(s)** of undergraduate and graduate records
- **Three letters of recommendation** – professional and at least one academic
- **Current resume**
- **A personal statement** indicating your reason for interest in the field, an assessment of personal strengths and limitations, and goals for graduate study
- Once the application is complete and forwarded to the program office, the ABA Program Director may contact the applicant to arrange an interview.

*For more information about admissions requirements and applying, visit [www.assumption.edu/aba](http://www.assumption.edu/aba)*



"I want to play a more active role in developing ways to help my clients achieve the most independent and fulfilling life possible. I see firsthand how much ABA can help individuals live higher quality lives."

**-CYNTHIA RIELLEY  
(CURRENT STUDENT)**

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT,  
CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS COLLABORATIVE  
THRIVE PROGRAM

## Course Descriptions / 2017-18

### REQUIRED COURSES:

#### **ABA 500: Principles of Learning and Behavior Analysis**

This course provides a graduate-level introduction to the key concepts, theories and experimental paradigms for studying learning and behavior in both humans and animals. Students will be introduced to the scientific study of learning with an emphasis on how behavior changes as a function of experience. Historical and current perspectives on a range of topics, including (but not limited to) classical conditioning, operant conditioning, innate behavior, and philosophical assumptions about behavior will be examined. Finally, how the basic learning principles are relevant to everyday behavior will be discussed. **Credits: 3**

#### **ABA 501: Measurement and Research Methods in Behavior Analysis**

This course is designed to teach students the logic of single-subject and small-N designs, which are often used to evaluate the efficacy of a behavioral treatment for individual clients. Students will learn reliable procedures for measuring behavior, various methods of displaying (graphing) behavior, and how to visually analyze displayed data. In addition, students will learn how to identify and develop an applied research question, conduct a literature search, and design a single-subject research study to answer the research question. Issues related to evidenced-based practice and ethics in research will also be discussed. **Credits: 3**

#### **ABA 503: Behavior Analysis and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

This course will provide an overview of intellectual and developmental disabilities and the relation to behavior analysis. Students will gain a perspective on the history and changing perspectives of these disabilities. Both causal and contributing genetic and environmental factors for various conditions will be discussed. Students will examine a variety of disorders in terms of physical characteristics, brain changes, growth patterns, life expectancy, communication issues, health concerns, behavioral con-

cerns, and treatment. Disabilities examined will include Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and learning disabilities. In addition, students will discuss a variety of current issues related to intellectual and developmental disabilities, including early intervention, educational placement, transitioning between life stages, response to intervention, medication use, and fad therapies. Finally, students will examine the behavior-analytic literature related to assessment and intervention for individuals with developmental disabilities. **Credits: 3**

#### **ABA 600: Behavioral and Functional Assessment**

In this course, students will focus on best practices when assessing target behaviors to both increase and decrease. Students will learn indirect assessment and direct observation methods, experimental (functional) analysis, and methods to assess stimulus preference and adaptive, social, and communication skills. In addition, students will learn how to assimilate information derived from these methods to arrive at hypotheses of the function of a behavior and how to select an intervention method based on assessment results while using evidence-based practices in behavior analysis. Finally, ethical issues related to functional assessment and undesired side-effects of intervention strategies will be discussed. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 (may be taken concurrently) or permission of the Program Director.* **Credits: 3**

#### **ABA 601: Behavior-Analytic Interventions I**

This course is the first in a two-part series focusing on the application of behavioral principles in applied settings. There will be an emphasis on applications to behavior of social importance across multiple domains, including autism spectrum disorders, developmental and intellectual disabilities, clinical psychology, job effectiveness, education, exercise and health, business, criminology, and other areas. Students will learn to identify, implement, and maintain effective behavioral interventions based on behavioral principles of reinforcement,

punishment, extinction, stimulus control, and motivating operations. In addition, students will learn specific behavior-change procedures, including interventions based on antecedents, contingency contracts, group contingencies, and quantitative analyses. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and ABA 501 (may be taken concurrently) or permission of the Program Director.* **Credits: 3**

#### **ABA 602: Behavior-Analytic Interventions II**

This course is the second in a two-part series focusing on the application of behavioral principles in applied settings. There will be an emphasis on applications to behavior of social importance across multiple domains, including autism spectrum disorders, developmental and intellectual disabilities, clinical psychology, job effectiveness, education, exercise and health, business, criminology, and other areas. Students will learn to identify, implement, and maintain effective behavioral interventions based on stimulus control, simple and complex discriminations, errorless teaching procedures, and stimulus equivalence. In addition, students will learn specific behavior-change procedures, including self-management strategies, token economies, direct instruction, precision teaching, personalized systems of instruction, incidental teaching, functional communication training, and augmentative communication systems. Finally, students will learn to design, evaluate, and supervise the implementation of behavioral programs. *Prerequisites: ABA 601.* **Credits: 3**

#### **ABA 603: Ethical, Legal and Professional Topics in Behavior Analysis**

This course will provide students with an understanding of legal, professional, and ethical issues in the delivery of behavior-analytic services and the practice of behavior-analytic research. Students will develop the ability to correctly apply ethical principles under various conditions that represent ethical and/or legal challenges related to assessing behavior; selection of treatment protocols; evaluating behavior change; collaborating with other professionals; and relationships with clients, agencies, and colleagues. The Behavior Analyst Certi-



# Course Descriptions / 2017-18

fication Board's® (BACB) Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts will be used as the basis for ethical discussions. In addition, students will review the licensure rules and regulations guiding the practice of applied behavior analysis in Massachusetts. **Credits: 3**

## **ABA 604: Conceptual Foundations of Behavior Analysis**

This course will provide an introduction to the philosophy of behavioral science known as radical behaviorism. Students will learn how to distinguish between different forms of behaviorism and how to differentiate between behavioral and non-behavioral explanations of complex human behavior. In addition, the potential impact of radical behaviorism on society will be discussed. Topics will include private events (such as thinking and feeling emotions), verbal behavior, rule-governed behavior, culture, and society. *Prerequisites: ABA 500; Credits: 3*

## **ABA 605: The Experimental Analysis of Behavior**

This course will provide students with a survey of research areas in the experimental analysis of behavior. Students will be exposed to a variety of topics in the basic literature related to reinforcement, behavior in transition, aversive control, stimulus control, and derived relations. There will be an emphasis on methodological and conceptual issues, and students will discuss the translation of these topics to solve social problems. *Prerequisites: ABA 500 and ABA 501; Credits: 3*

## **ABA 700: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis I**

All students will complete at least three semesters of practicum to obtain experience implementing behavior-analytic interventions. In the first semester of practicum, students will accumulate their first 350 hours of verified practicum experience. This experience will take place at the student's work or volunteer site. Individual supervision will be provided weekly at the student's fieldwork site and group supervision will be provided weekly on campus. Each student will be required to complete an average of 25 hours per week of applied work

in behavior analysis, and each student will receive at least 7.5% of their hours supervised per week. All supervision will be provided by Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including conducting behavioral assessments, writing behavior-change programs, implementing and monitoring skill-acquisition and behavior-reduction programs, and staff training and management. *Prerequisites: ABA 500; permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

## **ABA 701: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis II**

All students will complete at least three semesters of practicum to obtain experience implementing behavior-analytic interventions. In the second semester of practicum, students will accumulate their second 350 hours of verified practicum experience. This experience will take place at the student's work or volunteer site. Individual supervision will be provided weekly at the student's fieldwork site and group supervision will be provided weekly on campus. Each student will be required to complete an average of 25 hours per week of applied work in behavior analysis, and each student will receive at least 7.5% of their hours supervised per week. All supervision will be provided by Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including conducting behavioral assessments, writing behavior-change programs, implementing and monitoring skill-acquisition and behavior-reduction programs, and staff training and management. *Prerequisites: ABA 603; ABA 700; and permission of the Program Director. Credits: 3*

## **ABA 702: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis III**

All students will complete at least three semesters of practicum to obtain experience implementing behavior-analytic interventions. In the third semester of practicum, students will accumulate their final 350 hours of verified practicum experience. This experience will take place at the student's work or volunteer site. Individual supervision will be provided weekly at the student's fieldwork site and group supervision

will be provided weekly on campus. Each student will be required to complete an average of 25 hours per week of applied work in behavior analysis, and each student will receive at least 7.5% of their hours supervised per week. All supervision will be provided by Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Students should expect to complete a variety of behavior-analytic activities, including conducting behavioral assessments, writing behavior-change programs, implementing and monitoring skill-acquisition and behavior-reduction programs, and staff training and management. *Prerequisites: ABA 701; permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

## **ABA 804: Integrative Seminar in ABA**

This course is designed to integrate conceptual, basic and applied topics related to behavior analysis. Students will focus on case conceptualization, behavioral assessment in a variety environments, and development and evaluation of treatment options. Students will be encouraged to develop sophisticated, fluent, and in-depth understanding of behavioral topics. In addition, students will explore professional issues related to the practice of applied behavior analysis. *Prerequisites: Permission of the Program Director; Credits: 3*

## **PSY 502: Psychology of Development\***

An examination of human growth and development during infancy through adolescence. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between theory, research, and application of knowledge in child development through a consideration of different theoretical perspectives (psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive-developmental), current research on selected topics (e.g., prenatal influences, perceptual and cognitive development, cross cultural differences in child rearing), and intervention programs designed to stimulate cognitive and social development in infants and young children. *Prerequisites: Six undergraduate courses in psychology. Credits: 3*

## **SCP 545: Human Growth and Development through the Life Span\***

This course provides in-depth study of human growth and development in the physical, cognitive, language, and social and emotional domains with an emphasis on both typical and atypical development. The positive contributions and limitations of various developmental theories and conceptual frameworks are examined. Throughout the course, students consider the relationship between development and the selection of appropriate educational services and interventions for children and adolescents with special needs. **Credits: 3**

## **RCP 530: Introduction to Counseling Theory and Practice**

This course examines the fundamental principles and techniques of the major counseling theories, including Person-centered, Cognitive-Behavioral, Gestalt, Reality, Psychoanalytic, and Behavior and their applicability to the role of the rehabilitation counselor. Students will have an opportunity to develop and practice fundamental counseling skills. Students will also examine common ethical issues that arise in the counseling relationship and the nature and importance of supervision in counseling. **Credits: 3**

*\*Students may choose to take PSY 502 or SCP 545 depending on the semester the course is taken*

### OPTIONAL COURSES:

#### **ABA 800: Pre-thesis Seminar in ABA**

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript

and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites: ABA 500; ABA 501; Permission of the Program Director; Credits: 1*

#### **ABA 801: MA Thesis in ABA I**

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites: ABA 800; Permission of the Program Director; Credits: 1*

#### **ABA 802: MA Thesis in ABA II**

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, students will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites: Permission of the Program Director; Credits: 2*

#### **ABA 803: MA Thesis in ABA III**

The optional thesis in applied behavior analysis shall consist of six credits distributed across four consecutive semesters in which one credit is earned during each of the first two semesters and two credits are earned during each of the second two semesters. During the first semester, stu-

dents will choose a thesis advisor, identify at least two committee members, select an applied research topic, and conduct a literature search. In the second semester, students will write an introduction, develop a research design, and secure committee and IRB approvals. In the third and fourth semesters, students will collect and analyze their data, write their thesis manuscript and defend their thesis to their committee members. *Prerequisites: Permission of the Program Director; Credits: 2*



“Understanding the theories and practices is important to realizing how they can be applied, and that is what you get from this program.”

**-STEPHEN BLAISDELL '11  
(CURRENT STUDENT)**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER,  
CROSSROADS SCHOOL**



## Beyond the Classroom

### City Living in the Heart of New England

Assumption College is located in Worcester Massachusetts, New England's second-largest city, and home to 12 colleges and more than 30,000 students. The campus is nestled on 185 park-like acres in a safe and serene section of the city, with easy access to internships and entertainment.

The college offers graduate students the opportunity to attend numerous free lectures and events, and you have complete access to the Plourde Recreation Center, a state-of-the-art facility with a beautiful pool, cardio and weight machines, and racquetball and squash courts.

Listed on Forbes.com as one of the top-10 most livable cities in the country, metro-Worcester has a population of almost 800,000. Fine dining to exotic foods, an eclectic music scene and a vibrant art community are part of the diverse culture of the city. Whether it's sports teams, concerts by highly acclaimed artists, or national theatrical touring companies, there are numerous entertainment options in Worcester.

Travel to nearby Boston on one of the numerous daily trains from Worcester. The diverse beauties of New England are just an hour's drive away, with mountains to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Boston, Providence and Hartford are about 45 miles away and New York City is a three-hour drive.



“I hope to gain the proper skills to go into the field and work with young children or adults to help reduce problem behaviors for struggling families. I am hoping to...really make a change for the people I support.”

**ASHLEY PERRY  
(CURRENT STUDENT)**

SHARED LIVING CASE MANAGER,  
SEVEN HILLS FOUNDATION



**GRADUATE STUDIES  
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE**

Light the way.

Graduate Studies Office  
Assumption College  
500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
p 508.767.7387 f 508.767.4412 e-mail: [graduate@assumption.edu](mailto:graduate@assumption.edu)  
[www.assumption.edu/graduate](http://www.assumption.edu/graduate)

NOTE: The College reserves the right to withdraw or modify any of the courses or programs listed in this viewbook, or to cancel any course or program for which it deems the registration insufficient, or to make any course or regulation change it considers necessary. The College further reserves the right to suspend the acceptance of applications in particular programs.