Special Education (Applied Behavior Analysis), MA

ASU’s Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College is one of the top-ranked graduate colleges of education in the U.S. Our graduate programs develop collaborative leaders who bring people and ideas together to enrich the lives of learners, amplify the impact of educators and improve the performance of education systems.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Special Education (Applied Behavior Analysis)
The MA program in special education with a concentration in applied behavior analysis combines research and experience to prepare professionals to use principles of ABA with individuals who have special learning and behavior needs. The coursework prepares students to use applied behavior analysis to address a variety of learning and behavior needs across a range of professions and settings. All courses are online, combining an assortment of resources and technologies to provide students the opportunity to interact directly with program faculty and classmates.

Program graduates are well prepared to provide applied behavior analysis and evidence-based consultative services and support to clients, community and family members across a variety of settings. Coursework is verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board for students interested in sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst examination. BCBA supervised independent fieldwork, required for certification, is arranged and completed by the student separately from their ASU coursework.

At a Glance

- College/School: Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
- Location: online
Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including the required applied project course (SPE 593), or
30 credit hours including the required capstone course (SPE 597)

Required Core (3 credit hours)
SPE 525 Measurement, Data Display, Interpretation and Experimental Design (3)

Concentration (18 credit hours)
SPE 526 Concepts and Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
SPE 527 Behavior Analytic Assessment (3)
SPE 560 Behavior Change Procedures: Implementing Interventions in Behavior Analysis (3)
SPE 562 Personnel Supervision and Organizational Behavior Management in Educational Settings (3)
SPE 563 Philosophical Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis in Educational Settings (3)
SPE 567 Ethics of Applied Behavior Analysis (3)

Electives (6 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
SPE 593 Applied Project (3)
SPE 597 Capstone (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students may choose to complete a remote supervised independent fieldwork practicum (SPE 580).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution. A degree in education or another field related to applied behavior analysis is preferred.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. three letters of recommendation
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The personal statement should demonstrate the applicant’s goals with respect to the program outcomes and success in a graduate and online program. The statement should also demonstrate high-quality writing and awareness that the student understands the demands of graduate school.

Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program are required for admission.

Attend Online
ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Career Opportunities
Professionals with expertise in evidence-based practices in ABA are in high demand across sectors and industries, including education, business and health care.

Career examples include:

- ABA therapist
- behavior specialist
- board-certified behavior analyst
- consultant
- early interventionist
- educator
- organizational behavior management

Contact Information
Educational Leadership & Innovation, Division | FAB 200
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Admission Deadlines