

Applied Behavior Analysis, MS (Primarily Online)

The Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis program seeks to equip graduates with the skills to provide effective, compassionate behavior analytic services to students and clients across the life span in a variety of settings. The program was designed to provide flexible options to meet coursework and supervised fieldwork requirements for Pathway 2 eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst examination. Courses explore the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis in-depth and address its scientific and philosophical underpinnings. With this background, successful graduates are prepared to address the most complex behavior problems and learning challenges.

Curriculum

The program requires completion of a 30-semester-hour course sequence and offers an option to add on up to 4 semester hours to accrue further supervision at Northeastern University. The required sequence includes eight core courses, two experiential learning courses, and two courses that will guide students through completion of a scholarly project. Successful completion of the scholarly project is a graduation requirement.

Courses are delivered in online and hybrid formats, with the majority of work able to be completed asynchronously. Specific courses also include optional or required in-person or synchronous remote meeting times. Each semester students will enroll in online and hybrid courses, with required on-ground coursework on the Charlotte campus.

REQUIRED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Required experiential learning courses, Experiential Learning in Skill Acquisition (CAEP 8412) and Experiential Learning in Behavioral Supervision (CAEP 8413), give students practice engaging in behavior analytic activities. Additionally, students may elect to accrue supervised fieldwork toward BCBA® eligibility through these classes. These courses require attendance in synchronous meetings. Students will complete assignments at one of the program's national partner organizations or their own approved workplace.

OPTIONAL INTENSIVE PRACTICUM

Students may also elect to enroll in optional intensive practicum courses; Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis 1 (CAEP 8417) and Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis 2 (CAEP 8418). Students enrolled in these courses meet and complete work at a national partner organization or their own approved workplace. This experience can meet requirements for supervised fieldwork toward BCBA® eligibility.

PROJECT-BASED COURSES

During the final year of the program students will enroll in Systematic Inquiry in Behavior Analysis 1 (CAEP 7412) and Systematic Inquiry in Behavior Analysis 2 (CAEP 7413). This set of courses is designed for students to progressively complete a scholarly project. Students will be able to select the type of project. The outcome of the first semester will be a presented proposal, and a final written report will be the outcome of the second semester.

Successful completion of the scholarly project is a graduation requirement. Students who do not complete the project by the end of CAEP 7413 may enroll in one semester of a continuation course. Students should discuss course options with the program director.

Programs of Study

Students who follow the sample program of study, taking 6 semester hours per academic term, will complete the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis in 20 months. Courses are offered during the fall, spring, and full summer semesters with each course being offered twice per year.

Alternative options to this program of study may include:

- Completing the program in more than five semesters—this involves taking 3 semester hours for some or all of the semesters during the program.
- Enrolling in optional intensive practicum courses—this involves adding up to two additional courses to the program of study to accrue additional supervised fieldwork hours while enrolled in the program.

Students planning on changing their program of study must complete an Alternative Program of Study form and have it approved by their faculty advisor to avoid semesters where courses they need are not offered.

Policies and Procedures

Please see Bouvé College of Health Sciences Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/health-sciences/academic-policies-procedures/>). Program-specific policies follow below.

GRADING, ACADEMIC PROBATION, AND ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

If a student earns a grade of B– or lower, they will be placed on academic probation. In order to return to nonprobationary status, the student must retake the course during the next semester in which it is offered and earn a B or better. Failure to do so or earning a B– or below in any remaining course will result in dismissal from the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis program.

COURSE PROGRESSION

Students are expected to register for at least one course per academic term. In order to take a semester off (including the full summer semester), students must contact their faculty advisor to inform them of the timeline and apply for a leave of absence. Students who do not apply for a leave of absence prior to skipping a semester may need to reapply when returning to their coursework.

TRANSFERRING BETWEEN MS IN ABA PROGRAMS

Students who would like to transfer between MS in ABA programs at Northeastern University may do so one time. They must be in good academic standing in the program they are currently enrolled in. Students should connect with the program director of their current program to discuss transferring and to start the process.

Program Requirements

Students must complete all core, experiential learning, and project-based courses, including defense of their scholarly project, to successfully complete the program.

Milestones

Scholarly project defense

Core Courses

Students enrolled in the program must complete Behavioral Concepts and Principles (CAEP 6326) and Ethics for Behavior Analysts (CAEP 6329) with a grade of B or better prior to registering for other courses unless otherwise advised.

Code	Title	Hours
CAEP 6326	Behavioral Concepts and Principles	3
CAEP 6327	Behavior Assessment	3
CAEP 6328	Single-Case Research Design	3
CAEP 6329	Ethics for Behavior Analysts	3
CAEP 6341	Behavioral Interventions	3
CAEP 6342	Consultation, Supervision, and Management	3
CAEP 6343	Radical Behaviorism and Verbal Behavior	3
CAEP 6344	Experimental Analysis of Behavior	3

Experiential Learning Courses

Experiential learning courses require students to have a site at which they are able to complete behavior analytic projects. There are additional requirements for students wishing to accrue supervised fieldwork hours through these courses.

These courses require participation in weekly synchronous meetings. Each semester, the director of supervision will connect with students to communicate requirements for an adequate worksite to complete all required activities and meeting times. It is the responsibility of the student to comply with all deadlines throughout this process, or they will not be permitted to enroll in the course.

A grade of Satisfactory (S) is required for the following:

Code	Title	Hours
CAEP 8412	Experiential Learning in Skill Acquisition	2
CAEP 8413	Experiential Learning in Behavioral Supervision	2

Project-Based Courses

The project-based courses are designed to be taken concurrently so that students are guided through completion of a scholarly project. Prior to enrolling in Systematic Inquiry in Behavior Analysis 1 (CAEP 7412), students will attend orientation to become familiar with course and project requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
CAEP 7412	Systematic Inquiry in Behavior Analysis 1	1
CAEP 7413	Systematic Inquiry in Behavior Analysis 2	1

Optional Courses

Students may elect to take up to two intensive practicum courses to fulfill additional supervised fieldwork hours. In order to register for these classes, students must complete all preparation tasks the semester prior to enrollment.

These courses can be started during the student's second semester in the program. These courses may not be completed in the same term as experiential learning courses Experiential Learning in Skill Acquisition (CAEP 8412) and Experiential Learning in Behavioral Supervision (CAEP 8413).

Contact the director of supervision for additional information and preparation tasks.

Code	Title	Hours
CAEP 8417	Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis 1	2
CAEP 8418	Intensive Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis 2	2

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

30 total semester hours required

Grade of B or higher required in each course, unless otherwise indicated

Minimum 3.000 GPA required