

***MASTER OF ARTS IN
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS***

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

***School of Behavioral Sciences & Education
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Penn State's Capital College and to the Applied Behavior Analysis Master of Arts Program. This handbook has been designed to introduce you to our program and help guide you through your graduate coursework, internship and research project. The faculty and staff wish you every success in graduate school and look forward to your receiving your degree within the next few years.

OVERVIEW OF CAPITAL COLLEGE

Capital College, part of the Penn State University system, is the only upper division graduate center in Pennsylvania. Undergraduates can now begin their education here as freshmen or transfer from another Penn State campus, community college, or other accredited college or university. Capital College offers 20 master's degree programs, two doctoral level programs, as well as certificate and certification programs.

Capital College is tied in a variety of ways to the University, most particularly in terms of graduate education. Certain regulations, procedures, and decisions emanate directly from the Graduate School, while others are locally mandated, as pointed out in this handbook.

Capital College's academic units are organized into six schools. The ABA program is in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education. Our School has a two-tiered structure that is responsible for the administration of our academic programs. The first level of decision-making responsibility rests with the individual program. For the Applied Behavior Analysis Program, this position is currently filled by Dr. Kimberly A. Schreck, ABA Program Coordinator. Dr. Schreck makes decisions and resolves conflicts at the program level. The Behavioral Sciences portion of our School has several different undergraduate and graduate level programs, of which Applied Behavior Analysis is just one. Dr. William Milheim is the School Director and is responsible for the overall operation and administration of the entire School of Behavioral Sciences and Education.

The Penn State Harrisburg ABA faculty and staff assistant, Mrs. Kathy Ritter, have their offices in W311 on the third floor of the Olmsted Building. Dr. Milheim's office is located in W315 on the third floor of the Olmsted Building.

Many student services and activities are offered at Capital College. To acquaint yourself with these services and activities, obtain a copy of the Student Handbook published each academic year or you can contact Donald Holtzman, Director of Student Affairs in Room C120.

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Academic Criteria

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited academic institution, with at least 18 credits in psychology, education, or related disciplines and a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above in the last 60 credits. Scores from the Graduate Record Exam are required in the verbal, quantitative, and analytic portions. A personal interview may be required.

Provisional Admission

Occasionally, the faculty will admit students provisionally to the ABA Program. Provisional admission is given to students who demonstrate promise, but who have minor deficiencies at the time of application. Such students are admitted with the understanding that all deficiencies must be remedied before they can be considered to be degree students.

Provisional students will need to remove these deficiencies within 2 semesters or 15 credits, whichever occurs first. Please note that courses taken to make up admissions deficiencies do not count toward graduation.

Nondegree Student Status

A nondegree student may transfer 10 graduate credits toward the degree program. These credits must have been earned within the last 5 years. Nondegree students wishing formal admittance to the program must go through regular admissions procedures. It should be noted that, for ethical reasons, nondegree status cannot be

used as a means for students to obtain training or experience in behavior analysis for which they may not otherwise qualify. In essence, this means that registration for most of the Applied Behavior Analysis courses is restricted to those students who are admitted to the program.

An exception to this rule can be made for nondegree students who have already successfully completed Master's or Doctoral level training in a related field, and who require additional ABA coursework to meet BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) certification or continued education requirements. To register for these courses prerequisites must be met, instructor permission must be granted, and space must be available. In general, course availability and restrictions noted for nondegree students also apply to students currently enrolled in other graduate programs.

Transfer Credits

A student may transfer up to 10 credits of graduate work done at an accredited institution, pending approval of the Applied Behavior Analysis Program coordinator. These credits must appear on an *official* graduate transcript, *must* be of "A" or "B" grade value and *must* have been earned within 5 years prior to admission to Penn State Harrisburg. Students are cautioned that the ABA program can not guarantee approval by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board of courses taken at other institutions.

These courses can be transferred at anytime, but it would be advantageous to do so soon after admission to the program. If your advisor agrees that some courses are transferrable, pick up a "Transfer of Credit from an External Institution" form from Academic Records or the program office. Return the completed form, along with an official transcript of the courses to be transferred, to your advisor or the department staff assistant. We will then obtain the necessary signatures and process the form. Please note, however, that credits earned to complete a master's degree *cannot* be used again toward a second master's degree.

THE APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM

Behavior Analysis in Pennsylvania

Applied Behavior Analysis is a specialty that has been evolving since the mid-1960's as an area of extensive basic and applied research and as a profession of behavior change. Applied Behavior Analysis can be differentiated from other areas in psychology in that it is focused on analyzing and modifying behavior using well established principles of learning that stress environmental variables that can be manipulated directly to improve performance. The Central Pennsylvania area has become a center of professional behavior analysis activity in the past ten years with a number of PhDs with specialty training in behavior analysis on the faculty of PSU or in active professional behavior analysis practice in the area.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Association for Behavior Analysis (Penn ABA) is a chapter of the National Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA-International) with over 100 members, providing opportunities for students to present research, network with employers, and earn continuing education credits. The ABA program at Penn State Harrisburg was instrumental in founding the Pennsylvania Association for Behavior Analysis and remains its headquarters. Dr. Foxx, who teaches in the ABA Program, was its first president and remains its executive director. The majority of PSU ABA students attend the annual Penn ABA conference in April/May.

Program Description

The masters program is unique in Pennsylvania and offers the opportunity to work with world renowned faculty. The Master of Arts degree in Applied Behavior Analysis is offered only at the Harrisburg Penn State Campus. The program is intended for both part-time and full-time students and is designed to allow the students to complete the course of study for a Master's in ABA within a reasonable time period as well as to continue working if necessary.

The study content within the program encompasses the field of behavior analysis. The field of behavior analysis comprises a basic science and its associated applications. Applied behavior analysts specialize in applying behavioral principles to

solve performance problems, build new behavior and strengthen existing appropriate behavior. Career choices are varied because expertise in measuring, analyzing and changing behavior is needed in many areas. Behavior analysts work in schools, universities, human service settings, business and industry, and government agencies. Clients range from children with autism, to students with academic skills deficits, to entire companies that have difficulties with employee performance.

The purpose of this master's program is to:

1. Teach the principles, theory and research methods of applied behavior analysis and the experimental analysis of behavior.
2. Teach procedures for systematic application of behavioral technology in natural environments.
3. Provide practical experience in functional analysis and designing, implementing, and evaluating behavioral intervention programs.

The overall training model emphasizes the core areas of the discipline including the scientific basis of behavior analysis, as well as, how biological, social, and individual differences affect human behavior. Training emphasizes the development of both assessment and intervention skills.

The program provides students with training in behavior analysis to enable them to follow either of two courses upon graduation:

1. Professional employment:

Graduates from ABA masters programs have worked as autism treatment specialists in home based and autism treatment centers, behavior analysts with governmental agencies, behavior specialists with public schools, consultants in the performance management division of retail companies, consultants to public schools and to state agencies for behavioral services, designers of behavioral programs for juvenile delinquent intervention services, directors of work teams in hospitals, and management support for electronics and software firms. Behavior Analysts are also working in areas related to addiction, marriage and family relations, behavior and learning disorders, developmental disabilities, stress and relaxation, parent and child

interactions, child abuse and neglect, behavioral safety, educational reform, curriculum development and evaluation, parent and staff training, and language development. Behavior analysts can be self-employed or work in educational, community, or residential agencies. To obtain more information concerning fields using behavior analysis, you may want to explore <http://www.behavior.org>; or <http://www.abainternational.org>.

The majority of PSU ABA graduates will seek employment as Board Certified Behavior Analysts at the Masters level. Thus, the program is designed to prepare master's level graduates to function in community settings as applied behavior analysts and provide the academic training and internship experience necessary for graduates to apply for national board certification in behavior analysis. **The course work and internship experiences of the Penn State ABA program have been approved by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board. Upon graduation of the PSU ABA program, you will have completed all qualifications to sit for the Behavior Analysis certification examination.**

2. Doctoral study in behavior analysis:

Behavior analysts with doctoral degrees have careers as consultants in the private sector, as faculty in universities, or as researchers and practitioners in medical schools and educational and human services agencies. Our degree program will provide a strong foundation on which to build a doctoral specialty. Although the program is designed to train master's level practitioners, graduates may prepare for admission to Ph.D. programs to continue advanced study in applied behavior analysis or the experimental analysis of behavior. The ABA Masters program at Penn State Harrisburg provides excellent preparation for those who wish to pursue doctoral study.

The program maintains excellent relations with behavior analysts at other major universities and in the non-academic public and private sector. These relationships provide many settings for behavior analysis internship experiences in the Central Pennsylvania area, which will provide students with ample opportunities to practice and extend their behavioral skills.

Students who intend to pursue Ph.D. level training are advised to discuss this with their advisors early in their studies in the program. This will allow the student and advisor to develop a learning, research, and experience plan to assist with admission to doctoral programs. Students with these plans are also encouraged to volunteer to assist faculty and other students in potentially publishable research projects.

Degree Conferred

The Applied Behavior Analysis program offers the Master of Arts degree upon satisfactorily completing all program requirements.

Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for graduation from the Applied Behavior Analysis program, students need to have earned at least 33 credit hours of required and approved elective coursework (see list below), with a minimum GPA of 3.0, and successful completion of the 9 credit Internship (ABA 595) and Research Project (ABA 594A). All 27 credits from the list of required courses must be earned, plus six (6) credits of electives. With the consent of the Applied Behavior Analysis Program Coordinator, elective credit from other programs may be used. Students are again cautioned that the PSU ABA program can not guarantee approval toward certification qualification by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board of courses taken at other institutions. Please note that waiving of required courses is not an option, except when a student has been allowed to transfer equivalent credits. The total number of required credits is 33.

Required and Elective Courses

A. Required Courses (27 credits)

ABA	597	Behavior Modification (3) (<i>pending number designation</i>)
ABA	500	Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3)
ABA	522	Single Subject Research (3)
ABA	533	Applied Analysis of Behavior (3)
ABA	588	Ethics and Legal issues in ABA (3)
ABA	594A	Research Project (3)
ABA	595	Internship (9)

B. Approved Elective Courses (6 credits)

- ABA 555 Behavioral Interventions in Autism (3)
- ABA 566 Behavioral Pediatrics (3)
- ABA 577 Behavioral Assessment and Treatment (3)
- PSYC 444 Treatment & Education In Developmental Disabilities (3)
- PSYC 592 Current Topics (3)
- ABA 597 Special Topics (1-3)

Courses by Semester Typically Offered and Prerequisites

Fall Offerings		Course Prerequisites
ABA 533	Applied Analysis of Behavior	Admission to ABA program or permission of program
ABA 595A	Internship	Prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor
ABA 500	Experimental Analysis of Behavior	Admission to ABA program or permission of program
ABA 555	Behavioral Interventions in Autism	Admission to ABA program or permission of program
PSYC 444	Treatment & Education in Developmental Disabilities	PSY 002
ABA 597	Special Topics	

Spring Offerings		Course Prerequisites
ABA 597	Behavior Modification (pending number designation)	Admission to ABA program or permission of program
ABA 522	Single Subject Design	Admission to ABA program or permission of program
ABA 577	Behavioral Assessment and Treatment	Admission to ABA program or permission of program
ABA 595	Internship	Prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor
ABA 588	Ethics and Legal Issues	Admission to ABA program or permission of instructor
ABA 597	Special Topics	
Summer Offerings		Course Prerequisites
ABA 595	Internship	Prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor

Research Project

The completion of a Research Project (ABA 594A) is a degree requirement for all Applied Behavior Analysis students. Examples of projects have included ABA program development, treatment and/or training manual development, single subject

research design studies, and group design studies examining behavioral issues. You should begin thinking about your research project no later than your second semester (for full time students) or completion of approximately your first 9 credits. The following suggestions may help you to choose a project, major project advisor, etc.:

- 1) **“Question book”:** As you start your first classes in ABA, keep a list or book of possible research questions that interest you (from class, discussions with fellow students, faculty, alumni, etc or from research articles), problems at your job site, difficulties that you have had in the ABA field, etc..

- 2) **Talk to other’s about their research or projects:** Meet with faculty, other students, and PSU ABA alumni about their current research or employment situations. They may have an idea or current project that you could take over or can assist you in formulating a research project related to an ongoing project.

- 3) **Immerse yourself in the literature:** Read ABA journals for articles of interest. Examples of ABA and related journals may include:
 - Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis
 - Behavioral Interventions
 - Behavior Modification
 - Journal of Experimental Analysis of Behavior
 - Journal of Organizational Behavior Management
 - Journal of Behavioral Education
 - Analysis of Verbal Behavior
 - The Journal of Early and Intensive Behavior Intervention
 - Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
 - Research in Developmental Disabilities
 - Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities
 - Journal of Intellectual Disability Research
 - Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities
 - Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry

Journal of Behavioral Medicine
Journal of Developmental & Physical Disabilities
Journal of Precision Teaching

Create questions and possible research project extensions based on the articles that you have read. It will also be helpful to keep computer files of pdf copies of articles (e.g., by author, subject, etc.) and reference lists. These articles and reference lists will be helpful in classes, your research project, your future career, and in finding appropriate publication outlets for your research.

- 4) **Attend Conferences:** Attend conferences, such as Penn ABA and ABA. Information from speakers and workshops can help with developing your knowledge and interest areas.

- 5) **Attend mandatory Library (Fall semester) and Writing Workshops (Spring Semester):** To assist students with library search strategies, choosing and narrowing research topics, etc. The program will offer a 1-2 hour seminar every fall semester for students to become acquainted with the library. In the spring semester a 1-2 hour writing workshop including citations/plagiarism, APA style, and general writing instructions will be given.

All students are encouraged to attend these workshops during their first year of enrollment. However, you must attend the workshops before being assigned a grade for your research project. You will have to show your research project supervisor the signed certificates (at back of program manual) confirming that you have attended these two workshops during your enrollment in the ABA program.

- 6) **Meet with a possible advisor:** Once you have your topics of interest,

meet with a possible project advisor. Try to choose a faculty member with a similar interest and present your topics of interest.

The faculty member supervising your project will oversee the entire process including the final approval and awarding of a grade. This process is a shaping process. Most students will revise their project multiple times before approaching the final project goal. You should have completed and submitted to your supervisor a “finalized” written product of your research project no later than the second week of the semester you intend to graduate. This will allow the supervisor time to assess if the project can be completed in time for graduation, the extent of revisions required, and any possible modifications or additions to the project.

Advisement

Graduate school can at times be quite stressful. The work demands and the expectations for high quality naturally exceed those of your undergraduate days. In order to ease this stress and guide you through your graduate studies, you will be assigned an advisor and we recommend that you maintain frequent contact with him/her. Your advisor can help you arrange your courses, recommend internships, suggest research experience, advise you on your research project, and counsel you regarding career or doctoral program decisions. However, please feel free to talk with any of the other ABA faculty members if you have questions. In addition, Mrs. Ritter is knowledgeable regarding the program, University policy and procedures, and can more than likely answer routine questions or tell you who can.

Scheduling of Courses

It is highly recommended that you consult with your advisor before registering for courses, as some courses may have prerequisites or be designed to be taken sequentially with other courses. This will be a convenient time to "touch base" with your advisor about other concerns or issues that might come up. The schedule on the web is the most current and reliable source of information and can be found at: <http://eLion.psu.edu>. You need to register early for classes to ensure sufficient enrollment or risk having a class you need closed. Do not delay in your course

selection.

Courseload

For graduate students, nine (9) credits is considered to be a full time courseload. Registering for more than nine credits must be approved by your advisor. Fewer than nine (9) credits are considered to be a part-time courseload.

Grading System

Keep in mind that you must have at least a GPA of 3.0 or better to graduate. This means that you will need to earn A's and B's in all courses. Note that a grade of "C or below" indicates inadequate achievement in all classes and cannot be used to meet degree requirements. In this case, a grade of "C or below" means that this course must be taken again and a grade of "B" or better must be earned. Pass/fail credit is not available for graduate students. Additionally, extra credit or extra assignments to improve course grades is typically not given in ABA graduate classes. The following grading system will be in effect for all graduate students:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
D	1.00
F	0.00

Grades can be obtained through several sources such as eLION. Grades, transcripts, tuition charges, course schedules, deadlines, financial aid information, Federal Loan Check information, etc., can also be obtained on the Internet through eLion at <http://eLion.psu.edu>.

Program Termination Policy

All students need to maintain a 3.0 GPA or better and achieve a B or better in

each course. The Program will issue an academic warning to any student whose cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 in any one semester and the student will have one semester to bring his/her GPA up to a 3.0 or better. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.

Students whose academic performance is in immediate jeopardy or against whom serious allegations of professional misconduct arise, will be reviewed/investigated as necessary. In addition to poor scholarship, termination from the Program can also result from a verified ethical or conduct violation of American Psychological Association standards.

Deferred and “R” Grades

In cases of personal hardship, serious illness or injury, or some other extenuating circumstance, a student may be granted an extension of time beyond the regular semester by his/her instructor in which to complete course requirements. In such a case, a grade of DF (deferred) will appear temporarily on your transcript instead of a letter grade, which basically indicates an incomplete. The student must remove the DF from his/her records by completing all requirements for that course within nine (9) weeks from the beginning of the succeeding semester in which the student is registered (including Summer sessions). If the deferred grade is taken for the spring semester and you are not registered for summer classes, the deferred grade must be removed no later than 9 weeks into the Fall semester. Official deadlines for the removal of deferred grades can be obtained from the Academic Records Office or found on eLion. Failure to remove a deferred grade automatically results in a change of grade from a DF to an F. If the student and the instructor, for whatever reason, agree that the deadline will not be adequate, an extension may be requested. The instructor will need to send a written request for an extension of time (to a specified date) to the Dean in the Office of Graduate Programs, with a justifying statement. An “R” grade is sometimes issued for research or internship classes and does not have the same nine week constraints. You need to consult with the course instructor to agree on a time table for removal of an “R” grade.

Grade Mediation and Adjudication

It may happen that you wish to dispute a grade that you have received in a course. Should this occur, discuss the situation with the instructor first. If the grade is to be changed, the instructor must complete a grade change authorization form and obtain the signature of the ABA Coordinator. If the grade dispute cannot be resolved satisfactorily following your discussion with the instructor, you may appeal the decision by a petition filed with the College Good Offices Committee, but first consult with the course instructor and program coordinator. (See Senate Policy 47-20 in the Policies and Rules Handbook for details.)

Resolution of Student Concerns

If you have other concerns, speak with the instructor first (if it is course-related matter), or confer with your advisor. Many student concerns can be resolved in an informal manner. If the situation cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the advisor (or instructor) level, concerns should be shared directly with the Program Coordinator. If these procedures are followed and the problem still remains unsuccessfully resolved, then it is appropriate to consult with the School Director.

Annual Student Reviews

All full time students' academic progress will be reviewed annually. Part-time students will be reviewed after they have completed enough credits, 9, to warrant a review. These reviews will be conducted by the ABA faculty as a group. If a problem of academic progress or professional behavior exists, the student will receive a written summary of the faculty's appraisal of his/her the problem, as well as recommendations for improvement.

Interrupted Academic Progress

If a student has "stopped out" for only one semester, s/he will only need to contact the Enrollment Services office in order to resume their studies. However, if you

have “stopped out” for 2 or more consecutive semesters, or your GPA is below a 3.0, or you have reached your 8-year time limit, you will first need to contact your program office before you can resume your studies.

Time Limits for Degree Completion

The ABA curriculum is set up as a two-year or four-semester (plus summer) program for students attending full time. However, the University grants a period of eight (8) years from the date of entry into a graduate program to meet degree requirements. Five or six semesters is a realistic goal for full time students.

Students are responsible for placing their names on the graduation list by the first two weeks of the semester he/she intends to graduate. This does not guarantee that all prerequisites will be completed. Supervisors of master’s projects must have a completed product of the master’s project by midterm of the semester the student wishes to graduate. Final approval for graduation rests with the Program Coordinator, with decisions being made by approximately the 10th week of the semester the student intends to graduate.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Academic Integrity

The University's policies and sanctioned disciplinary actions regarding violations of academic integrity can be found in Penn State's Policies and Rules, a Student Affairs publication, Senate Policy 49-20, page 44. Familiarize yourself with the University's policy on academic integrity as contained in Policies and Rules. ABA program faculty take academic integrity seriously.

To summarize University policy, violations of academic integrity include (but are not limited to):

- 1) cheating on examinations or other assignments
- 2) plagiarism (including from text or assigned readings)
- 3) submitting someone else's work as one's own or having someone do your work for you
- 4) submitting a paper previously used in another course without permission of the new course instructor
- 5) unauthorized possession of an examination

Dishonesty regarding academic performance refers to all levels of assignments and examinations given to students by any course instructor. Students charged with violation of the University's policies regarding academic integrity will be notified. If students believe the charge to be false, resolution should be sought informally. Such students should discuss the matter first with the appropriate faculty member, such as the course instructor, and if not resolved at this level, then the Program Coordinator, Coordinator of Behavioral Sciences, the School Director, or Chancellor or other college official as necessary (refer to the order for Resolution of Student Concerns, p. 10). There are formal due process procedures that a student and/or instructor can take if the infraction will result in an F for the course, or if the instructor believes the infraction to be a serious one. Depending on the nature and seriousness of the infraction, disciplinary action can range from a warning to expulsion from Penn State Harrisburg (see Policies and Rules at, <http://www.psu.edu/ur/students.html> .

Acts of Intolerance*

Students need to become familiar with the University's policy regarding acts of intolerance (see Policies and Rules, Policy Statement 5). In general, the University and our ABA faculty (not to mention the First Amendment of the United States Constitution) is committed to an educational environment that fosters respect for others' points of view and opinions and the expression of them. Acts of intolerance are any actions committed by any student or University employee that is motivated by contempt for individuals or groups based on shared characteristics such as, but not limited to, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and religious belief. The University simply will not tolerate such acts of intolerance. Disciplinary action can be severe, including termination or dismissal from the University.

* also refer to University Policy Manual, AD-29, AD-41, and AD-42.

Acts of Sexual Harassment**

Students also need to familiarize themselves with the University's policy regarding acts of sexual harassment (see Policies and Rules, Policy Statement 7). Briefly, the University protects the rights of all students and University employees, whether male or female, from any unwanted verbal and/or physical sexual advance, that is used as the basis for decisions regarding such student's or employee's job, academic standing, etc.; that unduly interferes with such student's or employee's work or academic performance; or creates an intolerable work or academic atmosphere for such student or employee. Persons experiencing sexual harassment can contact the ABA Program Coordinator, Student Affairs, the Affirmative Action Office, or see the Reference Section, Policies and Rules for a listing of names, phone numbers, and addresses of sexual harassment resource persons on Penn State campuses.

Good Citizenship

The ABA program is committed to good citizenship. Silence is interpreted as acceptance. If you have knowledge of an act of intolerance or other offense being committed against a fellow member of the college community and you “look the other way”, you are contributing to a culture in which such behavior is tolerated. Good

citizenship would include making your disapproval known in a constructive way. Feel free to consult with a member of the Student Assistance staff (W117, 717/948-6025), a representative of the College's Diversity and Equity Committee, or a designated Sexual Harassment resource person if you feel uncomfortable with the climate on campus.

**also refer to University Policy Manual, AD-42.

RESOURCES

Publications

Throughout this handbook, we have referred to various published and informal sources of information. We recommend that you obtain and become familiar with two other published sources. Valuable information on University-wide policies regarding graduate level education can be found in the Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin at <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu>. Another indispensable publication is APA Style Manual (5th ed). This is a book that you will refer to constantly, as most of your courses will require you to present your written work according to current APA style guidelines. The bookstore carries the APA manual. There is also an office copy of each kept by Mrs. Sessamen for quick reference.

Research Opportunities

All ABA faculty maintain active research programs and welcome the assistance of talented graduate students in carrying out their research. Students are encouraged to become involved in research activities. This work may be part of a research internship, independent study, or master's paper. Read the faculty profiles, talk to the faculty, and attend research presentations/colloquia where current projects are discussed to acquaint yourself with the areas in which your faculty are involved. Students involved in research will be afforded the opportunity to help design studies, assist in data collection and conduct data analyses. Students also have the opportunity to co-author professional presentations and/or publications with the faculty. We encourage students to share their research experiences by presenting their results on-campus, and off-campus at research conferences.

Funding Opportunities

There are a limited amount of funds available for graduate student research projects. Sometimes a student-faculty research grant available through the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies (Dr. Marian Walters, C114 Olmsted) can be used. Individual faculty members may have research grants or contracts that provide for hiring students on an hourly basis.

Student Assistance Center

The **Student Assistance Center** (W117 Olmsted) can assist you with goal setting, career decision making, educational guidance, advice about further graduate education, and personal counseling. They can also assist you in the following areas: cover letters and resumes, interviewing skills, and job search preparation and strategies. Off-campus part-time job openings and information about paid and unpaid summer opportunities are listed in this office.

The **Learning Center** (C216 Olmsted) offers support to all students. Assistance includes tutoring workshops and other services tailored to individual needs. Tutoring assistance in various courses is available on a group or individual basis. The location and hours for group tutoring will be posted at the beginning of each semester.

The **Writing Lab** (C216 Olmsted) is dedicated to helping all students with writing problems. Assistance is provided on a one-to-one basis, and students are guided through a program designed to produce results. The Lab stresses all the techniques required to complete papers, essays, or other types of written presentations. Appointments are recommended.

Library

Students are encouraged to meet the Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Bernadette Lear, early in their ABA studies. She is an invaluable resource for learning PSU Harrisburg's library, as well as, library searches in general.

The Library contains a basic collection of psychology books and journals; however, most of our students must rely on Interlibrary Loan services to complete class

assignments. This means you must plan ahead and allow plenty of time for the material you need to receive. There are several databases on line available for literature searches. The one most widely used by ABA students is Psych Info. The system is very user-friendly. A member of the Library staff will be happy to assist you until you feel comfortable with it. Also, the Library sponsors various workshops on the use of Library resources.

Students also may use the library at the Hershey Medical Center Unfortunately, you cannot check out books from Hershey but must use the University's Interlibrary Loan service.

Computer Facilities

The basement floor of Olmsted houses the main computer facilities on campus. All registered students are automatically assigned a Penn State Access account. To activate your computer account you must first obtain your photo ID from the Housing office (E122 Olmsted), then swipe your photo ID thru a signature station located on the basement floor of the Olmsted Building (C14). Please allow twenty-four hours for account activation. Also available to students through the Computer Center is the software necessary to gain access to Penn State's mainframe programs from your home computer. For those who do not have a computer, the Computer Center provides a computer lab equipped with both IBM compatible and Macintosh computers. Among the programs graduate students will most likely utilize are Microsoft Word, Eudora (email), LIAS (library searches), eLion (grades, registration), various world wide web sites (Internet), and SPSS (statistics). Computer skills are useful for a variety of careers, and are essential for graduate study. We encourage you to become a proficient computer user.

Professional Associations

The American Psychological Association is the world's largest organization of psychologists. Students majoring in psychology are eligible to become Student Affiliates of the organization. Applications are available in the Psychology Program office and your advisor is available to discuss the advantages of affiliating with APA.

You may also purchase low cost (\$25.00) professional liability insurance through APA (which is required if you want to do any field work, including internships and some research projects) and/or health insurance. You are encouraged to become a student affiliate during your first semester, especially if you may later need to obtain the liability insurance. See your advisor to obtain an endorsement if you decide to take advantage of the opportunity. Students obtaining their Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis are eligible to join the Association for Behavior Analysis International – the world's largest organization of Behavior Analysts - and Penn ABA.

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM STAFF

School Director

William D. Milheim, Director, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education (W315, 948-6205) is a Professor of Education. He was a postdoctoral fellow in Educational Psychology, received his Ph.D. in Educational Technology, and his M.Ed. in Community Health Education from Kent State University, and his B.A. in Psychology from the College of Wooster. He began his career in higher education as an instructional designer, providing instructional support for technology-based educational projects. He has published journal articles, edited a book and 8 book chapters related to design, development and utilization of instructional technology in addition to numerous presentations at conferences.

Program Faculty

RICHARD M. FOXX, Professor of Psychology (W311, 948-6041) is a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA), licensed psychologist and a Clinical Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine of Penn State. He is a fellow in 5 divisions of the American Psychological Association. He was president of ABA-international the largest group of behavior analysts in the world and of PENNABA, Pennsylvania's ABA-International chapter. His research interests include autism, behavioral pediatrics, problem solving and social skills training for normal and disordered populations, behavioral medicine, and child and adult clinical problems. His overall interest is in the application of learning based principles to improve the human condition. He received the Penn State Harrisburg Excellence in Research Award in 1997.

KIMBERLY A. SCHRECK, Coordinator and Associate Professor of Psychology (W311, 948-6048) is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a licensed psychologist with specialization in mental retardation and developmental disabilities, autism, behavior modification, early intervention, and childhood sleep disorders. Current research focuses on early intensive behavioral intervention for children with autism, sleep disorders for children with developmental disabilities, development of the

Behavioral Intervention for Disorders of Sleep (BEDS) scale, feeding problems, and behavioral interventions for childhood behavior problems.

KEITH WILLIAMS, Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Hershey Medical Center Feeding Clinic, 531-7117) is a board certified behavior analyst, licensed psychologist and Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine at Penn State. He runs the feeding program at the Milton Hershey Hospital. His research interests are children's feeding problems and the application of behavior analysis to pediatric problems.

Adjunct Faculty

In addition to the regular ABA faculty, there is currently one adjunct ABA graduate faculty. He is:

MICHAEL DeWULF (541-8322) is a psychologist at Keystone Systems. He is a licensed psychologist. He received his Ph.D. in Behavior Analysis from Utah State University.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM

REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ABA 597 Behavior Modification (3 credits) (*pending number designation*). This course is designed to teach fundamental and advanced principles of behavior change. The approach of behavior modification is that of the scientific method. Examples of some of the populations and problems studies covered include autism, addictions, classroom management, phobias, learning disabilities, self-control, developmental disabilities, and marital counseling. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Program, permission of program.

ABA 500 Experimental Analysis of Behavior (3 credits). This course is designed to teach students the conceptual, experimental and theoretical underpinnings of the analysis of behavior. Basic research is emphasized that lead to and extended the science of behavior. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Program, permission of program.

ABA 533 Applied Analysis of Behavior (3 credits). The course provides an overview of the application of behavior analysis in education, rehabilitation, medicine, business, counseling, and therapy across the age range. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Program, permission of program.

ABA 522 Single Subject Research (3 credits). This course will cover the evaluation, critiqued, and design of single subject research. Students will also develop a research proposal using a within-subject experimental design. Also covered are program evaluations and the role of nonparametric statistics in single subject research. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Applied Behavior Analysis program or permission of program.

ABA 588 Ethics and Legal Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits). This course is designed to teach the Ethical Principles of the American Psychological Association and teach the legal issues related to applied research with humans. A code of ethics for behavior analysts will be covered. Actual cases will be presented so that students will learn how to identify and avoid litigious situations. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Applied Behavior Analysis program or permission of the program.

ABA 594A Research Project (3 credits). This course is the culminating experience of the student's Master's program. A written project paper is required. A project is developed, conducted and written up in APA style. Prerequisites: ABA 522, 588, PSYC 535, and permission of program.

ABA 595 Internship (1-9 credits). 750 total hours of supervised experience is required by the BACB. Students are advised to consult the ABA internship manual for specific requirements. Prerequisites: Prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ABA 577 Behavior Assessment and Treatment of Behavior Disorders (3 credits). This course provides an overview of the use of Applied Behavior Analysis in the assessment and treatment of individuals with behavior and emotional disorders.

ABA 555 Behavioral Interventions in Autism

This course provides an overview of the use of Behavior Analysis in the education, assessment, and treatment of individuals with autism.

ABA 566 Behavioral Pediatrics

This course provides an overview of behavioral pediatrics and discusses the role of Behavior Analysis within the field.

PSYC 444 Treatment and Education in Developmental Disabilities (3 credits)

Covers etiology, classification, intervention (treatment and education), ethical and legal issues related to individuals with developmental disabilities. Prerequisite: PSY 002.

ABA 597 Special Topics (1-3 credits). The topics vary and reflect current interests and research of the faculty. Prerequisite: None

PSYC 592 Current Topics in Applied Psychology (3 credits/semester, maximum of 9). Advanced topics in applied psychology will be taught through readings, research and practice. Prerequisite: Permission of program.

Name _____

Semester Admitted _____

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS COURSE LISTNo. of CreditsSemesterGrade**Required Courses (27 cr)**

ABA 597 <i>(pending number designation)</i>	3		
ABA 500	3		
ABA 533	3		
ABA 522	3		
ABA 588	3		
ABA 594A	3		
ABA 595	9		

Electives (6 cr)

Choose from:

ABA 577	3		
PSYC 444	3		
ABA 566	3		
ABA 555	3		
PSYC 592	3		
ABA 597	1-3		

Total Credits : 33

Certificate of Attendance

This is to certify that _____
(students name)

has attended the following workshops :

1) Library Workshop (Date : _____)

Printed Name of Presenter

Signature of Presenter

2) Writing Workshop (Date : _____)

Printed Name of Presenter

Signature of Presenter