

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING
PROGRAM GUIDE
M.S. in Psychology (Behavior Analysis)

Board Certified Behavior Analyst

The Master of Science Degree Program in Psychology with an emphasis in Behavior Analysis is designed for the student who wishes to pursue advanced training in behavior analysis. Students pursuing this degree will be eligible for certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). This degree will prepare you to apply behavioral laws to influence positive behavior change and improve the lives of your clients. Students in this program will receive comprehensive training and supervised fieldwork to skillfully perform the following actions:

- Assess targeted populations, design appropriate goals, and monitor progress
- Choose empirically validated treatments consistent with best practices
- Write technically proficient and conceptually systematic behavior support programs designed to promote socially significant behavior change.
- Use graphed data to communicate the effectiveness of an intervention
- Use effective consulting strategies to ensure procedural integrity across a variety of agencies
- Conduct and/or participate in behavior analytic research investigating advanced language, skills, addiction, gambling, autism, or invertebrate learning.

What is behavior analysis? Stated broadly, behavior analysis is the study of everything you do, which includes your learning history and motivation. The goal of behavior analysis is to improve individual lives and relevant societal problems.

What is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)? Behavior analysts are independent practitioners who commonly assess, design, and train behavior change procedures to affect behavior change across a variety of behaviors, clientele, and settings.

A graduate-level certification in behavior analysis will prepare you to:

- Consult with school districts to improve classroom management and increase the success of students diagnosed with ADHD, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), emotional disorder (ED) and any presenting behavior excess.
- Design interventions to facilitate skill acquisition, promote language and social skills for adults and children of varying diagnoses including autism and traumatic brain injury.
- Train staff in mental health centers on methods to reduce problematic behaviors including aggression, self-injury, elopement, pica, and other clinically relevant behavioral excesses.
- Improve employee performance, safety, and happiness in business or organizational behavior management settings.
- Promote the safety and wellbeing of residents of nursing homes.
- Provide behavior therapy for adults suffering from addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, and/or emotional disorders.

Where are Behavior Analysts employed?

- School systems
- Community mental health centers
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Business
- Private Practice

What is a behavior analyst's salary? Payscale.com reports the average national salary is \$59,000

To become a behavior analyst you must complete the following:

- Complete a Master's degree in Behavior Analysis, Psychology, or Education
- Successfully complete the course sequence at Pittsburg State

For more information, please email:

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M.S. in Psychology (Behavior Analysis) – Fall Start

<u>First Year Fall</u>	<i><u>Hours</u></i>
PSYCH 846 Research Designs in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 847 Behavior Observation and Assessment	3
PSYCH 861 Internship in Behavior Analysis	3
<u>First Year Spring</u>	
PSYCH 841 Basic Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 852 Staff Training, Consulting and Management in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 853 Applications of Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 861 Internship in Behavior Analysis	3
<u>First Year Summer</u>	
PSYCH 850 Ethical and Professional Conduct in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 859 Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
PSYCH 861 Internship in Behavior Analysis	3
<u>Second Year Fall</u>	
PSYCH 830 Psychology Learning	3
PSYCH 834 Introduction to Human Neuropsychology	3
PSYCH 892 Special Research Project	<u>3</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	39

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M.S. in Psychology (Behavior Analysis) – Spring Start

<u>First Year Spring</u>	<i><u>Hours</u></i>
PSYCH 841 Basic Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 861 Internship in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 892 Special Research Project	3
<u>First Year Summer</u>	
PSYCH 850 Ethical and Professional Conduct in B.A.	3
PSYCH 859 Advanced Developmental Psychology	3
PSYCH 861 Internship in Behavior Analysis	3
<u>First Year Fall</u>	
PSYCH 846 Research Designs in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 847 Behavior Observation and Assessment	3
PSYCH 830 Psychology Learning	3
PSYCH 834 Introduction to Human Neuropsychology	3
<u>Second Year Spring</u>	
PSYCH 852 Staff Training, Consultation and Management in Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 853 Applications of Behavior Analysis	3
PSYCH 861 Internship in Behavior Analysis	<u>3</u>
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	39