

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:

Dr. Ryan C. Speelman, BCBA, at: rspeelman@pittstate.edu
Behavior Analysis Program Coordinator,
Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling
Pittsburg State University
1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, KS 66762