Special Education MA (Low Incidence Disabilities and Autism)

Mastery Of Behavior Analysis Certification Board Task List Knowledge And Skills

Goal Description:

Mastery of Knowledge and Skills based on Behavior Analysis Certification Board Task List.

Providing Department: Special Education MA (Low Incidence Disabilities and Autism)

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Behavior Analysis Certification Exam

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will pass the Behavior Analysis Certification Exam at percentages comparable to the national average.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Percentage Of Candidates Passing Behavior Analyst Certification Exam

Indicator Description:

The Special Education MA (Low Incidence Disabilities and Autism) graduate program prepares students to take the Behavior Analyst Certification Exam, the final step in becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Therefore, the true test of the program's effectiveness is the percentage of students passing the exam every year.

Criterion Description:

At least 55% of first time exam takers will pass the Behavior Analyst Certification Exam.

Findings Description:

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board has not yet published 2021 pass rates.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Percentage Of Candidates Passing Behavior Analysis Certification Exam

Action Description:

BACB has not yet published its 2021 passing rates. We will keep this criterion.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Behavior Development Solutions (BDS) Modules

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate mastery of behavior analytic terms and concepts.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

BDS Modules

Indicator Description:

The BDS Modules are a set of BCBA exam preparatory questions that have been shown to improve first time BCBA exam pass rates. Currently, the first time BCBA exam pass rate for students that complete all of the modules to 100% accuracy is 97.7% (https://www.behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com/).

Students are required to complete portions of the modules throughout their second year in the LIDA program to prepare for the BCBA exam.

Criterion Description:

Of the assigned modules, 50% of students will complete the acquisition exam portions to 100% and the fluency exam portions to 80% with no limit on attempts.

Findings Description:

Zero out of 16 students met criterion. On average, the students in the cohort graduating in 2022 completed 75% of acquisition exam portions at 100% and 75% of fluency exam portions at 80% with no limits on attempts. That was less than the completion performance of the previous cohort. That group completed 83% of assigned modules at criterion levels.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

BDS Modules

Action Description:

Because our students have not yet met this criterion, we will keep it.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Comprehensive Exams

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will demonstrate mastery of knowledge and skills on comprehensive examinations, referenced to the standards set forth by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Comprehensive Exams Scoring Rubric

Indicator Description:

Faculty-developed rubric scored by two independent faculty members following standards of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Task List.

Criterion Description:

90% of candidates will score 80% or better on the rubric on their first attempt. Particular areas of emphasis include data analysis, experimental design, behavioral support plan development, and application of ethical principles.

Findings Description:

Of the candidates graduating in 2022, 87.5% scored 80% or better on their first attempt. This was a decrease from 2021 when 100% scored 80% or better on their first attempt.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Comprehensive Exams Scoring Rubric

Action Description:

The cohort graduating in 2022 almost met this criterion. We will keep it.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Sugai-Horner ABA Test

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will demonstrate mastery of behavior analytic knowledge and skills.

Attached Files

📄 Sugai-Horner ABA Test

Improvement on the Sugai-Horner ABA Test

Indicator Description:

The Sugai-Horner ABA Test is an 89-item assessment consisting of 64 multiple-choice and 15 true/false questions. The test covers ABA principles and applications typically taught in an introductory Masters-level course.

Candidates receive course points for completion of the assessment, regardless of accuracy on the individual items. Therefore, the only environmental variables that evoke and maintain correct responding are instructional control in the classroom and a history of reinforcement for performing accurately on similar tasks. In addition, the students are urged to do well to provide an accurate assessment of their knowledge with respect to the material as they advance throughout the program.

The assessment will be scored as a percentage of responses correct.

Criterion Description:

Students will improve their scores on the test by at least 20% from the August administration to the April administration.

Findings Description:

Scores for Cohort 15, which graduated in 2022, decreased 3.1% on average from the August to May administration. Cohort 16 improved its scores 10.3% on average.

Improvement on the Sugai-Horner ABA Test

Action Description:

Neither cohort met criterion. We will keep the criterion, but we will use a new assessment.

Passing rate on the Sugai-Horner ABA Test

Indicator Description:

The Sugai-Horner ABA Test is an 89-item assessment consisting of 64 multiple-choice and 15 true/false questions. The test covers ABA principles and applications typically taught in an introductory Masters-level course.

Candidates receive course points for completion of the assessment, regardless of accuracy on the individual items. Therefore, the only environmental variables that evoke and maintain correct responding are instructional control in the classroom and a history of reinforcement for performing accurately on similar tasks. In addition, the students are urged to do well to provide an accurate assessment of their knowledge with respect to the material as they advance throughout the program.

The assessment will be scored as a percentage of responses correct.

Criterion Description:

For the first-year cohort, 50% of candidates will score 70% or better on the test at the final administration. For the second-year cohort, 80% of candidates will score 80% or better on the test at the final administration.

Findings Description:

86.7% of first-year candidates scored 70% or better on the test at the final administration. In the second-year cohort, 75% of candidates scored 80% or better on the test at the final administration.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Passing Rate on the Sugai-Horner ABA Test

Action Description:

The first-year cohort met their criterion, but the second-year cohort did not. We will keep the criteria for the cohorts, but we will use a new assessment.

Production Of Scholarly Research Project

Goal Description:

Candidates will write a research paper, conforming to APA style

Providing Department: Special Education MA (Low Incidence Disabilities and Autism)

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Research Proposal

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will develop a high-quality research proposal in SPED 6314. Candidates will demonstrate mastery of this skill by the end of SPED 6315 or SPED 6317.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Passing Rate On Research Project

Indicator Description:

The research project will be scored by instructors of SPED 6315 or SPED 6317.

Criterion Description:

80% of candidates will score 80% or better on the rubric for the final research project or literature review.

Findings Description:

100% of candidates scored 80% or better on the rubric.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Passing Rate On Research Project

Action Description:

The cohort graduating in 2022 met this criterion. We will keep it, but we will develop a new rubric for the research project.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

We plan to create a test to replace the Sugai-Horner ABA Test. During 2020-2021, we wrote new Comprehensive Exam questions aligned with our newly revised courses based on our certification board's 5th Edition Task List. For the new test, we will write 78 multiple-choice questions during 2021-2022. These questions will cover the material in our new, more rigorous courses.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Students performed well on our new Comprehensive Exam questions. We will replace the Sugai-Horner Test with 100 multiple-choice questions covering material in our 5th Edition Task List courses.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

Our students have performed to the higher standards required by the BACB's 5th Edition Task List. We observed this when they met criterion in their Comprehensive Exams based on new, more difficult questions. We did not see improvement in performance on the Sugai-Horner Test, but we plan to replace the assessment with one that better reflects our new content. Students did reach criterion on the rubric measuring performance on their research projects, but we plan to replace the rubric with a more rigorous one.