

# Applied Behavior Analysis Minor

## Mastery Of Behavior Analytic Knowledge And Skills

**Goal Description:**

Students will demonstrate mastery of behavior analytic knowledge and skills as outlined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)'s 5th Edition Task List.

Attached Files

 [BCaBA 5th Edition Task List](#)

**Providing Department:** Applied Behavior Analysis Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) Certification Exam**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will pass the BCaBA certification exam at percentages comparable to the national average.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Percentage Of Candidates Passing the BCaBA exam**

**Indicator Description:**

The minor in applied behavior analysis (ABA) provides students with the course content requirements needed to sit for the BCaBA exam. One measure of the ABA minor's efficacy is the percentage of students passing the exam each year.

**Criterion Description:**

At least 50% of first time exam takers will pass the BCaBA exam.

**Findings Description:**

To our knowledge, no student who has completed the ABA Minor has taken the BCaBA exam.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**BCaBA Exam**

**Action Description:**

Faculty will contact students who have completed the ABA Minor to ask whether they plan to take or have taken the BCaBA exam.

## Production of Research Proposal

**Goal Description:**

Students will design a research proposal that could feasibly be carried out.

**Providing Department:** Applied Behavior Analysis Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Research Proposal**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will develop a high-quality research proposal in SPED 3308.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Research Proposal**

**Indicator Description:**

The research proposal will be scored by instructors in SPED 3308. They provide scaffolding for the research paper by requiring that students demonstrate throughout the semester that they are working on their papers. Students submit their topic during the third week, a draft of the introductory literature review during the sixth week, a draft of the method section during the eleventh week, and the final paper draft during the fifteenth week.

Attached Files

 [Research Proposal rubric](#)

**Criterion Description:**

At least 80% of students will earn 80% on the research proposal.

**Findings Description:**

SPED 3308 was canceled during Spring 2024 due to low enrollment. In Fall 2023, five of nine students (57%) scored at least 80% on the research proposal. This low percentage of students represented a decrease from the 70% in Fall 2022 and 82% in Spring 2023.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**Research Proposal**

**Action Description:**

Faculty will provide more support to students writing research proposals in SPED 3308. We monitor their progress by requiring that they submit drafts of parts of the paper at various points in the semester, but we will also provide more targeted support by (a) meeting with students via Zoom in Week 2 to discuss topic selection and (b) meeting again after students submit topics in order to define DV and IV and discuss whether topic is appropriate.

## **Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

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

**Closing Summary**

For 2023-2024, the program faculty will recruit additional students into the ABA Minor. Faculty will discuss the feasibility of revising course content to align with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's 6th Edition Task Outline and the feasibility of seeking Association for Behavior Analysis International's Tiered Model recognition

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

According to the latest data from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, there was a 11.7% increase in demand for BCaBAs in Texas between 2022 and 2023, and the state had the fourth highest number of job postings (409) in 2023. BCaBAs in Texas on average earn \$62,500 annually with entry positions starting at \$40,000 per year (talent.com). Given demand for BCaBAs, it is surprising that the number of students enrolled in the ABA Minor decreased from 45 in spring 2023 to 43 in spring 2024.

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Closing Summary:**

For 2024-2025, the program faculty will communicate more frequently with students completing the ABA Minor to alert them to job opportunities associated with the BCaBA credential. The cost of taking the BCaBA exam is \$370, which might discourage some students from taking it, but from a program evaluation perspective, getting students to take the exam will allow us to obtain data on how well we are preparing them. We also will provide more support to students writing research proposals in SPED 3308.