

# MS in APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

## AVAILABLE CONCENTRATIONS

### TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE CONCENTRATION

12 ADDITIONAL CREDITS/ 60 CREDITS TOTAL

According to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB™), over 85% of BCBA® and BCBA-D® certificants work with individuals diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities (BACB, 2022). This population has a substantially increased risk of abuse, neglect, and other adverse experiences, as well as behavioral challenges related to trauma across the lifespan (Horner-Johnson & Drum, 2006). Organizations and schools have responded by recognizing the importance of utilizing trauma-informed approaches to compassionately and effectively engage with learners. By adding this concentration to your training, you will learn to apply trauma-informed practices from behavioral and psychological perspectives, collaborate with multidisciplinary teams, and gain key skills crucial to today's employers.

In addition to the core, 48-credit ABA course & supervision sequence, this concentration includes 4 advanced level courses:

- ABA 651: Collaboration, Consultation and Communication
- PSY 671: Theories and Models of Trauma and Attachment
- PSY 672: The Neurobiology of Trauma
- ABA 760: Trauma-informed Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis

### SUPERVISION, TRAINING, AND ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT (OBM) CONCENTRATION

(12 ADDITIONAL CREDITS/ 60 CREDITS TOTAL)

Annual nationwide demand for individuals holding certification in ABA has increased each year over the past decade, with a 38% increase from 2020 to 2021 (bacb.com, 2022). BCBA® and BCBA-D® certificants often assume supervisory and management roles in schools, health care organizations, insurance-funded clinical organizations, privately run consultation services, and adult service organizations. For these BCBA®s, employee/ business management and supervision skills are critical. Adding this concentration would to your ABA master's degree will provide graduate students with broad, interdisciplinary supervisory skills as well as advanced education and training in OBM.

In addition to the core, 48-credit ABA course & supervision sequence, this concentration includes 4 advanced level courses:

- ABA 651: Collaboration, Consultation, & Communication
- ABA 652: Organizational Behavior Systems Analysis
- ABA 653: Small Business Financial Management and Sustainability in ABA
- ABA 750: Human Resources & Performance Management in ABA Organizations

### APPLIED VERBAL BEHAVIOR CONCENTRATION

(12 ADDITIONAL CREDITS/ 60 CREDITS TOTAL)

BCBA®s often participate in the development and implementation of language programs while working with clients in schools, health care organizations, insurance-funded clinical organizations, privately run consultation services, and adult service organizations. BCBA®s also frequently collaborate with speech and language professionals and others during this process. Language development is a critical area of a behavior analyst's scope of practice, therefore, introducing students to the prominent theories of language development, as well as a variety of theories and applications that support the growth and development of language provides valuable and practical knowledge that can affect positive growth in a client's development. This concentration strengthens the graduate student's knowledge and application of skill areas related to language development.

In addition to the core, 48-credit ABA course & supervision sequence, this concentration includes 4 advanced level courses:

- ABA 651: Collaboration, Consultation & Communication
- ABA 670: AAC – Introduction, Interventions, and Technologies
- ABA 671: Relational Frame Theory: Applications to Practice
- SPE 525: Multisensory Language and Literacy

# AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) CONCENTRATION

(12 ADDITIONAL CREDITS/ 57 CREDITS TOTAL)

Autism is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how individuals interact, learn, and effectively manage everyday environments and activities (NIH/ NIMH, 2024). Several decades of treatment have shown that intensive applied behavior analysis (ABA) treatment is the most effective approach for children with autism and other developmental disorders (Office of the Surgeon General, 1999). ABA strategies have been used effectively across the lifespan of individuals with various behavioral and psychological challenges to strengthen communication, social, cognitive, and self-help skills. ABA also successfully treats severe problem behaviors that impact the health and safety of an individual. ABA treatment models have been successfully incorporated into multiple disciplinary programs to improve treatment outcomes. The courses in this concentration introduce evidence-based treatment for individuals with autism and strengthen the skills necessary to work on interdisciplinary teams supporting individuals with autism.

National Institute of Health (2024). <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/autism-spectrum-disorders-asd> Office Of The Surgeon General, Center For Mental Health Services, U. S. & National Institute Of Mental Health, U. S. (1999) Mental health: a report of the Surgeon General. [Rockville, Md.: Dept. of Health and Human Services, U.S. Public Health Service; Pittsburgh, PA: For sale by the Supt.

In addition to the core, 57-credit ABA course & supervision sequence, this concentration includes 4 advanced level courses:

- SPE 511: Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis or ABA 501 The History of ABA
- SPE 546 Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPE 556: Supporting Communication and Social Development for Students with Autism
- SPE 552: Collaboration and Problem-Solving for Students with Autism

## THE BAY PATH ADVANTAGE

Bay Path's ABA Program:

- Provide graduate-level instruction aligned with BACB® coursework requirements and fieldwork standards;
- Prepares students to practice as scientists and clinicians in settings committed to the use of evidence-based behavioral treatment to address behavior and performance challenges;
- Prepares graduates to pursue credentialing in ABA and advance in professional settings that provide ABA services;
- Includes a course sequence verified by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) as meeting the coursework requirement for students taking the Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA®) examination, in addition to providing advanced instruction in verbal behavior, staff training and supervision, functional/experimental analysis of behavior, and behavioral education systems;
- Provides graduate students an opportunity for supervised practice in a variety of special interest applications of ABA, including: Organizational Behavior Management (OBM), health & safety, sports & fitness, supervision & staff training, and environmental sustainability (among others).

## APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

**For consideration, applicants must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:**

1. A completed application
2. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts (a GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred)
3. Please copy and paste this full prompt at the top of your essay submission: Write a personal statement using your authentic voice and storytelling style. Share key personal and/or professional experiences that have shaped your education and career journey so far. Focus on details that are not already included in other parts of your application. Where possible, include specific examples that illustrate your story. Your completed essay should be between 300 and 500 words.
4. A current resume
5. Two recommendations (form available online)
6. A signed program requirement form (form available online)

**All documentation including recommendation forms and official transcripts may be mailed or emailed directly to Bay Path University's Office of Graduate Admissions:**

**By Mail:** BAY PATH UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF GRADUATE ADMISSIONS  
588 LONGMEADOW STREET  
LONGMEADOW, MA 01106

**By Email:** GRADUATE@BAYPATH.EDU

**For more information call 413.565.1700 or email [graduate@baypath.edu](mailto:graduate@baypath.edu)**

## FINANCIAL AID

Beginning July 1, 2026, new Federal Direct Loan limits apply: \$20,500 per year or \$100,000 total for graduate programs. Students must meet federal aid eligibility and complete the FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) when applying to graduate school. Visit our website for more information.