

## **Applied Behavior Analysis Programs At St. Cloud State University**

We wanted to thank you for your support of the Applied Behavior Analysis programs at St. Cloud State University. Our success comes from the collaborative partnerships developed and your willingness to recruit, supervise, and host our students for their practicum, internships, and thesis activities.

During these past years our program has evolved to expand course offerings and maintain accreditation. The M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis at St. Cloud State University is one of 13 university programs accredited by the Association for Behavior Analysis International. St. Cloud State is one of 14 distance based programs accredited by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board. We offer the following programs through our department

- M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis
- BCBA Course work
- BCaBA Coursework

For more detail you may go to (<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/elcp/BehaviorAnalysisMission.asp>) .

All programs are offered either through a distance based (online) format or on campus format (live and in person). There is some confusion regarding the programs and delivery methods that we would like to clarify.

### **M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis**

All students must apply to the School of Graduate Studies by March 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for admittance. Students must indicate if they are applying to the distance based or on campus programs. The course requirements are the same for distance and on campus students. We review all completed applications and base our decision upon undergraduate and graduate GPA, GRE scores, letters of reference, relevant research and work experience, and a personal statement. Students may complete a Thesis Option (Plan A – 45 Credits) or the Comprehensive Exam Option (Plan B – 42 Credits).

**Distance Program** - Since 2002 the distance base program has enrolled students from 49 states and 10 countries. Admittance is competitive; we receive over 100 applications each year for approximately 20 positions. We are unable to serve all students who apply and we often ask applicants to reapply the next year. The advantages of the distance program, as reported by students, include flexibility and the ability to access a M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis while students continue to work in the field. The reported disadvantages include: limited personal contact with faculty and students, difficulty in managing time to complete course requirements, and extended time to complete coursework (as opposed to being a full time student).

On Campus Program – The on campus program provides students with opportunities that are not available to distance students. These may include

1. Graduate Assistantships – provides a stipend and tuition reimbursement
2. Scholarships – for tuition
3. Travel Scholarships – to support travel to ABA and other conferences
4. Personal contact with faculty and other students while taking courses.
5. Courses are typically scheduled to meet one day per week.
6. Involvement with faculty research.
7. Internship opportunities with appropriate BACB supervision.

### **Behavior Analysis Certification Board**

Students must complete the required coursework with a grade of “C” or better, and obtain the necessary supervision stipulated by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board <http://www.bacb.com/>.

**BCaBA** – for persons with a bachelor’s degree

Distance Based Course Option

On Campus Course Option

Undergraduate Option	CPSY 330 Principles of Behavior CPSY 433 Applied Behavior Analysis I CPSY 434 Applied Behavior Analysis II
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Graduate Option	CPSY 630 Advanced Behavior Analysis CPSY 634 Behavioral Assessment CPSY 530 Advanced ABA II
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**BCBA** – for persons with a Master’s degree

Distance Based Course Option

On Campus Course Option

Graduate Option	CPSY 630 Advanced Behavior Analysis CPSY 641 Single Case Design CPSY 634 Behavioral Assessment CPSY 530 Advanced ABA II
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Choose one of the following

CPSY 530 Seminar: Autism  
CPSY 530 Functional Assessment  
CPSY 633: Behavior Therapy I

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. When are the courses offered?
  - a. BCBA and BCaBA courses are offered each semester.
  - b. M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis – starts in the fall. Courses need to be taken in sequence. Not all courses are offered every semester, and students who take courses out of sequence may have difficulty.  
Academic Calendar can be found at  
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/events/academic.asp>
  
2. How do I register?
  - a. Registration Calendar is available at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/registrar/>
  - b. On Campus Students – register through e Services  
<https://webproc.mnscu.edu/esession/authentication.do?campusId=073&postAuthUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwebproc.mnscu.edu%2Feservices%2Flogin.html%3Fcampusid%3D073>  
  
Instructions for registration can be found at  
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/graduatestudies/current/newStudents/default.asp>
  - c. Distance Student – register through the Center for Continuing Studies  
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/distance/registration/default.asp>  
Click on the Semester you need, then scroll down the list of course offerings, and click on Permission Required (next to the course number). Fill out the information requested and submit. If you have difficulties, contact April Rapp at [alrapp@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:alrapp@stcloudstate.edu) or call 320.308.3873.
  
3. How many courses can I take?
  - a. On campus students enrolled in the M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis usually take 3 or 4 courses per semester.
  - b. Distance students usually take 2, however some distance students find this to be a large load given their circumstances and drop to one course per semester.
  - c. Behavior Analysis Certification Board students usually take 1 or 2 courses per semester.
  - d. Courses for the M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis and Behavior Analysis Certification Board certification must be completed in sequence.
  
4. How much time does it take to study for the courses?

- a. This depends upon the student's abilities, commitments, and personal situation.
  - b. We are a rigorous academic program... it is not send your money in and get a grade. The national passing rate for the BACB exam is 68%. While we do not hear from all of our distance students, we can say our on campus graduates have achieved an 100% passing rate.
5. Where do I get my books?
- a. You may order your books from any vendor. We list all of our books with the SCSU Husky Bookstore  
<http://www.bkstr.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/StoreCatalogDisplay?langId=-1&storeId=10066&demoKey=d&catalogId=10001>
  - b. The SCSU Bookstore offers Books Express  
<https://www5.stcloudstate.edu/BookStore/loginS.asp>
  - c. Email: [husky@bkstr.com](mailto:husky@bkstr.com)
  - d. Phone: 320 252-1489
  - e. It is important to obtain the textbook a few weeks prior to the beginning of the course as tests as assignments begin quickly. Remember that shipping takes time, so make sure you order early. Shipping from the SCSU Husky Bookstore is fast and reliable.
6. Can I apply for the on campus program and switch to the distance program? Generally speaking the answer is no. This is due to the following
- a. Course schedules are set for two years in advance. Faculty make a commitment to offer these courses to on campus students. If on campus students switch to the distance program, then on campus class may become a "low enrollment" course that is subject to cancellation. If a student "switches" that creates a problem for the University to fund a low enrollment course, problem for faculty to pick up additional classes or combine classes, and a problem for their graduate student cohorts who may find their classes cancelled.
  - b. Faculty made a commitment to on campus students to deliver the program. Students made a commitment to attend the program.
  - c. Applications – we cannot serve all students who apply. We turn away about 50 to 75 applicants each year. Some of those students are invited to reapply the following year. An on campus student who wants to switch may apply for admittance the following year. However, we have made previous commitments to some distance applicants. Thus, students who switch may not be admitted the immediate next year.

7. Where do students complete their internship and practicum experiences?  
On campus students are provided with a list of approved practicum and internship sites. On campus students are able to receive additional supervision at approved sites. If an on campus student would like to complete their practicum or internship experience at another site, the student may petition the Behavior Analysis faculty for consideration. The site must have a BCBA or Doctoral Level supervision to be considered. Distance Students must complete their practicum and internship experience under BCBA or Doctoral Level supervision. This may include their present employment situation if appropriate supervision can be arranged.
8. BCaBA – does it matter if you take the undergraduate or graduate coursework?  
a. Both options meet the BACB requirements, so it doesn't matter. The graduate courses are more difficult than the undergraduate courses. The tuition is less for the undergraduate coursework. Either will meet the education requirements.
9. Tuition – Tuition rates are set by MnScu and SCSU administration. Faculty have no control of these contingencies. Current tuition rates (subject to change) can be found at

On Campus - <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/billing/tuition/>  
<http://bulletin.stcloudstate.edu/gb/financial/tuition.asp>

Distance - <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/distance/tuition.asp>

There is a differential rate for the GRADUATE classes offered through the Center for Continuing Studies.

Undergraduate classes (BCaBA) are less expensive and do not have a tuition differential.

10. Will the BACB or BCaBA courses taken at SCSU count toward the M.S. in ABA at SCSU?  
a. Yes they do. The courses are included in our curriculum and are taken by our students in the beginning of the SCSU M.S. in ABA.
11. Will courses taken at other BACB approved schools count at SCSU?  
a. BACB coursework – the BACB approves universities to offer coursework that meets the content requirements. Each university submits their course offerings according to the “Content Grid” (prescribed number of hours in certain content

areas). As such, each university's content grid assigns different hours of content for courses. Applicants (BCaBA and BCBA) may try and mix and match content grids, but it is very hard to find one or two courses that will match their content deficiencies. We tell all applicants they may apply to the BACB who, upon receipt of application fee, will review their application to identify the necessary hours for a particular content. SCSU content grids are sent out to all students who apply.

- b. M.S. Requirements – Students who have taken coursework from other universities who offer BCaBA or BCBA coursework ask whether the coursework can transfer and be counted toward the M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis. Typically the answer is no..... Why, you ask. Neither University of North Texas nor the Florida Institute of Technology accepts their BACB approved coursework in their own graduate programs. Neither will St. Cloud State University.

With advisor/faculty approval, students may transfer 3-6 graduate credits towards the M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis. However, the graduate coursework must be approved by the host university as a regular graduate class. St. Cloud State University will not accept BCBA courses that do not meet the minimum academic requirements for a graduate level course.