

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the proposal from the Educational Psychology Program Area within the Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations in the College of Education, to establish an undergraduate certificate in Applied Behavioral Analysis, effective fall semester 2016.

Background

Recent Michigan legislation mandates insurance companies to cover therapeutic treatment of autistic persons by bachelor's level professionals holding a Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) credential. The State of Michigan has recently made a request for more training at the undergraduate ABA level to help support the Applied Behavior Analysis/Autism Spectrum Disorder benefit expansion. There is currently a shortage of master's level (Board Certified Behavior Analyses/BCBA) practitioners, and the undergraduate level practitioner is practically nonexistent in Michigan (n=3). The BCaBA-credentialed professional will be able to assist with treatment planning and implementation to allow the Master's level practitioner to hold a larger caseload. Because the Medicaid benefit is expanding in 2016 to include individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder up to the age of 20, the state will need to greatly increase the number of service providers qualified to implement these services. Currently there are only two universities in the state (Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University) who have BCaBA programs. The BCaBA program at WSU will help to fill this significant need.

Program Description

The target audience for this Undergraduate Certificate is individuals working toward or holding a bachelor's degree who wish to work in a behavioral intervention capacity with persons with Autism. The emphasis is on applying the intervention techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis to children and adolescents who have severe autism diagnoses. The program is a 3 consecutive semester commitment, with one course and one practicum per semester for each of three semesters. Students can add this on to an existing bachelor's degree program or take it post-bachelor's degree. Thus, the program will be marketed to current undergraduate students from related programs, as well as those holding bachelor's degrees from other universities who are working in various human service capacities.

Admissions requirements

The program will be open to: 1) current WSU undergraduate students who have completed at least 60 credit hours, and 2) students who have previously earned a bachelor's degree at Wayne State University or at another accredited institution.

Curriculum Requirements

All of the follow are required courses for the certificate program (18 credits):

- EDP 3101 Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis (4)
- EDP 3102 Techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis (4)
- EDP 3103 Applied Behavior Analysis Assessment and Treatment Planning (4)
- EDP 3104 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 1 (2)
- EDP 3105 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 2 (2)
- EDP 3106 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis 3 (2)

Graduation Requirements

- All students must take the six required courses listed above, totaling 18 credits.
- No transfer credit will be accepted.
- A minimum GPA of 2.5 will be required for completion of Undergraduate Certificate with no grades less than a C in each of these courses.
- The program courses must be completed in the required sequence over a one year period, as students will be admitted into the sequence as cohorts, although extenuating circumstances will be considered in exceptional cases.

Program Administration

The Educational Psychology program area in the College of Education will provide oversight, make admissions decisions, and provide advising to students in the program. This program area will also be responsible for collecting and analyzing data on student progress and outcomes to evaluate program effectiveness and make modifications based on that information. Clerical support will be provided by the program area's secretary.

Federal Student Aid Eligibility

The program is not seeking Title IV federal student aid eligibility. We expect the typical student to be simultaneously pursuing an undergraduate degree, and thus there will be no need to pursue financial aid eligibility separately for the certificate program.

Budget and Resource Requirements

The program will use current faculty, facilities, and resources in the College of Education. No new or additional resources will be required.

Accreditation

We will be seeking approval for the course and practicum sequence by the national Behavior Analysis board.

Approvals

This undergraduate certificate program has been approved by the College of Education's Curriculum Committee, Executive Committee, and all-college Faculty Assembly; the Dean's Office in the College of Education; and the Office of the Provost.