

Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the creation of a Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis effective January 2015.

Background

Recent Michigan legislation mandates insurance companies to cover therapeutic services for autistic persons by Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) credentialed treatment providers. There is a shortage of persons who can fill this immediate need to provide such services to the large numbers of people diagnosed with autism. To earn a BCBA credential, a master's degree in psychology or a related field is required, as well as a specific sequence of 5 classes (18 credits). Our proposed Graduate Certificate program would help to fill this need by offering the five courses to those who already hold a master's degree. The BCBA credential also requires a practicum experience that can be achieved in several ways, one of which can be through a university; thus, we offer that option as an elective and not a requirement. To summarize, this Graduate Certificate program would allow us to train and graduate practitioners who can fill the large number of open positions in our metro area and throughout the state. Other universities have a route to the BCBA credential, but none in Detroit and none with the refined cohort-model schedule that we are offering. Demand is high for this program.

Program Description

The key program objective is to prepare practitioners for conducting Applied Behavior Analysis, with a focus on treating those diagnosed with autism. The intended audience is those who already hold a master's degree and want the course sequence to be eligible for the BCBA credential and we are proposing having it packaged as a Graduate Certificate for them rather than standalone post-master's degree coursework.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a master's degree in a human services related field (psychology, counseling, special education, etc.) and meet current admission standards for the WSU Graduate School.

Curriculum Requirements

The proposed coursework includes the six courses listed below, all of which are already offered within the university. A total of 18 credits would be required for the certificate.

Required coursework:

EDP 7101 Foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis (4 credits)

EDP 7102 Assessment Techniques in Applied Behavior Analysis (4 credits)

EDP 7103 Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment Planning (4 credits)

EDP 7104 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)

EDP 7105 Ethical Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis (3 credits)

EDP 7106 Field Experience in Applied Behavior Analysis (1-8 credits) is an elective practicum course.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within three years of admission.

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. They will also be responsible for collecting and analyzing data on student progress and outcomes, so to evaluate program effectiveness and make modifications based on that information.

Budget and Resource Requirements

There are no additional resources required for this program.

Accreditation

The course sequence and the separate practicum have received full approval by the national BCBA board. There is no accreditation available for the program.

Approvals

The proposal for the Certificate Program in Applied Behavior Analysis was approved by the Curriculum Committee, Executive Committee, Faculty Assembly and Interim Dean Whitman of the College of Education, Graduate School Dean Mathur, and the Graduate Council.