

Pennsylvania License Requirements for Behavior Specialists

To apply for a behavior specialist license in Pennsylvania, applicants must submit an application online through the [Pennsylvania Licensing System \(PALS\)](#). (Click the Register link).

Among the requirements for the license, applicants must seek verification from IUP that:

1. The applicant has completed a masters degree (or higher) or a post-masters certificate from an accredited college/university with a major course of study in school, clinical, developmental, or counseling psychology, special education, social work, speech language pathology, occupational therapy, professional counseling, behavior analysis, nursing, or another related field. **This is Form 2 of the application.**
2. The applicant has completed 90 hours of evidence-based coursework distributed as follows: (a) ethics approved by the Bureau of Autism Services (3 hrs.), (b) autism-specific coursework or training (18 hrs.), (c) assessment coursework or training (16 hrs.), (d) instructional strategies and best practices (16 hrs.), (e) crisis intervention (8 hrs.), (f) comorbidity and medications (8 hrs.), (g) family collaboration (5 hrs.), (h) specific-skill deficit training (16 hrs.). **This is Form 5 of the application.**
3. The applicant has completed a major course of study that bears substantial relationship to the behavior specialist practice. **This is Form 6 of the application.**

IUP has put the following process into place in order to expedite the university's role in the application procedures. If you received your master's degree in counseling from IUP please do the following:

1. Complete the applicant portion of Form 2 (Verification of Education, p.3), Form 5 (Verification of 90 Hours of Evidence-Based Coursework, p.6-7), and Form 6 (Verification of Substantial Relationship of Major to Behavior Specialist Practice, p.8). Print clearly in black ink.

2. Send an electronic copy of the application to the chairperson of the Department of Counseling, Dr. Kim Desmond, kdesmond@iup.edu.
3. Request an official transcript to be sent from IUP's Office of the Registrar directly to the Board of Medicine using the following link:
<https://www.iup.edu/registrar/howto/transcripts/official-transcripts.html>

Enter the Board of Medicine address found on the Behavior Specialist License application as the transcript recipient. You must complete this step for your application to be complete.

IUPs College of Education and Communications will process the verification Forms 2, 5, and 6 and will return them directly to the State Board of Medicine as per the licensure requirements.