


# New Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis - NewPrg-2016-10-28

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*\*Indicates a required field*

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<b>Course Level:*</b>	graduate-level
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Rationale for Program Creation	
<b>(A) Why is the program being proposed?*</b>	<p>A few acronyms are used throughout this proposal. Given that these terms are likely unfamiliar to most readers and can easily be confused, the following key terms are defined to facilitate readers' review this proposal:</p> <p><b>BACB</b> = Behavior Analytic Certification Board (national accrediting body)</p> <p><b>BCBA</b> = Board Certified Behavior Analyst (national credential at the graduate level)</p> <p><b>BCaBA</b> = Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (national credential at the undergraduate level)</p> <p><b>EDSP</b> = Department of Educational and School Psychology</p> <p><b>EDEX</b> = Department of Communication Disorders, Special Education, and Clinical Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Why is the program being proposed?</b></p> <p>The Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is proposed to create a new cross-departmental graduate curriculum program that prepares students for eligibility to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The departments involved are the Educational and School Psychology Department (EDSP) and the Department of Communication Disorders, Special Education, and Clinical Services (EDEX) at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).</p> <p>This credential allows professionals to work with a variety of individuals with disabilities across the life span and in a variety of settings (e.g., schools, community, home, work). Specifically, professionals with the BCBA assist individuals with disabilities and their families in an effort to positively affect behavioral changes that promote inclusion of individuals with disabilities within non-disabled peers and community members.</p> <p>To that end, the proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will create a graduate-level sequence of courses that positions graduates toward obtaining the BCBA credential.</p>

## **History and Background of the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)**

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board®, Inc. (BACB®) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1998 to meet professional credentialing needs identified by behavior analysts, governments, and consumers of behavior analysis services. The BACB adheres to the national standards for boards that grant professional credentials. The BACB program is based on the successful Behavior Analysis Certification Program developed by the State of Florida. Similar programs were established in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York, and Oklahoma. All of these programs transferred their certificate and credentialing responsibilities to the BACB and closed.

While there are three distinct certifications related to the practice of applied behavior analysis in the mental/behavioral health fields, two are of particular interest to the EDSP and EDEX at IUP. Specifically, they are:

- Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) - primarily an undergraduate certificate
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) - primarily a graduate certificate

Note that this proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is directly related to the BCBA noted above. A separate certificate proposal will be forthcoming from EDEX that is directly related to the BCaBA credential (EDEX has titled their proposal the Assistant Behavior Analyst Certificate).

The BCaBA and BCBA certifications require completion of a scope and sequence of post-secondary or graduate-level training, respectively, in addition to completing a supervised internship experience and successful completion of a certification exam.

All institutions providing training toward a BCBA credential have an obligation to maintain approval for their course content by the BACB. Some, but not all BACB-approved programs, offer internship experiences as well as the courses. Again, a program does not have to offer the internship experience to be granted BACB approval. As of 2015-2016, the majority of credentialed BCBA programs did not offer the internship experience. This is likely due to the complex nature of arranging formal agreements between an institution of higher education and possibly dozens of mental health agencies, each with its own policies and procedures. Further, an institution of higher education that offers the internship would need to staff the appropriately credentialed supervisor required by the BACB for internship hours to qualify toward certification. Again, this is a cost-prohibitive endeavor for most institutions of higher education. The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis at IUP would not offer the internship experience as part of its program.

The BACB administers the certification examinations several times per year in over 200 sites within the United States and over 150 sites outside the United States. The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis would allow students to complete the entire course sequence, enabling them to sit for the certification exam and situating them to seek an approved internship under the supervision of a credentialed behavior analyst. These final steps toward certification (i.e., passing the exam and completing the internship) would not be under the purview of the IUP Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis. The IUP Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis, however, would fulfill a necessary and important initial step toward students obtaining this high-demand credential.

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis would not be the first in state, or even in the region. The table below summarizes the existing BCBA programs in Pennsylvania with distinctions of how the program modality is offered and passing rates of recent graduates on the certification examination.

## **Existing BACB-Approved Programs in Our Region**

School	Modality	Pass Rate on National Certification Exam (# attempted)
Duquesne University	Hybrid	n/a
University of Pittsburgh	On-campus	47% (15)
California University of PA	On-campus	Unknown
Penn State University – Harrisburg	On-campus	56% (9)
East Stroudsburg University	On-campus	n/a
Arcadia University	Distance Education <u>or</u> On-campus	25% (8)
Eastern University	Hybrid <u>or</u> On-campus	n/a
Temple University	On-campus	n/a
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	On-campus	n/a

With the exception of the program at California University of Pennsylvania, the other programs are more costly to students given those institutions' status as either private or state-related. Tuition is lower at IUP compared to most other programs, making our Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis more appealing to students.

We also intend on making our Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis a hybrid and / or entirely distance education program so we can compete with California University of Pennsylvania, whose tuition is the same as IUP, and all other institutions. Additionally, this certificate can be earned by students concurrently enrolled in the EDSP School Psychology Certificate or PhD in School Psychology by taking only one or two additional courses. Therefore, this proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will increase the marketability and desirability of our existing certificate and doctoral programs.

**Consistency with Department, College, and University Missions**

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is consistent with IUP's mission to "empower students to become innovative leaders while enhancing communities throughout the world." Specifically, graduates of this Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will be eligible for credentialing as a BCBA, thus having the skills and competencies to assist individuals with disabilities across myriad cultures, developmental levels, and ecologies. Further, the skills and competencies are consistent with the College of Education and Educational Technology's mission to provide "leading-edge development and growth opportunities for students and professionals in education and allied fields." Graduates of this Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will be eligible to effect positive change in the lives of individuals while working in education, mental health, and other aligned disciplines. Finally, the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is consistent with the EDSP Department's mission of preparing well-rounded school psychologists, either in the School Psychology Certificate or the doctoral program in School Psychology. These students would have additional skills and a national credential that many other school psychologists would not have, thus making our graduates substantially more marketable for employment across a variety of fields (e.g., social services, mental health, school psychology, and academia).

<p><b>(B) Identify the Program Student Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p><b>(SLO). Mark any SLOs that are changing as a part of the Program Revision.*</b></p>	<p>The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will prepare students to become BCBA, credentialed by the BACB. There are a total of three requirements for individuals to be eligible for the BCBA credential:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a sequence of graduate-level courses approved by the BACB.</li> <li>2. Complete a supervised practicum / field-based experience of at least 1000 hours.</li> <li>3. Successfully pass the BCBA Examination.</li> </ol> <p>The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will allow students to complete the first requirement above ("Complete a sequence of graduate-level courses approved by the BACB."). Graduates of this Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will need to complete the remaining two requirements on their own.</p> <p>Consequently, the Student Learning Outcomes for the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis are directly aligned with the course content required by the BACB of graduate programs educating students who intend on completing all three of the above requirements. Specifically, the Student Learning Outcomes for the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will match the learning outcomes of the graduate-level course sequence and content required of the accrediting agency.</p> <p>Students in the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe and illustrate foundational knowledge of behaviorism and behavioral principles.</li> <li>2. Describe, evaluate, and implement basic behavior analytic skills and procedures typically utilized by a practicing behavior analyst.</li> <li>3. Describe, evaluate, and implement client-centered practices that apply to all individuals in a variety of settings.</li> </ol>
<p><b>(C) Implications of the change on the program, other programs and the Students:*</b></p>	<p>The proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis would be embedded within the existing School Psychology Certificate and doctoral program in School Psychology, although courses in this Graduate Certificate would also draw from EDEX. Students enrolled in those departments would have the option of taking 2-3 additional courses (depending on whether they are in the School Psychology Certification, doctoral program in School Psychology, or MEd in Special Education) to gain an additional credential on their way toward completion of their primary degree. Doing so makes our School Psychology Certificate, doctoral program in School Psychology, and MEd in Special Education graduates even more marketable for positions in clinical practice and academia. Possession of the skills and BCBA credential make school psychology and special education graduates substantially more effective in their roles in schools and community settings.</p>

**Proposed Program Information**

<p><b>(D)</b> <b>Proposed Program Title*</b></p>	<p>Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analyst</p>
<p><b>(E)</b> <b>Proposed Narrative</b></p>	<p>The Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis (18 credits) is designed to provide the student with specific knowledge and clinical skills necessary to function as a BCBA. Courses are aligned to the BACB's current task list and course content allocation (<a href="http://bacb.com/bcba-option-1/">http://bacb.com/bcba-option-1/</a>). These domains include foundational knowledge related to behaviorism and behavioral principles, basic behavior analytic skills, and client-centered practices. Successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will fulfill one of the three requirements for eligibility to become a BCBA. The two remaining requirements, completion of a supervised clinical experience and earning a passing score on the BCBA Examination, are not part of this Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis. However, successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis will allow graduates to complete the remaining two requirements for the BCBA credential.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that the BACB does not <u>accredit</u> programs or course sequences (email communication from BACB to T. Runge, October 12, 2016). That communication stated that the "BACB does not provide accreditation for programs, rather we pre-approve course sequences as having met certain minimum criteria. There is no cost associated with the application for an Approved Course Sequence." Therefore, there should be no costs incurred by IUP to have this certificate pre-approved by the BACB. Therefore, graduates of this certificate would meet one of the eligibility requirements for national licensure as a BCBA. The other two criteria for national licensure (i.e., completion of a supervised clinical experience; earning a passing score on the BCBA Examination) would be the responsibility of the student and not part of this proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis.</p>

Catalog Description\*  
If copying pasted from a current entry, please insert word or Note placed first to eliminate issues with formatting or special characters

### Admissions Criteria

Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree prior to enrolling in the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis program. While not required, preference is made to applicants with an undergraduate degree in psychology, education, human development, social work, or other aligned disciplines. Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is based on an evaluation of undergraduate transcripts, letters of recommendation, work history, and professional goals. No one criterion dominates in the admission decision, provided there is evidence of the basic ability to do graduate work. Students must have completed an undergraduate degree prior to matriculation into the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis.

Students must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.25 and earn a grade of B or better in all courses while enrolled in the program. Continuous enrollment is also required unless waived by the Coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis.

All graduate students enrolled in this program are required to maintain current Pennsylvania Criminal Record (Act 34) and Child Abuse Clearances (Act 151) as well as Act 114 (FBI Fingerprinting Record) while completing the course sequence. Applicants should be aware that some internship sites and employers may not accept placements if any criminal record is reflected on these background checks. Applicants with a criminal record, even summary offenses, are asked to disclose this history to the Coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis upon entry to and during the completion of the program. Some serious offenses, typically involving child welfare, preclude national credentialing.

### Program Requirements

Required coursework includes:

EDSP 576	Foundations of Behavior Analysis	3 cr.
EDSP 748	Fundamentals of Behavior Change	3 cr.
EDSP 758	Advanced Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3 cr.
EDEX 750	Assessment for Instructional Planning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders	3 cr.
EDEX 753	Research Seminar in Special Education	3 cr.
EDSP 911	Legal and Ethical Principles in School Psychology	3 cr.

**(F) Curricular Requirements**

The following provides a detailed analysis of each of the courses in the 18-credit Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis with regard to curriculum proposals either completed or in process:

Course Number	Course Title	Status
EDSP 576	Foundations of Behavior Analysis	Course Revision proposal included with this Certificate proposal
EDSP 748	Fundamentals of Behavior Change	Course Revision proposal included with this Certificate proposal
EDSP 758	Advanced Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	New Course proposal included with this Certificate Proposal
EDEX 750	Assessment for Instructional Planning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders	Already approved at Senate
EDEX 753	Research Seminar in Special Education	Already approved at Senate
EDSP 911	Legal and Ethical Principles in School Psychology	Already approved at Senate

Course Revision and New Course Proposals are appended under separate cover.

**Faculty Complement**

There are no new faculty lines that would be needed to support this proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis. Only one new course is proposed and there are sufficient faculty in the EDSP Department to teach this one new course that would be offered approximately once every two years. All other courses in the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis are existing courses that are adequately covered by the EDSP and EDEX Departments.

**Other Resource Needs**

There are no additional resources needed for the proposal Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis. Courses would be offered across fall, spring, and summer semesters. Courses could potentially be offered during Winter term as well. Further, it is expected that in the future, this Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis would be delivered either in a hybrid model or completely in Distance Education format. To date, none of the courses in this proposal are approved for Distance Education delivery. Adequate classroom and other resources are currently available to support this proposal.

If demand for the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is substantially high, there is the possibility that administrative support for the Coordinate of the Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis would arise in the form of an alternative workload assignment (AWA) from the Dean. It is not anticipated, however, that an AWA would be evident in the initial years this Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis is offered.

**Accreditation Costs**

The BACB organization does not accredit programs or course sequences (email communication from BACB to T. Runge, October 12, 2016). That communication stated that the "BACB does not provide accreditation for programs, rather we pre-approve course sequences as having met certain minimum criteria. There is no cost associated with the application for an Approved Course Sequence." Therefore, there should be no costs incurred by IUP to have this certificate pre-approved by the BACB. Therefore, graduates of this certificate would meet one of the eligibility requirements for national licensure as a BCBA. The other two criteria for national licensure (i.e., completion of a supervised clinical experience; earning a passing score on the BCBA Examination) would be the responsibility of the student and not part of this proposed Graduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis.

<b>(G) Supporting Documents*</b>	Please attach a document with a summary of all proposals.  <b>File    Modified</b> <hr/>
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<b>For Deans Review</b>
Are Resources Available/Sufficient for this Course?  Is the Proposal Congruent with the College Mission?  Has the Proposer Attempted to Resolve Potential Conflicts with Other Academic Units?  Comments:

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