

# **UCR M.Ed in Applied Behavior Analysis Program**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Do I need a bachelor's degree in psychology or prior coursework in applied behavior analysis (ABA) to apply to the program?**

No. It may be helpful, especially if you have had undergraduate coursework in behavior analysis, but it is not required.

### **What do graduates with a master's in ABA degree end up doing?**

Graduates with expertise in ABA are in high demand. Various industries including healthcare, education, and social services continue to seek qualified individuals with training in ABA.

### **Does this program offer a Verified Course Sequence?**

Yes! The Association of Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) has verified course sequence. Successful completion of the program meets the coursework requirements for certification as a behavior analyst. Required content hours for each course in the program can be found at <https://www.abainternational.org/vcs/directory.aspx>.

### **Can I enroll in specific courses without applying to the master's program?**

No. We do not offer individual courses in Applied Behavior Analysis to those who are not degree candidates in the UCR Graduate School of Education.

### **When and where are classes taught?**

Classes are taught on weekdays, typically in the afternoon. Each class meets once a week and last 2-3 hours. Currently, all classes are taught on the UCR campus; no online/distance courses are available.

### **Can I transfer credits from another institution?**

No. The Applied Behavior Analysis courses are designed to be taken in sequence and cover specific content.

### **What happens after I submit my application?**

The admissions committee will be reviewing all applications after the deadline for submissions (March 31). All applicants are carefully considered across multiple domains to assess their qualifications and match for the program. Highly qualified applicants will be invited to an informational/interview session that is planned for sometime late April or early May. If an applicant is unable to attend, another form of a meeting may be arranged. Final decisions will be made after this event, and decision letters will be sent out via email.

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**If admitted to the program, will I be able to get any experience applying the skills I learn from the coursework?**

Yes. The program requires students to engage in fieldwork to gain experience applying the relevant concepts and skills taught in class. Students can independently obtain a fieldwork placement or choose to be assigned a fieldwork placement with a qualified supervisor and complete at least 15 hours of fieldwork each week.

**Are there opportunities to conduct research while in the program?**

Currently, there are no pre-established opportunities for research for students in the M.Ed in Applied Behavior Analysis program as its primary function is to prepare students to practice behavior analysis. However, if you should have a strong interest in a research project outside of program's degree requirements, it is advised that you consult with your faculty advisor.

**I'm not sure if this is the right program for me. Where can I get more information about ABA/careers/training?**

A good place to start is the BACB website (<https://www.bacb.com/>). If you are wondering if this is really the right fit for you, we strongly encourage you to explore the BACB website, research other web-based resources, and even consult with an academic advisor or faculty member at your home university.