

Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Indiana Board for Proprietary Education

**Out-of-State Institutions and
In-State Proprietary Institutions Offering Instruction in Indiana
with a Physical Presence in the State**

DEGREE APPLICATION
(New ~~or~~ Renewal program)

Use the <tab> key to advance to the next field, or select a field by clicking the cursor.

Name of Institution	<u>Florida Institute of Technology located at the Behavior Analysis Center for Autism, 9929 E. 126th Street, Fishers, IN 46038</u>	
Program name and Suggested CIP Code:	<u>Master of Arts in Professional Behavior Analysis. CIP code is 42.2814</u>	
Level of Degree (AAS, AS, AA, BAS, BA, BS, MBA, MAS, MA, MS, Ph.D.)		<u>MA</u>
Name of Person Preparing this Form	<u>Bryon Neff</u>	
Telephone Number	<u>813-267-2213</u>	<u>Application Type</u>
Date the Form was Prepared (Revise date after any revision)	<u>October 1, 2015</u>	Initial or Renewal

Revised 10-26-2015

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: Describe what the program is designed to achieve and explain how it is structured in order to accomplish the objectives.

The rate of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder is rising steadily and is now at 1 in 68 (Center for Disease Control, 2015). Due to the state of Indiana's supportive stance in the treatment of autism, families from around the country are relocating to receive high-quality Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. As a result, the need for graduate level ABA clinicians is growing at a rate faster than universities can produce. In order to serve this vulnerable population and address the shortfall of providers, FL Tech wishes to offer a Master of Arts in Professional Behavior Analysis (MA in PBA) in the state of Indiana. The MA in PBA program aids FL Tech's mission to provide state of the art programs to the global workforce and prepare students to serve in their community.

The Behavior Analysis Programs at Florida Tech have built a solid reputation, offering several accredited degree and professional development programs. Due to the growing demand for ABA practitioners worldwide, FL Tech expanded the outreach of its degree programs by offering a hybrid MA in PBA. The MA in PBA program provides non-traditional /working professional students with a high-quality, hands-on education at their place of employment. This program combines 24 semester credit hours of coursework from FL Tech's Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) online program with 21 in-residence semester credit hours. The in-residence component is completed at one of several behavior analysis hybrid site affiliate agencies located across the country. In Indiana, the identified host agency is the Behavior Analysis Center for Autism (BACA) <http://thebaca.com> in Fishers. FL Tech houses a full-time faculty member at each host agency to help students integrate academic curricula with practical experience. The MA in PBA program accommodates the schedule of working professionals by offering clinical supervision during the day and courses during non-work hours. Students complete the first half of the program online and then finish by learning how to apply behavioral principles and techniques with people receiving autism services at their host agency. The program is designed so that students do not have to quit their job and relocate to one of the few masters programs throughout the country that offer a degree in behavior analysis. As per the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB®) <http://bacb.com>, only one university in Indiana offers an approved graduate-level course sequence in behavior analysis, Ball State. Indiana University offers undergraduate courses in ABA.

The BACB® approved Florida Tech’s Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA®) 24-credit online course sequence as meeting all instructional requirements for national certification as a BCBA®. The in-residence component at BACA expands upon the foundational knowledge by adding advanced specialty coursework, a capstone research project and on-site supervised practica. The supervised clinical experience meets the BACB’s requirements for BCBA certification. Upon graduation, students meet all requirements to sit for the national BCBA examination. FL Tech’s MA in PBA program also meets the 2015 accreditation standards of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI).

II. PROGRAM STRUCTURE: List all courses in the program. Indicate course name, course number, and number of credit hours or clock hours for each course.

Name of Program: _____ **Master of Arts in Professional Behavior Analysis. CIP code 42.2814**

Total Course Hours: **45** Check one: Quarter Hours _____
 Semester Hours **X**
 Clock Hours _____

Tuition : **\$26,865** Length of Program: **24-36 months**

SPECIALTY COURSES:

<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Course Hours</u>
BEH 5011	Foundations, Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis	3
BEH 5012	Basic Elements of Applied Behavior Analysis	3
BEH 5013	Developing, Strengthening and Maintaining Behavior	3
BEH 5014	Introduction to Ethical and Professional Conduct of Behavior Analysis	1
BEH 5015	Decreasing, Eliminating and Replacing Problem Behavior	2
BEH 5016	Ethical and Professional Conduct of Behavior Analysis	2
BEH 5017	Targeted Topics in Behavior Analysis	1
BEH 5018	Advanced Topics in Behavior Analysis	3
BEH 5020	Current Topics in Behavior Analysis	1 x 5
BEH 5021	Coordinating Behavior Analysis with Psychiatric and Other Medical Services	1
BEH 5022	Using Measurement, Graphs and Single-Case Design in Behavior Analysis Practice	3
BEH 5023	Introduction to the Experimental Analysis of Behavior	3
BEH 5024	Conceptual Analysis of Behavior	3
BEH 5025	Intensive Practicum in Professional Behavior Analysis	3 x 3
BEH 5027	Capstone Project in Professional Behavior Analysis	3

GENERAL EDUCATION / LIBERAL ARTS COURSES:

**Course
Number**

**Course
Title**

**Course
Hours**

N/A

GENERAL EDUCATION / LIBERAL ARTS COURSES:

<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Course Hours</u>
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Number of Credit/Clock Hrs. in Specialty Courses: 45 / 45 Percentage: 100

Number of Credit/Clock Hrs. in General Courses: N/A / Percentage:

If applicable:

Number of Credit/Clock Hrs. in Liberal Arts: N/A / Percentage:

III. LIBRARY: Please provide information pertaining to the library located in your institution.

1. Location of library; Hours of student access; Part-time, full-time librarian/staff:

Evans Library is located in Melbourne Florida on the main campus of the Florida Institute of Technology. Hours of operation are:

Monday - Thursday	7:45 a.m. - Midnight
Friday	7:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Midnight

Online access is available 24 hours a day

Evans Library employs 30 full time librarians/staff

2. Number of volumes of professional material:

Electronic resources available through the Evans Library at the Florida Institute of Technology include over 200 databases, 46,000 e-books, 40,000 electronic journals, and over 77,000 government documents. Services include Ask a Librarian for communicating directly with a librarian via email, chat, or telephone; Document Delivery for borrowing items from the print collection, and interlibrary loan for requesting articles not available in the Evans Library collection. For this program specifically, all relevant journals are available online for student access.

3. Number of professional periodicals subscribed to:

FL Tech library has access to the Department of APA's Psych INFO database offered via ProQuest. ProQuest includes Psych-INFO, Psych-ARTICLES and Psych-BOOKS. These databases go back to the year 1806 and include over 8 million cited references and 185,000 articles, the majority offered electronically. To mention a few periodicals that are available and pertain to the science of behavior: The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, The Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, The Journal of Organizational Behavior Management, The Behavior Analyst and The Journal of Learning and Verbal Behavior. It also includes hard copies of books written by BF Skinner and other prominent behavior analytic authors.

4. Other library facilities in close geographical proximity for student access:

Electronic resources are available 24/7 through the Evans Library at the Florida Institute of Technology. Current holdings by the library and available online services will be sufficient for remote hybrid sites.

**Supplementary Information on
Licensure, Certification, and Accreditation**

Institution: Florida Institute of Technology
Degree Program: Master of Arts
Locations: 9929 E 126th St. Fishers, IN 46038

State Licensure

Does a graduate of this program need to be licensed by the State to practice their profession in Indiana and if so, will this program prepare them for licensure?

No. The state of Indiana does not license behavior analysts.

If so, please identify

The specific license(s) needed:

The State agency issuing the license(s):

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Professional Certification

What are the professional certifications that exist for graduates of similar program(s)?

The Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) certification is provided by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board® (BACB®). The 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 international standards for boards that grant professional credentials. The BACB's certification procedures and content undergo regular psychometric review and validation pursuant to a job analysis survey of the profession and standards established by content experts in the discipline. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board's BCBA and BCaBA credentialing programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies in Washington, DC. NCCA is the accreditation body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence.

Behavior Analysis is the scientific study of principles of learning and behavior. Two primary areas of study include the experimental analysis of behavior and applied behavior analysis. The experimental analysis of behavior is the basic science of the discipline and has, over many decades, accumulated a substantial and well-respected body of research literature on how behavior is learned and changes over time. The experimental analysis of behavior is the scientific foundation of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). ABA is a systematic approach for influencing socially important behavior through the identification of reliably related environmental variables and the production of behavior change techniques that make use of those findings.

The BCBA is a graduate-level certification in behavior analysis. Professionals who are certified at the BCBA level are independent practitioners who provide behavior analytic services. In addition, BCBA's supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts, Registered Behavior Technicians, and others who implement behavior-analytic interventions. Common services may include, but are not limited to, conducting behavioral assessments, analyzing data, writing and revising behavior-analytic treatment plans, training others to implement components of treatment plans, and overseeing the implementation of treatment plans. Behavior analysts are qualified to provide services to clients with a variety of needs, including improvements in organizational functioning (e.g., staff performance, leadership training), skill deficits (e.g., communication, adaptive behavior), and problem behavior (e.g., aggression, self-injurious behavior), among others.

Will a graduate of this program be prepared to obtain national professional certification(s) in order to find employment, or to have substantially better prospects for employment, in a related job in Indiana?

Yes

If so, please identify

Each specific professional certification:

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

The national organization issuing each certification:

Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB)

The BACB currently has three options to qualify for BCBA certification. FL Tech meets the criteria for the most rigorous option. FL Tech provides a qualifying degree, qualifying coursework and qualifying practical experience. FL Tech also requires the passing of a comprehensive examination. This exam is similar in format and content to the certification exam required by the BACB. Obtaining these three criteria allows FL Tech graduates to sit for the BACB's BCBA examination.

To sit for the BACB exam, applicants must possess a minimum of a graduate degree (e.g., master's or doctoral) in an acceptable field of study from an acceptable accredited institution. Acceptable degrees are those conferred in behavior analysis, natural science, education, human services, engineering, medicine or a field related to behavior analysis and approved by the BACB. As per the BACB, FL Tech is an accredited institution that provides a graduate degree in behavior analysis. Effective January 1, 2016 new requirements for this pathway to BCBA certification will go into effect. FL Tech already meets the new BACB standards.

Coursework must come from an acceptable institution and cover the required content outlined in the BACB's Fourth Edition Task List and Course Content Allocation documents. Only courses where the applicant was enrolled for graduate credit (i.e., master's or doctoral courses) and earned a passing grade ("C" or better for graded courses) are acceptable. FL Tech is BACB accredited university and requires a grade of "B" or higher to pass a course.

The BACB works with institutions to identify and approve course sequences of classes that meet the BACB's coursework requirements. When presented on a transcript with a passing grade, students do not need to submit the course syllabi with their applications for examination. As mentioned above, FL Tech has worked with the BACB and has an approved course sequence. [Listing of Approved Course Sequences](#)

BCBA Course Content Requirements

Coursework: The applicant must complete 270 classroom hours of graduate-level instruction in the following content areas and for the number of hours specified:

A. Ethical and Professional Conduct – 45 hours.

B. Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis – 45 hours

The content should be based on the BACB Foundational Knowledge List.

C. Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

The content should be based on the BACB Fourth Edition Task List.

- Measurement (including Data Analysis) – 25 hrs

- Experimental Design – 20 hrs

D. Applied Behavior Analysis

The content should be based on the BACB Fourth Edition Task List.

- Fundamental Elements of Behavior Change & Specific Behavior Change Procedures – 45 hrs

- Identification of the Problem & Assessment – 30 hrs

- Intervention & Behavior Change Considerations – 10 hrs
- Behavior Change Systems – 10 hrs
- Implementation, Management and Supervision – 10 hrs

E. Discretionary – 30 hours

All of the BCBA required coursework hours are provided in the (24 credit) online portion of FL Tech’s MA in PBA program.

Please explain the rationale for choosing each professional certification:

Meeting the criteria set forth by the BACB increases the likelihood that the provision of ABA services will produce desired effects for recipients. The vast majority of funding agents (state/government entities and insurance companies) require the oversight of “billable” behavior analytic services by a BCBA or a licensed psychologist.

Please identify the single course or a sequence of courses that lead to each professional certification?

5011, 5012, 5013, 5014, 5015, 5016, 5017, 5018. This course sequence covers the BACBs 270 hours of required course content. Students must also complete practical experience that fully complies with all of the current BACB [Experience Standards](#). As per the BACB, FL Tech’s supervised experience falls under the category of “INTENSIVE PRACTICUM.” To qualify under this standard at the BCBA level, supervisees must complete, with a passing grade, 750 hours of Intensive Practicum in behavior analysis within a university practicum program approved by the BACB and taken for graduate academic credit. A supervisory period is one week. In order to count experience hours within any given supervisory period, supervisees must be supervised at least twice during that period for no less than 10% of the total hours spent in Intensive Practicum. For example, 20 hours of experience would include at least 2 supervised hours. No fewer than 10 hours but no more than 30 hours, including supervision, may be accrued per week.

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Professional Industry Standards/Best Practices

Does the program curriculum incorporate professional industry standard(s) and/or best practice(s)?

Yes

If so, please identify:

The specific professional industry standard(s) and/or best practice(s):

The BACB requires a minimum of 270 hours of academic coursework that covers a specified number of course hours across critical content areas in behavior analysis. The BACB also requires master’s level BCBA’s to receive practicum supervision. FL Tech’s MA in PBA meets and/or exceeds the board’s expectations regarding required academic and experiential learning.

FL Tech’s ABA online courses are 10 weeks in duration and provide 45 hours of course content. Each week, students complete the following: watch 5-6 hours of videotaped lectures provided by Jose Martinez-Diaz, the Associate Dean for the School of Behavior Analysis, and other prominent guest lecturers whom are experts in the field of behavior analysis. Active Student Responds (questions and answers) are embedded into the videotaped lectures and require a response to advance the videotaped lecture. Guided notes and other aids are provided to students to assist in preparing for weekly unit tests. Prior to each weekly test, students meet in a live, online classroom with a graduate-level co-instructor (teaching assistant) and a group of 10-12 students. This provides students an opportunity to review content and ask/answer questions. At the end of the term, students must pass a proctored final exam. To pass an online class, a student must earn a 70% or higher on the

final exam and have a achieved an 80% or higher overall in the course. FL Tech requires a grade of “B” or higher to pass graduate-level courses.

Following the online portion of the MA in PBA program, students begin the in-residence component at their host agency. In-residence includes advanced coursework in ABA and supervised clinical experience. Intensive practicum includes supervised meetings twice a week. One meeting is conducted on an individual basis between the student and a BCBA-level supervisor. The second weekly meeting is conducted in a small group format (3-6 students and the site faculty member). Students earn 20-25 hours of supervised clinical experience per week for a total of 250 hours per semester. Students enroll in Intensive Practicum for three consecutive semesters, thus earning a minimum of 750 hours of supervised clinical experience.

The Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts addresses the following criteria and expectations: Responsible conduct of behavior analysts, behavior analysts’ responsibility to clients, assessing behavior, behavior-change programs, behavior analysts as supervisors, behavior analysts’ ethical responsibility to the profession and to colleagues, making public statements, research and behavior analysts’ ethical responsibility to the BACB. For more specific details, go to the following BACB link: [Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts](#). Once certified as a BCBA, the BACB requires 36 continuing education credits every three years to remain certified and in good standing.

The organization or agency, from which the professional industry standard(s) and/or best practice(s) emanate:

The Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) <http://bacb.com>

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Program Accreditation

Does this program need specialized accreditation in order for a graduate to become licensed by the State or to earn a national professional certification, so graduates of this program can work in their profession or have substantially better prospects for employment?

No

If so, please identify the specialized accrediting agency:

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Transferability of Associate of Science Degrees

Since CHE/BPE policy reserves the Associate of Science designation for associate degrees whose credits apply toward meeting the requirements of a related baccalaureate degree, please answer the following questions:

Does a graduate of this A.S. degree program have the option to apply all or almost all of the credits to a related baccalaureate degree at your institution?

N/A

If so, please list the baccalaureate degree(s):

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Job Titles

List specific job titles and broad job categories that would be appropriate for a graduate of this program:

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Behavior Technician, Behavior Consultant, Manager/Supervisor, Clinical Director, Chief Operating Officer