SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE EDUCATION

COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Applied Behavior Analysis

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

The Saint Louis University School of Social Work was established in 1930 and is currently housed within the newly established College for Public Health and Social Justice. The applied behavior analysis (ABA) program, within the School of Social Work, has provided a course sequence approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board since its inception in 2011. The school is built upon an unwavering commitment to social justice, and the program leads the way in integrating ABA practice and education. Our interactive teaching methods are aimed at integrating community-based practice with classroom activities and discussions. Small class sizes facilitate an atmosphere of intellectual dialogue that fosters relationships between students and faculty.

The Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis

The ABA program involves the application of behavioral principles to produce socially significant changes in behavior. The curriculum includes six three-credit-hour courses and three practica. The program requires 39 credit hours, as follows:

- Principles and concepts in behavior analysis
- Measurement and experimental design
- Assessment and selecting interventions
- Behavior change and processes
- Behavior change and ethics
- Special topics I and II
- Public health
- Elective
- Practica (three), each with an integrative seminar
- Thesis

Post-Master's Certificate

The post-master's certificate in ABA is for students who have already earned a master's degree. It includes seven courses (three credit hours each) and an optional nine credit hours of supervised field education. Students must start this program in the fall semester and take one or two courses per semester.

Individualized Program

The curriculum includes eight three-credit-hour courses and three practica. Students must complete 1,000 hours of field practicum under the supervision of a board-certified behavior analyst. We offer this program in full-time and part-time formats. This program is also offered with a specialization in gerontology, which includes two additional three-credit-hour courses and requires that two of the practica focus on older adults. Students can complete the M.S. in either five semesters (full-time plan) or in six semesters (part-time plan) based upon the needs of the student and depending on their thesis.

Recognition

Saint Louis University offers the only ABA program within a School of Social Work. This unique program is also the first in the nation to offer a Master of Social Work program with an applied behavior analysis concentration. Our graduates have board certification pass rates higher than the national average.

Career Paths

Practitioners use direct assessments, research evidence and single-subject research designs to inform and evaluate interventions designed to increase behavior (e.g., social skills) or decrease behavior (e.g., smoking). Client populations served include children, adolescents, adults and older adults. ABA approaches may involve services for a full spectrum of mental health disorders, especially pervasive developmental disorders. Other areas of practice include work with communities and organizations.

CONTACT INFORMATION
School of Social Work

EMAIL: publichealth@slu.edu
PHONE: 314-977-2752
WEB: socialwork.slu.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINE

M.S.

Certificate

FALL: March 1 (priority)
SPRING: N/A
SUMMER: N/A

Aug. 1
N/A
N/A

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Post-Master's Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

COURSES AVAILABLE

- Application form and fee
- Résumé
- Professional statement
- Three confidential reference letters
- Transcript(s)
- Interview

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- 24 credit hours in the liberal arts

Note: The admissions committee considers several factors to determine a candidate's eligibility: academic achievement, strength of the undergraduate program, application information, personal statement, work experience, any graduate degrees earned, motivation, leadership and service. The undergraduate GPA is weighted with other criteria in the admissions process.
Applied Behavior Analysis

FACULTY

- Susan Tebb, M.S.W., Ph.D.: Family caregiving, aging, yoga and mental health
- Alyssa Wilson, Ph.D., BCBA-D: Complex human behavior, physiological aspects of behavior therapy, assessment and treatment of behavioral addictions
- R. Jan Wilson, M.S.W., Ph.D., LCSW: Support and empowerment, field education, diversity and oppression issues, school social work practice, women’s issues

Adjunct Faculty

- John M. Guercio, Ph.D., BCBA-D, CBIST, LBA: Sexual issues, group therapy, staff training and effective evidence-based behavioral interventions for individuals that display aggressive high-risk behavior
- Tangala M.D. Krous, M.S., BCBA, LBA: Assessment and treatment of problem behavior exhibited by youth in home, community and school settings
- Heather L. Lewis, M.S.W., Ed.S., BCBA: Behavior consultant for individuals ages 2–21 with special needs, specifically those with adaptive, social and behavior challenges

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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DEGREES OFFERED

- Master of Science (M.S.) in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Post-Master’s Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

COURSES AVAILABLE

- DAYS
- NIGHTS
- WEEKENDS
- ONLINE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application form and fee
- Résumé
- Professional statement
- Three confidential reference letters
- Transcript(s)
- Interview

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The School of Social Work offers new and continuing students partial tuition remission and merit-based scholarships. Applicants who do not initially meet the scholarship criteria or who have applied for scholarship and are not awarded a scholarship may re-apply during their first semester in the program. Scholarship awards are made based on information in the admission application.