Applied Behavior Analysis
+ College for Public Health and Social Justice

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
- 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 in behavior analysis, education or psychology.

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 thesis completion schedule.

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., aggression). Client populations served include individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder, and children and adults with mental health disabilities. ABA approaches may involve services for a full spectrum of mental health disorders, especially developmental disorders. Other areas of practice include work with communities and organizations.
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**FACULTY ///**

- Heather L. Lewis, M.S.W., Ed.S., BCBA, LBA: Behavior consultant for individuals ages 2 through 21 with special needs, specifically those with adaptive, social and behavior challenges

- Ashley Lugo, Ph. D., BCBA-D, LBA: Early, intensive, behavioral intervention, autism spectrum disorder and behavioral pediatrics


**Adjunct Faculty**

- Angela Craven, M.S., BCBA, LBA: Behavioral interventions in day programs for adults with developmental disabilities.

- Tangala M.D. Krous, BCBA, LBA: Assessment and treatment of problem behavior exhibited by youth in home, community and school settings

- Christina Ruzicka, M.S., BCBA, LBA: Assessment and treatment of young children with autism spectrum disorder

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ///**

- SLU is the first in the nation to offer a Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in ABA.

- As the only ABA program part of a School of Social Work, there are many opportunities for cross-disciplinary research and networking.

- 100 percent of our students have jobs at — and often before — graduation.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT ///**

The applied behavior analysis program 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 scholarships 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.

Saint Louis University

Higher purpose. Greater good."