

**ADVANCED PVBIA / PRACTICUM IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
POAC – NORTHERN VIRGINIA
AND
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY KELLAR INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN disABILITIES**

Advanced PVBIA / Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis is a cooperative arrangement between member families of POAC-Northern Virginia and the George Mason University Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities. The purposes of this program are two-fold:

1. to provide more affordable, high quality, in-home applied behavior analysis instruction, treatment, and consultation to children with autism and their families, and
2. to prepare more professionals to provide such services to children with autism and their families by providing a more comprehensive program of study that satisfies educational and experiential criteria set forth by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (www.bacb.com), thereby permitting students to successfully apply to sit for examination as either a Board Certified or Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst.

COURSEWORK

Each student who is in the program is expected to register for the following courses during the following semesters:

Fall 2008: EDSE 619, Section 5S1: ABA: Principles, Procedures, and Philosophy (3 credit hours)
EDSE 790, Section XXX: ABA Internship (3 credit hours)

Spring 2009: EDSE 623, Section 5S1: ABA: Assessments and Interventions (3 credit hours)
EDSE 790, Section XXX: ABA Internship (3 credit hours)

Summer 2009: EDSE 625, Section 5S1: Verbal Behavior (3 credit hours)
EDSE 790, Section XXX: ABA Internship (3 credit hours)

Fall 2009: EDSE 621, Section 5S1: ABA: Empirical Bases (3 credit hours)
EDSE 790, Section XXX: ABA Internship (3 credit hours)

Spring 2010: EDSE 624, Section 5S1: ABA: Applications (3 credit hours)
EDSE 790, Section XXX: ABA Internship (3 credit hours)

Courses must be taken in this order, and, by accepting a position in this cooperative practicum, students agree to take all courses, in this order, across five semesters, unless excused from the program on the basis of poor academic or professional performance.

Students are expected to attend every class meeting of these courses, and to earn at least a B in each course to remain in the cooperative POAC – KIHD program.

SCHEDULES, BREAKS, VACATIONS, ETC.

During weeks that courses are in session for Fall and Spring semesters, each student is expected to provide 7 hours of service to each of two families each week. This means that during the 15 academic weeks of each semester, each student will provide 210 hours of service (which is equal to 14 hours per week times 15 weeks). Students are expected to take the weeks of Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break off. If requested by the families, however, students may opt to work during those breaks; however, these arrangements are strictly between the students and families, and hours accrued during these weeks will not count toward supervised hours.

During the weeks that the Verbal Behavior course is in session in the shorter summer, students are required to provide 7 hours of service per family per week for the first two weeks of the session, and then 13 hours of service per week for each of the two families for the remainder of the session. This will provide the children and families with additional services when it is needed most (when school is not in session), while helping students to accrue additional hours during this time. As there is no break scheduled during the summer session, no break is given for students during this time. Students must schedule vacations or other time off between the end of the Spring semester and beginning of the Summer session, or the time between the end of the Summer session and beginning of the Fall semester.

WORK THAT WILL AND WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE

The following is taken directly from Behavior Analyst Certification Board documentation:

Appropriate Applicant Activities: The student's primary focus should be on learning new behavior analytic skills related to the BACB Third Edition Task List. Activities must adhere to the dimensions of applied behavior analysis identified by Baer, Wolf, and Risley (1968) in the article *Some Current Dimensions of Applied Behavior Analysis* published in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. Applicants are encouraged to have experiences in multiple sites and with multiple supervisors.

Appropriate experience activities include:

- Conducting assessment activities related to the need for behavioral interventions,
- Designing, implementing, and monitoring behavior analysis programs for clients,
- Overseeing the implementation of behavior analysis programs by others,
- Other activities normally performed by a behavior analyst that are directly related to behavior analysis such as attending planning meetings regarding the behavior analysis program, researching the literature related to the program, talking to individuals about the program; plus any additional activities related to oversight of behavioral programming such as behavior analyst supervision issues, or evaluation of behavior analysts' performance. The supervisor will determine if activities qualify.

Examples of activities that are not appropriate as experience activities include: attending meetings with little or no behavior analytic content, providing interventions that are not based in behavior analysis, doing non-behavior analytic administrative activities, or any other activities that are not directly related to behavior analysis.

Only work that is comprised of conducting behavior analytic assessments, providing behavior analytic service, managing behavior analytic service delivery, participating in planning and / or evaluation and / or revision of behavior analytic service, participating in additional training in behavior analysis (although not one's coursework at GMU), and conducting supporting activities (i.e., writing progress notes on behavior analytic service, etc.) will count toward supervised experience. Time spent providing non-behavior analytic service, time in transit, and other time spent engaging in non-behavior analytic activities will not count. Before embarking on any activity that may not count, the student is encouraged to check with her or his supervisor.

CLIENTS

Per the Behavior Analyst Certification Board:

Appropriate Clients: Clients may be any persons for whom behavior analysis services are appropriate. However, the applicant may not be related to the client or the client's primary caretaker. Applicants must work with multiple clients during the experience period.

No work with a relative will count toward supervised experience. Further, each student must serve at least two families (who are not the student's own family, and to whom the student is not related) per semester.

SUPERVISION

Supervision will be provided for all work by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who is employed by George Mason University for this purpose. Supervision will consist of:

- ❖ At least 1 hour of individual, face to face supervision during odd numbered weeks
- ❖ At least 2 hours of face to face group supervision during even numbered weeks

Individual supervision will be conducted in the child's home, or in an office or classroom at the University. When in the child's home, supervision will consist of direct observation of the student's work by the supervisor; discussion of the student's work between the student, supervisor, and family; review of behavioral data and procedures; and planning and discussion regarding future service.

Group supervision will be conducted in a classroom at the University. Each student will be expected to have completed any reading or writing assignments prior to the supervision meeting, and to have prepared a 10 minute videotape demonstration of her or his work. Each student will arrive to the supervision sessions on time, and will bring completed assignment materials, videotapes, and copies of data or other necessary documentation. Group supervision will be led by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and will function as both a peer review for students' work, planning session for future work, and instructional opportunity for ethical, clinical, educational, professional, and practical matters pertaining to practicing applied behavior analysis.

TUITION

Tuition for the coursework listed on page 1 of this document will be paid by supporting POAC-NOVA families prior to the students' registration for the courses and internship. Students are responsible for tuition payments for any additional courses they may opt to take. ***Please note: only in-state tuition is paid by this program. Should a student who would be required to pay out-of-state tuition participate in this program, she or he will be responsible for paying the difference between the in-state amount paid by supporting POAC-NOVA families and the out of state rate that the University requires.***

SALARY

In addition to tuition payment, supporting POAC-NOVA families will have paid an additional sum to the University each semester, before the student registers, that will fund the salary paid to the student over the course of the semester. This funding covers only work provided by the student during the weeks that the semester is in session, and so during which supervision is provided by a faculty member who is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

ABSENCE

Students may miss no more than two appointments with a family per semester, and only for illness, family emergency, or national emergency. Students must phone in advance to notify families of absences.

MAINTAINING SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Students enrolled in the Advanced PVBIA / Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis program must earn no less than a final grade of B in every course taken in order to remain in the program. Students earning a final grade of C in one course will be excused from the program.

CONTRACTS WITH SUPPORTING POAC-NOVA FAMILIES

Students participating in this program will be working in the homes of supporting families, with those families' children. Their tuition and salary will be paid by these families. It is not unreasonable, then, that families may require students sign contracts with them prior to beginning work (and tuition payment). These contracts may be more stringent than what is contained in this document, but not less stringent. Families may include tuition and salary repayment stipulations (e.g., in event of leaving or being excused from the program), should they wish. All contracts must be reviewed and approved by the faculty supervisor before the student may sign. No student is required to sign a family's contract. However, it is understood that declining to sign a family's contract will result in a student not working with the family offering the contract.

APPLYING TO THE ADVANCED PVBIA / PRACTICUM IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS PROGRAM

An application for the program appears at the end of this document. Students completing this application will be contacted for a telephone interview by a Program faculty member and by a parent member of POAC. Students will also provide academic transcripts from their most recently completed degrees by mailing them so that they are received by the 1 May 2008 deadline, to:

Dr. Theodore A. Hoch
George Mason University / Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities
4400 University Drive / MSN 1F2
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Deadline for receipt of these documents is 1 May 2008. Once all documents are received, the interviewing Program faculty member and interviewing POAC member parent will review interview responses, transcripts, and information / service requests provided by supporting member families. Ten students will be selected, who will each meet with two member families. After meeting, the member families and students will be contacted by the interviewing Program faculty member to determine whether the students and families have opted to work together (or have "matched"). Only when both parties (e.g., a family and a student) agree to work together in separate conversations with the Program faculty member will they be considered to have matched. Students who do not match will be given contact information for up to two more families for a second set of interviews. Only when a student has matched with two families will the student be recommended by the Program faculty member to proceed with applying to and registering in the graduate program and the Advanced PVBIA Practicum.

APPLYING TO THE GMU APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Once a student has been selected for the PVBIA practicum, her or his name and contact information will be shared with Ms. Jancy Templeton, Advisor, Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities. Students will then contact Ms. Templeton regarding application and enrollment in the ABA Certificate Program.

Employment History

Employer _____ Position Title _____ Location _____ Supervisor _____ Phone _____ Start Date _____ Date left _____ Reason for Leaving _____
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Employer _____ Position Title _____ Location _____ Supervisor _____ Phone _____ Start Date _____ Date left _____ Reason for Leaving _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime (including moving violations)?

Yes _____ (Describe below) No _____

Date	Location	Charge for which you were convicted

In which location(s) would you prefer to work?

Any _____ Northern Fairfax County _____ Central Fairfax County _____

Southern Fairfax County _____ Fairfax City _____ Falls Church City _____

Eastern Prince William County _____ Western Prince William County _____

When will you be available to work?

Any time _____ Mornings _____ Afternoons _____ Evenings _____

Saturday Morning ____ Saturday Afternoon ____ Sunday Morning ____ Sunday Afternoon ____

Are there days or times (other than class time as part of this program) when you are not available?
When ?

By signing below, I indicate that the information I have provided on this application is true and complete.

Signature

Date

By signing below, I give consent for this information to be shared with supporting families to whom I may be referred.

Signature

Date

By signing below, I give consent for this information to be shared with other Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities personnel for purposes of processing my application to Advanced PVBIA / Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Signature

Date