Behavior analysis is a scientific approach to the study of behavior, our dependent variable. It is concerned with describing, explaining, predicting and changing behavior. Environmental events are the independent variable in our science, even though we recognize that genetics and other biological variables are needed to fully explain behavior. The focus of behavior analysis is determining functional relations between behavior and environmental events. Behavior analysis has three branches: the experimental analysis of behavior (EAB), which focuses on research on basic processes and principles; applied behavior analysis (ABA), which focuses on applying basic principles to solve problems of social significance; and the conceptual analysis of behavior, which addresses philosophical, theoretical, historical and methodological issues.

Florida Tech offers three master’s degree programs in behavior analysis, each incorporating core elements from the three branches of behavior analysis: ABA focuses on clinical and educational applications; organizational behavior management (OBM) focuses on business and industry applications; and the intensive double degree, ABA and OBM, which focuses on both. The behavior analysis degree programs at Florida Tech offer a wide range of opportunities to further academic or professional careers within a demanding and growing field. They offer personalized attention and allow students flexibility in choosing an area of concentration within ABA, such as clinical, educational, or business and industry applications. The faculty is dedicated to training students as professionals who can practice independently.

There is a growing need for well-trained master’s-level behavior analysts to work or consult in schools, early intervention programs, day programs, residential settings and home-based programs, and in business and industry. Florida Tech is one of only a few universities in the country offering degrees in ABA and OBM, as most universities offer only concentrations in ABA or OBM within other disciplines, such as psychology or education. Florida Tech graduates successfully compete for the many currently available jobs.

MISSION
The mission of the behavior analysis degree programs is to produce competent behavior-analytic practitioners and consultants, who are solidly grounded in basic principles derived from the experimental analysis of behavior, who approach the world from a radical behaviorist perspective, who will continue to inform their practice with current research findings, who will continue to contribute to behavioral research, who attain BCBA certification, and who are prepared to enter doctoral programs.

LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE
The ABA program is offered both on the main campus in Melbourne and at the Florida Tech off-campus site in Orlando, Florida. Classes are primarily offered at the Orlando campus on Friday afternoons and weekends, while the main campus program offers most of its classes only on weekdays. Regardless of location, full-time students typically complete the program in four regular semesters plus the intervening summer. The organizational behavior management and the applied behavior analysis and organizational behavior management graduate degree programs are only offered at the main campus in Melbourne.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
An applicant should hold a bachelor’s degree in psychology, education or other related fields, although graduates from other fields are encouraged to apply. An applicant should have a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or higher. An applicant should submit an application form, the provided “supplemental form” and the graduate application fee. Applicants should submit a statement of career objectives, a résumé, three letters of recommendation and Graduate Record Examination General Test scores. In addition, official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate courses attempted must be submitted. All applications should be submitted by February 15, but will be accepted throughout the year. Pre-admission visits to the campus and conferences with faculty and students are strongly encouraged.

PREREQUISITES
A student without a bachelor’s degree in psychology may be required to complete up to nine credit hours of psychology course work at the undergraduate level before registering for graduate-level courses. A student who has not completed a course either in basic principles of learning (or conditioning), basic principles of behavior, or an introductory course in behavior analysis or the equivalent may not be able to register for ABA core classes until such a prerequisite is completed. A student who has not completed a physiological psychology course or the equivalent may not enroll in either PSY 5105 or PSY 5511. These courses are in addition to the credits required for a degree. A student with no previous behavior analysis-related experience may be required to obtain such experience prior to enrolling.

CERTIFICATION
Certification in behavior analysis is international. As the discipline is based on solid scientific principles and practices are empirically validated, standards for professional practice are standard throughout the world. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board Inc.® (BACB®) is the only credentialing organization for the discipline. The BACB has approved the Florida Tech behavior analysis core course sequence, which is part of all our degree programs, as meeting the course work requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst™ (BCBA®) examination. In addition, The BACB has approved Intensive Practical Training in ABA (BEH 5250) as meeting the practicum requirements for eligibility to take the BCBA examination when taken for a total of 12 credits over the course of three terms. Florida Tech’s degree programs in ABA, and ABA and OBM provides our students with all three requirements to sit for the BCBA examination immediately upon graduation.
**APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS**

**FINANCIAL AID**
Graduate student assistantships for instruction and research are available to well-qualified master’s and doctoral degree students. Assistantships carry stipends plus a tuition waiver. In some cases, a tuition waiver alone may be awarded for a limited amount of service. Assistantships for master’s degree students are normally for an academic year; assistantships for doctoral students are renewable on a yearly basis.

**THE UNIVERSITY**
Florida Institute of Technology is a distinctive, independent university, founded in 1958 by a group of scientists and engineers to fulfill the need for specialized, advanced educational opportunities on Florida’s Space Coast. Florida Tech is the only comprehensive, independent scientific and technological university in the Southeast. Supported by both industry and the community, Florida Tech is the recipient of many research grants and contracts, a number of which provide financial support for graduate students.

**LOCATION**
Melbourne is located on the central east coast of Florida. The area offers a delightful year-round subtropical climate and is 10 minutes from the ocean and beaches. Kennedy Space Center and the massive NASA complex are just 45 minutes north of Melbourne. The city of Orlando, Walt Disney World, EPCOT and many other attractions are one hour west of Florida Tech’s main campus.

**MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM**
Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modifications to produce socially significant improvements in behavior. ABA includes the use of direct observation, measurement and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. Based on the findings of descriptive and functional analyses, ABA uses antecedents and consequences to produce practical change. ABA is based on sound scientific principles and has a solid research foundation that proves its effectiveness. ABA is based on the belief that an individual’s behavior is determined by past and current environmental events in conjunction with organic variables such as genetics. Thus, it focuses on explaining behavior in terms of external events (that can be manipulated) rather than internal constructs (that are beyond our control).

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ABA**
- **Applied**: ABA focuses on the implementation of basic principles to behaviors of significance to the participants.
- **Behavioral**: ABA focuses on behavior in its own right as a target for change. The target behavior is directly observed and measured in the real-life environments.
- **Analytic**: ABA seeks to identify functional relations between environmental events and behavior through systematic manipulations.
- **Technological**: Procedures are completely identified, and precisely described and defined.
- **Conceptually Systematic**: In ABA, behavior, procedures and behavior change are linked to, and described in terms of, the basic principles of behavior.
- **Effective**: ABA is an accountable discipline and changes in procedure are data-based. Treatment protocols are revised based on data. In BA, significant outcomes are achieved in a cost effective and efficient manner.
- **Generality**: Procedures can be applied effectively to many individuals and in many settings. In addition, behavior changes achieved should maintain and transfer to other environments.

Applied behavior analysts may specialize in clinical applications (e.g., developmental disabilities, mental health and traumatic brain injury), educational applications (e.g., learning disabilities, and designing and evaluating instructional technology), health and fitness, and other areas. They typically spend more time in the problem environment than in their offices. Behavior plans are implemented in the settings where behavior problems occur, rather than the clinic attending sessions at an office.

The ABA degree program provides course work and practical experience for those who plan to work as behavior analytic practitioners or consultants in community-based and residential programs. Graduates will conduct functional assessments and functional analyses. They will develop, implement and monitor behavior programs in homes, foster-care agencies, residential programs, early intervention programs, schools, adult day training programs and other settings. The clients served by our graduates will be children and adults with challenging behaviors and atypical skill deficits.

Special emphasis is placed in populations who are given the following diagnoses by other professionals: autism and other pervasive developmental disorders, mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficit and disruptive behavior disorders, feeding and eating disorders, schizophrenia and neurobehavioral disorders. They may also work with persons who want to improve their health and fitness, or with athletes who want to improve their performance. Sub-specialty areas include providing intensive behavioral early intervention, teaching verbal behavior, decelerating behavior problems such as self-injury and physical aggression, parent training and even animal training.

ABA is applied like traditional clinical psychology, but is behavioral rather than cognitive or eclectic. It is analytic as it relies on the systematic manipulation of environmental events and on directly measuring and graphing behavior (rather than reliance on written tests and interviews for assessment and evaluation). It is technological in that the procedures are precisely described in such a way that others can replicate them. Instead of treating clients in an office, they are treated in the environment where the problem behavior occurs (e.g., homes and schools). Instead of directly treating the client in sessions, work is with parents, teachers, staff and others who implement behavior change procedures on an ongoing basis. In addition, it has other characteristics that differentiate it from traditional clinical psychology. Graduates may apply and enroll in our APA-approved Psy.D. clinical psychology program, combining both degrees, or they may seek to pursue a Ph.D. in behavior analysis.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**
A minimum of 48 semester credit hours is required. Requirements include completing the behavior analysis core curriculum (16 credit hours), additional course work related to clinical and educational applications of ABA, intensive practical training (12 credit hours), either a capstone project or a thesis, and a final program examination. The final program examination for all students consists of a multiple-choice examination simulating the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Inc.’s certification examination at the behavior analyst (BABA©) level. Typically, the final program examination will be administrated toward the end of the student’s final semester of residency.

**Behavior Analysis Core Curriculum (16 credit hours)**
- BEH 5100 Concepts, Principles, and Characteristics of Behavior Analysis 3
- BEH 5101 Behavioral and Functional Assessment 3
- BEH 5102 Experimental Evaluation of Interventions 3
- BEH 5103 Behavior Change Procedures 3
- BEH 5104 Ethical and Legal Considerations for Behavior Analysts 1
- BEH 5105 Radical Behaviorism 3

**Applied Behavior Analysis Clinical Curriculum (26 credit hours)**
- BEH 5200 Essential Elements of Effective ABA Practice 3
- BEH 5201 Ethical and Professional Standards in ABA 1
- BEH 5250 Intensive Practical Training in Applied Behavior Analysis 12
- BEH 5290 Capstone Project in Applied Behavior Analysis 3
- Approved Electives 7
- or BEH 5999 Thesis 6
- Approved Electives 4

**Foundations of Bio-Psychology (6 credit hours)**
- PSY 5105 Biological Foundations of Behavior 3
- PSY 5511 Clinical Psychopharmacology 3

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 48**

*Electives may be chosen with adviser and program chair approval from among the following, depending on the chosen option (Capstone Project or Thesis):*

**BEH 5400 Introduction to Organizational Behavior Management**
- BEH 5500 Seminar in Conceptual Issues in Behavior Analysis 3
- BEH 5501 Seminar in Methodological Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis 3
- BEH 5502 Seminar in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior 3
- BEH 5503 Seminar in Educational Behavior 3
- BEH 5504 Seminar in Clinical Behavior Analysis 3
- BEH 5505 Seminar in Organizational Behavior Management 3
- BEH 5506 Basic to Applied Continuum in Behavior Analysis 3

**BEH 5507 Behavior Analysis in Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities**
- BEH 5508 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis 3
- PSY 5106 Lifespan Development 3
- PSY 5541 Clinical Skills and Techniques 3
- PSY 5561 Children’s Behavior Disorders 3

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
To obtain more detailed information about this Graduate Program or to obtain application materials, visit our home page at www.fit.edu/grad or the University Catalog at www.fit.edu/catalog, or contact:
Florida Institute of Technology
Office of Graduate Admissions
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901-6975
(321) 674-8027
(321) 723-9468/Fax
(800) 944-4348
Florida Institute of Technology is an independent university located in Melbourne, Florida. Florida Tech is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, master’s, education specialist and doctoral degrees. Florida Tech admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to its programs.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Even though a graduate degree in behavior analysis is a good degree option to choose, there are many who want to develop professionally, develop new skills and become certified in an exciting and growing profession without getting another degree. The two behavior analysis graduate certificate programs are a great option to provide them with the tools needed for career advancement without the need for additional degrees.

Our certificate courses are offered in the classroom, through distance learning, and through a combination of both, resulting in reduced class time. The on-site courses are available throughout Florida and in several other states. They are not synchronous with the Florida Tech semester system, meaning they can begin at any time, provided there is a sufficient number of students to start a cohort. Check the behavior analysis Web page for current offerings.

The courses in the two certificate programs are taught at the graduate level and may be taken either for credit or professional development nontransferable credit. We recommend that students choose the second option unless they are certain that they can apply the credits toward a degree program in which they are already enrolled. It is strongly recommended that prospective students check the Behavior Analyst Certification Board’s Web page at www.BACB.com for information about certification requirements.

The two behavior analysis certificate programs are offered in partnership with ABA Technologies Inc. (ABA Tech), a company that has been involved in professional development of behavior analysts throughout the United States since 1997.

ABA ASSOCIATE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The associate graduate certificate program is ideally suited for those who have a bachelor’s degree and want to develop professionally before, or instead of, seeking a graduate degree. Completion of the three-course sequence in this program will allow students who hold a minimum of an undergraduate degree in any field from an accredited university and who go on to obtain the supervised field experience required by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Inc.® (BACB®), to qualify to take the Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst™ (BCABA®) examination. The BACB has approved the three-course sequence as meeting the requirements for eligibility to take the BCABA examination.

Board certified associate behavior analysts are in great demand and obtain more fulfilling jobs than most individuals who simply hold an undergraduate degree in fields like psychology, in which an advanced degree is needed in order to work as a professional. BCABAs can make a difference in people’s lives and are well paid. There is a growing demand for BCABAs in many states.

In addition, those completing the three-course sequence in this program should be able to use the credits to meet part of the instructional requirements to qualify to take the BCBA examination if they go on to a graduate degree. These individuals would simply need the two additional courses from the ABA certificate program to meet those instructional requirements, as the courses they completed are the same as the first three courses in the ABA certificate program. They may even choose to complete the five-course sequence and obtain an ABA certificate from our program before enrolling in a graduate program. Certification requirements increase periodically, so students should have some sense of when they are likely to complete their graduate degree to determine whether or not they will be able to use the additional courses in the future. Completion of the ABA certificate program does not constitute completion of a graduate degree.

ABA Associate Certificate Course Sequence
BEH 5000 Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)
BEH 5101 Behavioral Assessment and Program Evaluation (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)
BEH 5102 Behavior Change Procedures and Ethical Considerations (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)

ABA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The ABA graduate certificate is ideally suited for those who have a graduate degree and who want to develop professionally in an area outside their discipline. Completion of the five-course sequence in this program will allow students holding a minimum of a master’s degree in any field from an accredited university and who go on to obtain the supervised field experience required by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board Inc.® (BACB®), to qualify to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst™ (BCBA®) examination. The BACB has approved the five-course sequence as meeting the course work requirements for eligibility to take the BCBA examination.

Board certified behavior analysts are in great demand and obtain more fulfilling jobs than most individuals who simply hold a graduate degree in fields like psychology, in which a license is typically needed in order to work as a professional. BCBA’s can make a difference in people’s lives and are well paid. There is a growing demand for BCBA’s in many states.

ABA Certificate Course Sequence
BEH 5000 Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)
BEH 5101 Behavioral Assessment and Program Evaluation (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)
BEH 5102 Behavior Change Procedures and Ethical Considerations (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)
BEH 5003 Advanced Topics in Applied Behavior Analysis (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)
BEH 5004 Special Topics in Applied Behavior Analysis (45 instructional hours or 3 credits)