Pre-Proposal Form – New Graduate Degree Program

GRADUATE SCHOOL
4202 East Fowler Ave, BEH 304
Tampa, FL 33620
TEL: (813) 974-2846
http://www.grad.usf.edu

Pre-Proposal Process

1. Faculty prepare and submit the pre-proposal for Department and College approval

2. Once approved by your department and college
   - Scan/Email one electronic copy to chines-cobb@grad.usf.edu in the Graduate School

3. Once received the proposal will be distributed to the Graduate Executive Coordination Committee (GECC). The GECC will provide feedback/recommendations within one week of the distribution.

Program Proposal Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program (Major) Name (e.g. M.A. in Biology)</th>
<th>Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIP Code</td>
<td>42.9999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are any other graduate programs at USF offered under this CIP code? If yes, list them</td>
<td>Master’s Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Department</td>
<td>College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, Department of Child and Family Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target date for first admissions (e.g. Fall 2012)</td>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
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Answer the following in brief but complete responses.

1. Why is the program needed?

There is great demand for bachelor’s and master’s level practitioners in applied behavior analysis (ABA), both in Florida and around the country. Board Certified Behavior Analysts (master’s level) and Assistant Behavior Analysts (Bachelor’s level) are hired by private and public agencies serving children with autism, children and adults with developmental disabilities, children with behavioral difficulties, families, and the elderly. With growing demand for behavior analysis services and certified practitioners to provide them, more doctoral level behavior analysts are needed to teach in college and university programs, develop programs, and provide leadership for organizations.

2. What are the primary goals?

The primary goals of the ABA doctoral program at USF are to train students to be accomplished researchers, expert practitioners, and leaders in the field. The goal is for graduates to have the expertise needed to obtain academic positions in ABA so they can teach the next generation of applied behavior analysts, to obtain research positions at major universities or research programs, and to obtain leadership positions in organizations providing behavior analysis services to a variety of populations. The program will focus on the conceptual basis of behavior analysis, research in behavior analysis, and program development and dissemination.

3. What is unique about this program that makes it worthy of approval and something students will want to participate in?

There are only a few established ABA doctoral programs around the country (Western Michigan University, University of Nevada, University of Florida, West Virginia University, University of Kansas, Ohio State University) along with a few recently developed programs (Florida Institute of Technology, Western New England College, Simmons College). There is high demand for these programs and the ABA doctoral program at USF would help address this demand. A unique aspect of the ABA doctoral program will be its placement within an interdisciplinary department, the Department of Child and Family Studies (CFS). Placement within CFS will provide doctoral students with opportunities for collaborative applied research with colleagues from multiple disciplines in CFS.
who are engaged in research with children, families, programs, and systems. In addition, students will be a part of a Department with a high volume of externally funded projects related to behavior analysis, mental health services and supports, developmental disabilities, and the development of model programs and effective systems. This will also be a point of distinction for the USF ABA doctoral program. Finally, the link to the current USF ABA Program’s connection to numerous community agencies in which master’s students participate in practicum activities and conduct applied research is notable. These community partnerships would provide excellent applied settings for doctoral level clinical and research training.

4. **What interdisciplinary opportunities exist for this proposal?**

*Include other faculty, programs, or colleges that may have interest in the plan*

The program will be housed within the Department of Child and Family Studies where faculty are from multiple disciplines including psychology, social work, nursing, anthropology, school psychology, and special education. Faculty who currently teach in the ABA program also represent multiple disciplines including: psychology, special education, school psychology, and applied behavior analysis. The technology of applied behavior analysis has application within almost all human service fields. Students within the doctoral program will be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for collaboration with faculty in special education, physical therapy, communication disorders, social work, psychiatry, public health, school psychology, engineering, and education. Many of these opportunities have been fostered by the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities) through its explicit mission to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary education. Florida Center for Inclusive Communities has facilitated the development of an Autism Services Network that includes faculty from pediatrics, psychology, psychiatry, communication disorders, physical therapy, public health, and special education who are all involved in autism services and research. This network will offer some ideal opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration for doctoral students interested in autism. Another opportunity for collaboration facilitated by the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities is the interdisciplinary research innovations seminar series in developmental disabilities that enrolls students from public health, communication disorders, applied behavior analysis, and special education to learn more about research and innovations in services.

5. **Would the approval this program support the Strategic Plan and if so, how?**

Yes, the ABA doctoral program would support the strategic plan in a few ways. It would increase the scholarly activity and productivity in the department with new faculty and doctoral students conducting high quality research (goal 1). It would represent a globally competitive doctoral program with the potential for promoting interdisciplinary activities (goal 2). It would expand community engagement activities as the applied research and practice activities of doctoral students and faculty members would be conducted in conjunction with community partners (goal 3). Finally, it would enhance the program’s ability to generate income through the production of more undergraduate credit hours with doctoral instructors and the continuation of initiatives such as Sponsored Credit Institutes (goal 4).

### PRE-PLAN APPROVAL for the proposed: Ph.D. degree in Applied Behavior Analysis

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-PLAN APPROVAL</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Name and Email</td>
<td>Raymond G. Miltenberger</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rmiltenberger@fmhi.usf.edu">rmiltenberger@fmhi.usf.edu</a></td>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>10/15/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>Mario Hernandez</td>
<td></td>
<td>Approval: Not approved</td>
<td>10/15/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Committee Chair</td>
<td>Larry Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Approval: Not approved</td>
<td>10/15/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Dean or Designee</td>
<td>Junius Gonzales</td>
<td></td>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>10/6/09</td>
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**Next Actions:**
Comments from the GECC will be forwarded to the faculty contact for consideration in the development of the full proposal.
For information on development of the full Proposal, refer to the Graduate School website (www.grad.usf.edu) on New Degree Program Development.

Graduate School/CHC/9/8/09