GSU ABA Program FAQ

1. Is the GSU course sequence approved/verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB VCS)?

Yes, GSU offers a BACB VCS. Additionally, we offer the opportunity to enroll in a practicum course that qualifies for the “practicum” option under the supervision standards (https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/BACB_Integrated_1710_experience_standards_english.pdf).

2. Are there any prerequisites?

No, there are no prerequisites required for admission, but the faculty strongly encourage ALL applicants to 1) view the BACB website and become familiar with the current standards and task list (www.bacb.com), as well as become familiar with the work that practicing behavior analysts do from day to day.

3. I am enrolled in another ABA Program at this time, and would like to transfer to GSU. Are there any considerations that I should take into account?

Yes, the University only allows a maximum of 9 hours of transfer credit to be applied toward a degree, so that may be one of your primary considerations. Second, if you were to be admitted to GSU in the Fall (the only semester where admission is granted), there may also be the chance that there are not any classes for you to take. Unlike programs that are much larger, we do not offer every course in our sequence each semester. We keep enrollment low to insure that students can access the support and mentorship of our faculty in an effort to enhance the learning experience. In that same vein, we only admit students in the Fall semester and at this time to allow students the opportunity to finish their coursework in four semesters. This is a firm decision, and students will not be admitted in other semesters. There could also be a bit of an issue with your current/previous course sequence aligning with the GSU sequence. The BACB does not mandate (at this time) that all programs have identical coursework hours allocations, and this sometimes results in students having to take more courses to meet the coursework requirement. To compare the GSU Program and your current program’s coursework allocation, please visit http://info.bacb.com/o.php?page=100358, click on the info tab, and then again on the link to “verified content hours”. This will allow you to see where both programs allocate hours, and compare to insure that you will remain on track if you were accepted to the GSU Program.

4. I prefer to access all of my courses on-line

At this time, the GSU faculty does not feel that on-line coursework is the most effective modality to teach the ABA course sequence. We do recognize that many professionals prefer this method of course delivery, but have made our decision based on the current Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Examination passage information. Current information related to exam passage indicate that in-person
course sequences have a higher passage than those that are delivered on-line or hybrid (Shepley et al., 2017).

5. I am a working professional, and I am concerned with the time commitment required for a face-to-face program.

With all graduate education, time management should be a factor. Getting an M.S. is a time-consuming and challenging process, especially when working full-time. All classes in the GSU ABA Program are offered at 4:30 pm or later to accommodate working students. Many students enrolled in the program are working professionals and have reported that the coursework and time-management is challenging, but can be accomplished.

6. I am a current teacher, and would like to pursue eligibility to sit for the BCBA exam. Is this possible?

Yes! Many students that enroll in the GSU ABA Program are current or former teachers. Prior to applying to the GSU Program, it may be a good course of action to insure that supervision from a qualifying BCBA ( ) can be delivered in your classroom. At this time, the GSU faculty does not provide supervision to classroom teachers unless there is an established relationship between GSU and the school system for supervision. We are happy to discuss this possibility with any school districts!

7. I already have a master’s degree, and would like to enroll in the non-degree (ND) course sequence.

GSU offers a 6-course BACB VCS that may be accessed by applicants that would like to become qualified to sit for the BCBA examination. All potential ND applicants must hold a graduate degree in a qualifying field. The definition of a qualifying degree may be found at https://www.bacb.com/acceptable-degree-definitions/. If there are questions related to whether or not a specific degree would qualify you are encouraged to contact the BACB for further guidance. The BACB is an independent certification entity, and decisions that they make are independent from GSU. Please note that in this option, you will only be taking the 6-course sequence, and must complete the 1500 hr Supervised Independent Fieldwork option. In addition, you must secure your own supervisor.

8. I have completed a course sequence at another institution and would like to only enroll in the practicum courses. Is this permissible?

No, the practicum courses are only available for students that are currently enrolled in the GSU MS in ABA Program.
9. I completed a course sequence prior to the BACB Task List (4th ed), and I am looking for a “bridge” course that will satisfy the hours that I need to sit for the BCBA Examination. Does GSU offer that type of course?

No, the GSU ABA Program does not offer that type of course.

10. I have been working in the field of ABA for quite some time, does GSU offer credit for work experience?

No, the GSU ABA Program does not offer credit for work experience. We recognize that there are many professionals that are stellar, but cannot accept work experience as credit because it was not done under the supervision of GSU faculty.

11. Is the GRE required?

Yes, the GRE is a requirement, but please understand that the GSU ABA faculty evaluate students based on all of their application materials and not solely on one metric.

12. Can I enroll as a ND student without a masters degree?

No, The ND option is only for potential students with a conferred or in progress masters degree that is inline with the BACB definition of an acceptable degree (https://www.bacb.com/acceptable-degree-definitions/).