

Specialize in Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis



The Special Education Program at Texas State University-San Marcos offers a master of education degree program in special education with a concentration in autism and applied behavior analysis (ABA). This graduate program prepares highly trained individuals to educate children and youth with autism in school settings, homes and communities. Graduates become teachers, specialists or consultants in public or private agencies, or in-home trainers.

This program is unique, combining the dual fields of special education and applied behavior analysis. Graduates with advanced knowledge in both of these fields are highly valued by public and private schools and agencies, as well as families. With some additional training, the course work could lead to Texas teacher certification in special education. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. has approved this concentration as meeting the requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination. Applicants must meet additional requirements to qualify.

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Course Work

Special education faculty with expertise in autism and applied behavior analysis designed the graduate program for individuals who seek to further their careers by receiving specialized training in autism treatment. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Autism Center's National Standards Project, educational programs based on principles of applied behavior analysis are some of the most effective for children and youth with autism.

Individuals who may benefit from this graduate program include: those who are already teachers or want to become teachers and wish to become more proficient in evidence-based strategies used to treat autism; those who are private ABA therapists or others in the field of autism seeking teacher certification or who wish to earn an advanced degree in their field; individuals who wish to become board certified behavior analysts.

There are three pathways to advance through this unique program:

- Completion of the master of education degree with the autism and ABA concentration, special education teacher certification, and an optional Texas State University Certificate in Autism
- Completion of the master of education degree with the autism and ABA concentration and the corresponding Texas State University Certificate in Autism, without special education teacher certification
- Completion of the autism and ABA courses only with the corresponding Texas State University Certificate in Autism

The master of education degree in special education with a concentration in autism/applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a 36-hour program that provides advanced, specialized course work in special education, autism and applied behavior analysis. Eight of the 12 required courses pertain to autism and applied behavior analysis. The remaining courses compose a related cognate. Students who seek a master's degree must meet requirements of the Texas State University Graduate College. Graduates will earn a Texas State University Certificate in Autism.

In addition to 36 hours required for the master's degree, students seeking initial special education teacher certification will need to complete five special and general education pedagogy courses that include student teaching or an approved internship. Graduates may also earn a Texas State University Certificate in Autism with two additional courses.

For students wanting to complete only the autism and applied behavior analysis course work without a master's degree, the program will consist of eight specialized courses: three autism-specific courses, two ABA content courses, one course pertaining to positive behavior supports (PBS), one course pertaining to single-case research design, and an autism practicum. Graduates will earn a Texas State University Certificate in Autism.

Admission Policy

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the special education program requires students who seek a master's degree to have a minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to a bachelor's degree and a preferred GRE score of 900 (verbal and quantitative combined). Interested individuals should submit the following to the Graduate College:

- An online application through ApplyTexas
- One official transcript from each college or university attended, including community colleges
- Official results of the verbal/quantitative GRE

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu for more information and an online application. Applications are due June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for spring, and April 15 for summer.

For students seeking only a Texas State University Certificate in Autism without a master's degree, the special education program requires a GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to a bachelor's degree. For students not meeting this GPA requirement, a GRE score of at least 900 may be required for admission consideration.

In addition to submitting an application to the Graduate College, an Autism/ABA application should be submitted to special education program faculty before beginning course work. This application includes the following information:

- Application form
- One-to two-page letter of intent stating career goals
- Résumé
- Copies of transcripts
- Copies of certifications or licensures
- Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with professional work, including at least one supervisor

The Autism/ABA application is in addition to the Graduate College applications; Graduate College acceptance is required to register for courses regardless of the pathway.

Financial Assistance

For information about scholarships, financial aid and deadlines, visit the Graduate College Web site at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on *Financing your Graduate Education*.

Contact

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