



# Graduate Programs in Applied Behavior Analysis

Caldwell University's Master of Arts (M.A.; ABAI Accredited Program) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) graduate programs provide students with the skills and experience to become leaders in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Through coursework, participation in applied and research practica, and completion of an empirical thesis or dissertation, students develop a strong foundation in the science of behavior analysis to explain behavior, and to apply these basic principles to improve individual and social conditions. These programs meet all education and experience requirements to prepare graduates for certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

## Opportunities for Graduate Students

Students enrolled in one of the graduate programs in ABA may have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of experiences, including

- Qualification for a graduate assistantship in the Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Eligibility for employment in the Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Participation in conducting behavior analytic research projects, attending and presenting at regional and national professional conferences, and preparing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Receiving training on teaching at the secondary level and teaching experiences as a teaching assistant and instructor of record
- Joining in a range of professional activities and involvement in local and national professional organizations



The Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA provides a continuum of services to meet the growing need for effective intervention for individuals with a range of disabilities. Our affiliation with Caldwell University's Master of Arts and Ph.D. programs in ABA provides graduate students with the unique opportunity to receive training by nationally recognized faculty members and deliver intervention based on cutting-edge research.



## Student Association for Applied Behavior Analysis (SAABA) at Caldwell University



The purpose of the SAABA is to enrich the academic experience of graduate students involved in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA); to foster a sense of community amongst members; to provide

opportunities for professional development; to disseminate research; and raise awareness about autism, ABA, and the graduate programs at Caldwell University. SAABA member activities include general meetings, professional service, and social events.



## Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis

### Admission requirements

- M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis, Psychology, Special Education, or a related field (e.g., Speech Pathology, Social Work) and have earned BCBA® certification (or be eligible for BCBA® certification)
- Minimum GPA of 3.6 in master's degree coursework
- Official transcripts of master's degree coursework
- Satisfactory scores on the General Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT)
- Three letters of recommendation that specifically speak to the likelihood of the applicant's success in a doctoral degree program
- Writing sample: a research-based paper in applied behavior analysis or a related area of psychology of at least ten pages that was previously submitted as part of a graduate course. If applicable, the applicant's master's thesis is preferable.
- Three to five page personal statement describing reasons for pursuing Ph.D. in ABA at Caldwell University, current research interests, and preferred faculty member with whom to study (including reasons for this choice).
- Personal interview
- 60 credits in Required Courses
- 30 credits in Elective Courses

## M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis

### Admission requirements



- Bachelor's degree or higher, preferably in a related field such as psychology, education, or special education
- A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.3
- Official undergraduate/graduate transcripts
- Satisfactory scores on the general Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) (Students who already have a master's degree are exempt from this requirement)
- Two letters of recommendation for graduate study
- Writing sample: a research-based paper in psychology or education of at least ten pages that was previously submitted as part of an undergraduate or graduate course. Other subject matter may be considered if the candidate has had limited prior psychology or education work.
- Personal statement of several pages in length describing reasons for pursuing graduate study in ABA at Caldwell University
- Personal interview
- 36 credits in Required Courses
- 9 credits in Elective Courses

## Course Descriptions

Required courses for the graduate programs in Applied Behavior Analysis include coursework covering topics such as applied behavior analysis, learning, research methodology, ethics, professionalism, and thesis/dissertation.

Elective courses for the graduate programs in Applied Behavior Analysis include coursework covering topics such as college teaching, stimulus control, choice, feeding disorders, verbal behavior, and concept formation.



## Full-Time Faculty

### Sharon A. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D



- Professor & Chair, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Director, Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Ph.D., City University of New York Graduate Center
- Research Interests: The analysis of stimulus control when teaching individuals with autism language, social, and play skills

### Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D



- Professor, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Ph.D., City University of New York Graduate Center
- Research interests: Concept formation, stimulus control, and the scientific assessment of treatment and educational practices

### Tina M. Sidener, Ph.D., BCBA-D



- Professor, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Clinical Supervisor, Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Ph.D., Western Michigan University
- Research interests: Teaching language and social skills to children with autism, establishing conditioned reinforcers, stereotypy, and pediatric feeding disorders

### Ruth M. DeBar, Ph.D., BCBA-D



- Professor, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Clinical Supervisor, Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Ph.D., The Ohio State University
- Research interests: Choice, preference, social validity, and functional behavior assessment/analyses for individuals with autism and related disorders

### Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP



- Associate Professor, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Clinical Supervisor, Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Ph.D., Central Michigan University
- Research interests: Early behavioral intervention for children with autism and related disorders, increasing the efficiency of academic instruction, and staff training

### Meghan Deshais, Ph.D., BCBA-D



- Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Clinical Supervisor, Caldwell University Center for Autism and ABA
- Ph.D., University of Florida
- Research interests: Imitation training with children with autism spectrum disorder, healthcare and hygiene routines with children with autism spectrum disorder, the assessment/treatment of problem behavior, and group contingencies



Scan to visit the ABA Department website

[www.caldwelluniversityautismcenter.org](http://www.caldwelluniversityautismcenter.org)



Scan to visit Center for Autism & ABA