

# Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate Podcast

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Hello, my name is Kassie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate program. Today we are going to cover the admissions process, certificate requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this certificate program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this graduate certificate entails. The Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate program will prepare students to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, also termed a BCBA, through the GVSU approved course sequence. This is a 21-credit hour online program that can be completed in 1 and a half years as a full-time student or 2 and a half years as a part-time student. To become a BCBA, students must also complete supervised fieldwork hours and successfully pass a BCBA exam administered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. You can find more information about the requirements to become a BCBA at the Behavior Analyst Certification Board website – [bacb.com](http://bacb.com).

Interest in applied behavior analysis, or ABA, is high and the demand for Board Certified Behavior Analysts has steadily increased over the last 12 years with a 38% increase in demand from 2020 to 2021. The outlook is promising given that behavior analysts can work in a wide range of fields including education, healthcare, and industry. Since behavior analysis is centered on behavior change, it can be applied to every age group across many aspects of life. For example, insurance companies offer reimbursement to Board Certified Behavior Analysts for ABA services to children with autism spectrum disorder. Schools also utilize the skills of behavior analysts for developing instructional and behavior support plans for children with learning and behavior challenges. Behavior analytic principles can also be applied to health issues such as weight management and physical fitness. In the GVSU Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate Program, you will learn the many ways you can use ABA principles and practices in a professional career.

Standard GVSU admission requirements include completion of the online degree seeking application. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

For admission to the ABA Graduate Certificate program, applicants must demonstrate completion of a master's degree with a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Application materials include a professional vita or resume, three professional letters of recommendation, and a 2-page personal statement outlining your interest in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis and the ABA Graduate Certificate program at GVSU. A GRE score is not required for students entering with a master's degree.

More details as well as the online application can be found on the Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate program website, [www.gvsu.edu/grad/aba](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/aba).

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be

found at [www.gvsu.edu/financialaid](http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid) or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu).

All courses in the 21-credit hour Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate program are offered online to make it accessible to working professionals. In the courses, you will learn about behavior analytic principles and practices, ethical standards for professional behavior analysts, how to evaluate the effectiveness of behavior analytic programs, the application of behavior analysis to different populations, and more. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [www.gvsu.edu/grad/aba](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/aba).

The Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate program at GVSU emphasizes the integration of behavior analytic principles and practices into school settings, and how to work collaboratively while providing ABA services to children. Program faculty members have strong connections to the educational and mental health community and provide real-world examples of working at both an individual and systems level.

That is just a snapshot of the Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions about this Graduate Certificate Program can be directed to program director Amy Matthews at [matthewa@gvsu.edu](mailto:matthewa@gvsu.edu) or to The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu). Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.