

**Grand Valley State University**  
**ABA Graduate Certificate Program**  
**Psy 624: Behavioral Assessment and Intervention**

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**Meeting location:** Online through Blackboard

**Phone:** 616-331-8703

**Office hours:** By Appointment

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the theoretical foundations and practical applications of behavioral assessment and intervention. The focus is on evidence-based assessment and intervention strategies that lead to socially significant, durable outcomes for students, educators, and families. The course uses functional behavior assessment as a framework for understanding behavior.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare, contrast and utilize indirect and direct methods of functional behavior assessment.
2. Individualize and implement direct observation systems to evaluate and assess changes in behavior.
3. Summarize, interpret and report functional behavior assessment and intervention data with effective communication of results to teachers and parents, orally, graphically, and in written reports.
4. Provide the rationale for conducting functional behavior assessments, and critique various methods in the process.
5. Demonstrate expertise in the administration of behavioral rating scales commonly used in schools, while critiquing the potential uses and limitations of such measures.
6. Use assessment data to devise intervention plans to decrease problem behavior and increase prosocial behavior.
7. Develop intervention targets in conjunction with parents, teachers, school psychologists, and other school professionals.
8. Adhere to and demonstrate understanding of school and professional policies surrounding assessment and service provision in schools (e.g., confidentiality, special education law, professional ethics, collaboration and professionalism).

<b>BACB 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Task List</b>		
<b>Section 2: Applications</b>	<b>Task List Items</b>	<b>Content Hours</b>
F: Behavior Assessment	F-1-9	40 hours
G: Behavior-Change Procedures	G-1, G-2, G-14, G-15	5 hours

<b>Learning Unit</b>	<b>Task List Items</b>	<b>Content Hours</b>
Unit 1: Defining Behavior and Measurement of Behavior	F-2, F-4	10 hours
Unit 2: Structural Analysis and Functional Analysis	F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9	10 hours
Unit 3: Trial-Based Functional Analysis and Practical Functional Analysis	F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9	
Unit 4: Functional Behavior Assessment I	F-1, F-3, F-4, F-7	10 hours

Unit 4: Functional Behavior Assessment II and Preference Assessment	F-5, F-8, F-9	
Unit 5: Competing Pathways and Behavioral Interventions	F-1, F-3, F-6, F-9, G-1, G-2, G-14, G-15	15 hours
Unit 6: Developing and Implementing Behavior Intervention Plans Based on Function	F-1, F-6, F-9	

## READING MATERIALS: REQUIRED TEXT

Steege, M.W. & Watson, S. (2019). *Conducting school-based Functional Behavioral Assessments: A practitioner's guide* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Guilford Press: NY. (This book can be ordered from an online retailer or directly from Guilford.)

Additional readings will be posted in unit modules or in course reserve.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Required Equipment (owned or accessible)

- High-speed internet access
- Computer with a sound card and speakers; operating system that meets current Blackboard browser requirements (see below)
- Microphone (built in or external)

### Blackboard is the Course Management System

To access Blackboard, go to <https://mybb.gvsu.edu/> and enter your log in and password.

This course utilizes Blackboard, GVSU's online course management system. Take a look at the GVSU Online Learning pages to and find numerous materials about using Blackboard and online learning <http://www.gvsu.edu/online/>.

Use of Blackboard is integral to this course and students must log on a few times each week in order to complete course requirements, receive important announcements and updates, and communicate with instructors and other students about course content and requirements.

Check the current technical requirements to use Blackboard - <http://www.gvsu.edu/online/what-about-the-technology--8.htm> and preferred browser information - <http://www.gvsu.edu/it/learn/browser-configuration-24.htm>

### Technical difficulties with Blackboard

If you experience technical problems with Blackboard, contact the help desk by email or phone - [helpdesk@gvsu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@gvsu.edu) or 616-331-3513. The help website is <http://www.gvsu.edu/it/learn/>

### Accessing the Library

Many of GVSU's library resources can be accessed online [Distance and Off-Campus Learning Services](#) with many journal articles available on demand. You must have an active GVSU student account to take advantage of the library's resources and services. Some courses may have reading materials in course reserve. To access course reserve, [click here](#).

### **BCBA Certification Information**

This course is one of seven courses in the 21-credit Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate Program at GVSU. Successful completion of the course sequence results in the GVSU Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. The ABA Graduate Certificate is a Verified Course Sequence (VCS) by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). The BACB has approved the GVSU course sequence as meeting the 315-hour coursework requirements for eligibility to pursue certification as a BCBA. Additionally, the BACB requires that you show proof of a master's degree and evidence that you have accrued the required number of supervised experience hours before you can register to take the BCBA exam. You are responsible for ensuring that you meet all of the current BACB standards. For more information about the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, go to [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com). \*Once you begin the ABA course sequence, you can start accumulating supervised fieldwork experience hours.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you need specific accommodations and you have a documented disability, you will need to contact the Disability Support Resources Office at 616-331-2490 to coordinate accommodations. If you plan to request accommodations in this course, please let me know right away so I can assist you.

## **COURSE ORGANIZATION and ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Readings**

You will have book chapters or articles to read for each module. It is critical to stay up on the readings. This is where you will learn much of the terminology and process for completing Functional Behavior Assessments and developing Behavior Intervention Plans. Because of the flow of content, there are some units where the reading load is heavier, and others where it is lighter. Readings will constitute a combination of "how-to's", as well as classic research articles in the field.

### **Learning Modules (6 units, 2-3 weeks per module)**

There are a total of six learning modules in this course. Learning modules include lecture materials, reading assignments, lecture presentations, discussion board/zoom activities, occasional quizzes, and assignments. All previous units will be open throughout the course.

Each learning module will have embedded questions and practice activities associated with the content. These are ungraded activities. However, it is expected that you will complete these activities since they will help you to solidify your understanding of information and they will help with assignments, exams and application of content to practice. I will post answers to the practice activities for each module at the end of that module.

### **Discussion Board/Zoom Meetings - (5 modules)**

We will have Zoom Meetings or Discussion Board questions/activities five times over the course of the semester. At least two of these will involve Zoom meetings in the evening.

**Quizzes** – (2 quizzes)

You will complete and submit a Cooper quiz score for only one chapter of the Cooper book. We will also revisit concepts and terminology as we go through this class (specifically, Chapters 3, 4 & 26). You will be asked to complete Cooper quizzes for these chapters as well, but you do not need to submit your scores. Use your quiz results and comfort with terminology/content from these chapters to determine how extensively you review this content. Cooper quiz website - [http://wps.prenhall.com/chet\\_cooper\\_appliedbeh\\_2/](http://wps.prenhall.com/chet_cooper_appliedbeh_2/). There will be one additional quiz that relates to FBA terminology. More information about this quiz will be provided at the beginning of Unit 5.

**Assignments** – (2 Case Study Assignments, 4 Content Assignments)

There are six graded assignments in this course. To complete some of these assignments, you will need to identify students who engage in challenging behavior from your practicum site or work setting, and complete specific steps related to assessment and intervention. These are graded and will constitute an important part of your learning for the course. More information about each of these assignments will be provided in Blackboard. All assignments must be prepared in a professional manner (typed, and free from spelling/grammatical errors). The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for assignments submitted late.

**Exams** – (2 proctored exams)

You will have 2 exams scheduled throughout the semester. The exams will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. I will provide more information about the content/format of each exam closer to the scheduled dates. Exams will require Respondus Lockdown. You can take them at any point on the day they are due or work with me if you need to identify an alternative date.

Assignment	Points	Total Points for Semester
Quizzes	1 Cooper Quiz: 5 points 1 FBA term Quiz: 20 points	25
Discussion Board / Zoom Meetings	5 modules, 10 points each	50
<b>Assignments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Case Study Assignment 1</u>: Student Observations (30 points) – due Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <u>Case Study Assignment 2</u>: FBA Implementation (50 points) – due Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 1</u>: SA and FA (20 points) – due Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 2</u>: TBFA and PFA (20 points) – due Sunday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 3</u>: Developing Interventions (20 points), due Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 4</u>: BIP Summary and Implementation Checklist (20 points) – due Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	6 assignments, ranging from 20 to 50 points each	160
Exams	2 exams at 50 points each	100
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>335</b>

## Final Grade Requirement

Students seeking the ABA Graduate Certificate must complete all courses with a B- or higher in each course and finish with a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D	61-69%
F	0-60%

## Academic Integrity

[GVSU Student Code regarding Integrity of Scholarship and Grades:](#)

### Section 223.00: Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

Truth and Honesty. The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing protect the validity of University grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged.

### Section 223.01: Plagiarism

Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

## GVSU Policies

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

## Psy 624: Behavioral Assessment & Intervention Schedule for Winter 2021

Session Dates	Learning Unit	<i>Italics indicates book chapter</i> Readings	Activities	Assignments Due
<b>Unit 1</b>  Jan 18 – Jan 31  2-week unit	<b>1: Defining Behavior and Measurement of Behavior: Preparing for FBA and Behavioral Interventions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and prioritizing targets</li> <li>• Operationally defining targets</li> <li>• Procedures for measuring behavior</li> <li>• Scatterplot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Review Cooper, Heron &amp; Heward, (2020) Chapter 3</i></li> <li>• <i>Review Cooper, Heron &amp; Heward (2020) Chapter 4</i></li> <li>• Touchette et al. (1985)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoom Meeting to review assignments for the semester: <b>Tuesday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm</b></li> <li>• Review Cooper Quiz- Chp. 3 (do NOT need to submit score)</li> <li>• Review Cooper Quiz- Chp. 4 (do NOT need to submit score)</li> <li>• Module Practice Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin Case Study Assignment 1: Student Observations</li> </ul>
<b>Unit 2</b>  Feb 1 – Feb 14  2-week unit	<b>2: Structural Analysis and Functional Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding antecedents</li> <li>• Manipulating antecedent conditions</li> <li>• Data interpretation</li> <li>• Functional Analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gage &amp; Lewis (2010)</li> <li>• Iwata et al. (1994)</li> <li>• Stichter (2005)</li> <li>• Hanley (2012)</li> <li>• Northup et al. (1991)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board/Zoom Activity</li> <li>• Module Practice Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 1: SA &amp; FA</u> due Sunday, Feb 14th (20 points)</li> <li>• <u>Case Study Assignment 1: Student Observations</u> due Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> (30 points)</li> </ul>
<b>Unit 3</b>  Feb 15 – Feb 28  2-Week Unit	<b>3: Trial-Based Functional Analysis; Practical Functional Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial-based Functional Analysis</li> <li>• Practical Functional Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sigafoos &amp; Sagger (1995)</li> <li>• Austin et al. (2015)</li> <li>• Rispoli et al. (2012)</li> <li>• Bloom “How to Conduct Trial-Based FA”</li> <li>• <a href="https://practicalfunctionalassessment.com/">https://practicalfunctionalassessment.com/</a></li> <li>• Slaton, Hanley &amp; Raferty (2017)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board/ Zoom Activity</li> <li>• Module Practice Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 2: TBFA &amp; PFA</u> due Sunday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> (20 points)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit 4</b></p> <p>March 1 – March 21</p> <p>3-Week Unit</p>	<p><b>4: Functional Behavior Assessment and Preference Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional behavior assessment (FBA)</li> <li>• Role of FBA in schools</li> <li>• Overview of FBA methods including checklists and rating scales (e.g., FACTS, MAS, QABF)</li> <li>• Descriptive FBA</li> <li>• Formulating hypotheses</li> <li>• Preference Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Minahan &amp; Rapaport (2012), Chapter 1</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapters 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10 of Steege &amp; Watson (2019)</i></li> <li>• <i>Cooper, Heron &amp; Heward (2020), Chapter 27</i></li> <li>• <i>Scott, Alter &amp; McQuillan (2010)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board/ Zoom Activity</li> <li>• Module Practice Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exam 1: Tues, March 2<sup>nd</sup> by midnight using Respondus Lockdown</b></li> <li>• <u>Cooper Quiz Chapter 27</u> due Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> (5 points)</li> <li>• <u>FBA Term Quiz</u> due Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> (20 points)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 5</b></p> <p>March 22-April 11</p> <p>3-Week Unit</p>	<p><b>5: Competing Pathways and Behavioral Interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competing Pathways model</li> <li>• Antecedent &amp; consequence-based Interventions</li> <li>• Developing function-based, multicomponent interventions</li> <li>• Functional communication Training (FCT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tiger, Hanley &amp; Bruzek (2008)</i></li> <li>• <i>Durand &amp; Merges (2001)</i></li> <li>• <i>Grow, Carr &amp; LeBlanc (2009)</i></li> <li>• <i>Geiger, Carr &amp; Leblanc (2010)</i></li> <li>• <i>Chapter 11 of Steege &amp; Watson (2019)</i></li> <li>• <i>Review Cooper, Heron &amp; Heward, (2020) Chapter 26</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board/ Zoom Activity</li> <li>• Cooper Quiz- Ch. 26 (do NOT need to submit score)</li> <li>• Module Practice Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Case Study Assignment 2: FBA Implementation</u> due Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> (50 points)</li> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 3: Developing Interventions</u> due Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> (20 points)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 6</b></p> <p>April 12- April 25</p> <p>2-Week Unit</p>	<p><b>6: Developing and Implementing Behavior Plans Based on Function</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration in developing behavior intervention plans</li> <li>• Developing an Intervention Checklist</li> <li>• Wrapping it Up: Behavior Analysis and Mental Health, Emotions and Thoughts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 4 of Steege &amp; Watson (2019)</i></li> <li>• <i>Pick one chapter from Minahan &amp; Rappaport (chapter 3, 4, 5, or 6)</i></li> <li>• <i>Cook et al. (2012)</i></li> <li>• <i>Benazzi, Horner &amp; Good (2006)</i></li> <li>• <i>Iovannone, Anderson &amp; Scott (2013)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board/ Zoom Activity</li> <li>• Module Practice Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Content Assignment 4: BIP Summary and Implementation Checklist</u> due Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> (20 points)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exam 2: Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> by midnight (50 points)</b></p>				



### Additional Readings

- Austin, J.L., Groves, E.A., Reynish, L.C. & Francis, L.L. (2015). Validating trial-based functional analyses in mainstream primary school classrooms. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 48*, 274-288.
- Benazzi, L., Horner, R.H., & Good, R.H. (2006). Effects of behavior support team composition on the technical adequacy and contextual fit of behavior support plans. *The Journal of Special Education, 40*, 160-170.
- Cook, et al. (2012). Exploring the link among behavior intervention plans, treatment integrity and student outcomes under natural educational conditions. *The Journal of Special Education, 46*, 3-16.
- Durand, V.M. & Merges, E. (2001). Functional Communication Training: Contemporary behavior analytic intervention for problem behaviors. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, 16*, 110-119.
- Gage, A. & Lewis, T. (2010). Structural analysis in the classroom. *Beyond Behavior, 19*, 3-11.
- Geiger, K.B., Carr, J.E., LeBlanc, L (2010). Function-based treatments for escape-maintained problem behavior: A treatment-selection model for practicing behavior analysts. *Behavior Analysis in Practice, 3*, 22-32.
- Grow, L.L., Carr, J.E., & LeBlanc, L.A. (2009). Treatments for attention-maintained problem behavior: Empirical support and clinical recommendations. *Journal of Evidence-Based Practices for Schools, 10*, 70-92.
- Hanley, G.P. (2012). Functional assessment of problem behavior: Dispelling myths, overcoming implementation obstacles, and developing new lore. *Behavior Analysis in Practice, 5*, 54-72.
- Iovanonne, R., Anderson, C. M., & Scott, T. M. (2013). Power and control: Useful functions or explanatory fictions? *Beyond Behavior, 22*(2), 3-6.
- Iwata, B.A., Dorsey, M.F., Slifer, K.J., Bauman, K.E. & Richman, G.S. (1994). Toward a functional analysis of self-injury. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 27*, 197-209.
- Minahan, J. & Rappaport, N. (2012). *The Behavior Code: A practical guide to understanding and teaching the most challenging of students*. Harvard Education Press: Cambridge, MA.
- Northup, J., Wacker, D., Sasso, G., Steege, M., Cigrand, K., Cook, J., & DeRaad, A. (1991). A brief functional analysis of aggressive and alternative behavior in an outclinic setting. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 24*, 509-522.

- Rispoli, M.J., Davis, H.S., Goodwyn, F.D., Camargo, S. (2012). The use of trial-based functional analysis in public school classrooms for two students with developmental disabilities. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions, 15*, 180-189.
- Scott, T.M., Alter, P.J. & McQuillan, K. (2010). Functional Behavior Assessment in classroom settings: Scaling down to scale up. *Intervention in School and Clinic, 46*, 87-94.
- Sigafoos, J. & Sagers, E. (1995). A discrete-trial approach to the functional analysis of aggressive behavior in two boys with autism. *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Developmental Disabilities, 20*, 287-297.
- Slaton, J.D., Hanley, G.P., & Raftery, K.J. (2017). Interview-informed functional analyses: A comparison of synthesized and isolated components. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 50*, 252-277.
- Stichter, J.P., & Conroy, M.A. (2005). Using structural analysis in natural settings: A responsive functional assessment strategy. *Journal of Behavioral Education, 14*, 19-34.
- Tiger, J.H., Hanley, G.P., & Bruzek, J. (2008). Functional Communication Training: A review and practical guide. *Behavior Analysis in Practice, 1*, 15-23.
- Touchette, P.E., MacDonald, R.F. & Langer, S.N. (1985). Scatter plot for identifying stimulus control of problem behavior. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 18*, 343-351.