

Summary of Graduate Curriculum Changes

Ouachita Baptist University
November 2021

The faculty **approved** these curriculum changes at a faculty meeting on November 30, 2021.

Applied Behavior Analysis

Proposed Changes and Rationale

1. Change the course number for ABA 6123 Legal, Ethical, & Professional Issues to ABA 6113, and change its time offering from the 8-week summer term to the May term.

The 3-week time frame for the May term is more effective for the material in ABA 6123 Legal, Ethical, & Professional Issues.

2. Change the course number for ABA 6113 Basic Concepts & Principles to ABA 6123 Basic Concepts & Principles, and change its time offering from May Term to Summer Term

The more extensive material covered in ABA 6113 Basic Concepts & Principles needs a full 8-week summer term to give the students a proper amount of time to absorb the material.

3. Change ABA 6323 Research Methods to ABA 6213 Research Methods, and change its time offering from Spring Term II to Fall Term I.

In ABA professional practice, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) first observe, measure, and collect data on behavior. Then, they perform behavioral assessments to identify appropriate interventions. Next, they evaluate the effectiveness of behavioral interventions using single-subject designs. With the current sequence, students are asked to develop a behavior-change intervention in Fall I and then learn the pre-requisite skills (knowing how to observe, measure, collect data on behavior, and evaluate the effects of behavior-change procedures) in Spring II. Therefore, the research methods course needs to be earlier in the curriculum, and the behavior assessment course needs to be later in the curriculum.

4. Change ABA 6213 Behavior Assessment to ABA 6313 Behavior Assessment, and change its time offering from Fall Term I to Spring Term II.

Same rationale as #3.

5. Change the evaluation for ABA 6133 Fieldwork Experience I from pass/fail to a letter grade.

Of the curriculum's four fieldwork courses, ABA 6133 is the only one graded on a pass/fail basis. Therefore, changing its evaluation to a letter grade basis would make it consistent with how the other fieldwork courses are assessed.

6. Change the time offering of ABA 6413 Training, Supervision, & Consultation from Summer Term to May Term.

ABA 6143 is relatively short in content and requires fewer contact hours than other didactic courses. During the first ABA cohort, ABA 6413 and ABA 6423 were covered simultaneously in the second summer term and students had a 3-week break in May. Unfortunately, this resulted in no weekly meetings for ABA 6433 Fieldwork IV (the last fieldwork course of the course sequence) in order to avoid faculty overload and students having to attend three weekly meetings. With this time offering change, students will take ABA 6413 in their last 3-week MAY term followed by ABA 6423 Advanced Concepts & Principles and ABA 6433 Fieldwork IV in their final summer term.

Catalog Entries

6113 Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues

This course provides the student with an understanding of the historic and current legal, ethical, and professional developments that have shaped the practice of behavior analysis. It will also familiarize the student with the practice codes of various professions, particularly the BACB's Ethical and Professional Compliance Code. Prerequisite: ABA 6113. Co-requisite: 6133 or permission of instructor. May Term.

6123 Basic Concepts & Principles

This course introduces the student to basic concepts and principles derived through the experimental and applied analysis of behavior. It will introduce the historical, philosophical, and methodological foundations of applied behavior analysis as a discipline and a profession. Summer Term.

6213 Research Methods

This course introduces the student to the tactics for measuring behavior and behavioral products, graphing and interpreting data, and designing/delivering behavior change procedures within the framework of single subject experimental designs that allow for conclusions about the impact of interventions and maintaining the accountability of the behavior analyst. Prerequisite: ABA 6313. Corequisite: 6333 or permission of instructor. Fall Term 1.

6313 Behavior Assessment

This course introduces the student to the tactics for measuring behavior and behavioral products, graphing and interpreting data, and designing function-based change procedures within the framework of single subject experimental designs that allow for conclusions about the impact of interventions and maintaining the accountability of the behavior analyst. Prerequisite: ABA 6113. Co-requisite: ABA 6233 or permission of the instructor. Spring Term 2.

6413 Training, Supervision, & Consultation

This course introduces the student to the challenges of undertaking behavioral service delivery in organizations (e.g., schools, homes, businesses). Data driven tactics for developing the competence of personnel in these environments, and for providing ongoing supervision and consultation to them, will be addressed. Pre-requisite: ABA 6333. Co-requisite: ABA 6433 or permission of the instructor. May Term.