

EXPERIENCE. APPLIED DISABILITY STUDIES. COME TO BROCK.

Master of Arts in Applied Disability Studies (MA) — ABA specialization

Applied Disability Studies is unique in Ontario and offers stimulating transdisciplinary graduate academic programs that can lead to exciting careers in applied behaviour analysis (ABA) and the disability sector.

In addition to course work and practicum placements, the MA (ABA) program requires the student to complete an original research study and write an MA thesis under the supervision of a key faculty member and a thesis committee. The MA program is highly competitive with enrolment limited to between five and seven new students per year. The program is geared towards students who are interested in research careers and perhaps pursuing a PhD.

The graduate-level course sequence is verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (Option 1) examination.

The ADS BCBA exam pass-rate is consistently significantly higher than the average of all approved programs around the world.

Program facts

- Admission requirements: Four-year degree in related field — 75 per cent average
- Full-time (two years), competitive program with less than 10 new students per year
- Preferred ABA candidates will possess the following: undergraduate statistics, undergraduate/college courses related to behaviour analysis, volunteer/work experience in the disability sector and/or ABA, and research experience
- Research thesis
- MA is geared towards students planning to go on for a PhD
- Scholarships and bursaries are available

Faculty

Faculty are world-renowned and cutting-edge scientist-practitioners and teachers in ABA and disabilities. Their expertise is sought by governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Faculty research areas include:

- Assessment/treatment of individuals with ID, ASD, and/or DD
- Early detection/intervention with infants at risk for ASD
- Augmentative/alternative communication systems
- Function-based cognitive behaviour therapy
- Mediator training in evidence-based procedures

- Treatment fidelity/program evaluation
- Diverse application of behavioural principles: athletic contexts, mental health settings, hospital settings, school settings, childhood obesity prevention and child maltreatment prevention

Practica

Our students have arranged practica in diverse settings including: ASD services, DD services, mental health programs, acquired brain injury services, geriatric treatment centres, in-patient hospital programs, eating disorder clinics, and sex offender programs.

Location

MA (ABA) courses are located primarily at the St. Catharines campus during the week, with the possibility of some weekend courses in Hamilton and full and partial online courses.

Job opportunities:

- Behaviour therapists
- Behaviour consultants
- Senior therapists
- Autism specialists
- Clinical supervisors
- Applied researchers
- Program evaluators
- Policy developers
- Early interventionists
- Rehabilitation therapists
- Corrections counsellors
- College instructors
- University instructors

Experience what's next

Students who complete the MA in Applied Disability Studies program with specialization in ABA are expected to continue their graduate education in PhD programs, after which graduates can have opportunities for careers in academic, research, postgraduate teaching and/or practice fields. Alternatively, MA graduates can enter a field experiencing long-term job growth with rewarding careers.