The special education program at Texas State University offers a master’s of education degree (M.Ed.) in special education with a concentration in autism and applied behavior analysis (ABA).

The concentration in autism and applied behavior analysis (ABA) at Texas State University is offered through the special education program in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. This graduate program prepares highly qualified teachers, therapists, specialists, consultants and behavior analysts to work with children and youth with autism and their families in a variety of settings. Graduates from this program have become teachers, district autism and behavior specialists, begun their own businesses, worked for private clinics or in-home providers, and gone on to some of the most prestigious doctoral programs in the country.

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board has approved our practicum sequence as intensive university-based practicum. Our intensive practicum sequence provides graduate students with the opportunity to work in Texas State University’s Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support (CARES). CARES works with many local school districts, state agencies, and individual families in our on-campus clinic, in the community, and in children’s homes. CARES has an internationally recognized reputation for producing high-quality research and graduates. Many of our recent graduates have been awarded full scholarships with stipends to pursue doctoral degrees in top-ranked programs around the world.
Course Work
The 36-hour master’s program prepares behavior analysts to specifically work with individuals with autism, and adheres to the Council for Exceptional Children’s professional standards for advanced teachers of autism. Additionally, seven of the courses comprise the approved course sequence for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), Task List 4, allowing qualified students to apply to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam upon completion of all requirements. (Applicants must meet additional requirements to qualify. See www.bacb.com for more information.) With some additional training, the course work could lead to Texas teacher certification in special education.

Individuals interested in obtaining Texas special education teacher certification will take additional courses. A Texas State University autism certificate is available to students who have completed the master’s program. The certificate indicates to potential employers that students have completed specific course work with a focus on autism. Individuals who already hold a master’s degree and are interested in the course work for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam must meet admissions requirements (see below).

The program requires at least one practicum experience in the Texas State University Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support (CARES), in the College of Education. This practicum is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) as an intensive practicum site, and students interested in becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) may receive the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)-required supervision hours during their practicum experience.

Admission Requirements
In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State University Graduate College, the special education program requires students seeking a master’s degree to have a minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work leading to a bachelor’s degree, a minimum verbal GRE score of 151, and a minimum quantitative GRE score of 149.

Application Procedures
Interested individuals should:

1. Complete the online application through ApplyTexas (www.applytexas.org).
2. Send one official transcript from each four-year college or university attended to the Graduate College.
3. Have official results from the most recent GRE examination (including verbal and quantitative scores) sent to the Graduate College.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu for more information.

Deadlines
While applications are accepted year-round, fall admission is strongly encouraged.

Fall admission: April 15
Spring admission: October 15
Summer admission: April 15

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for more information and an online application.

Financial Assistance
For information about scholarships, financial aid and deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education.

Contact
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