Master of Science in Special Education
Severe Disabilities with an emphasis on Applied Behavior Analysis

This 36- to 48-credit Master of Science in Special Education degree with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) prepares students to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based ABA practices to positively impact student learning outcomes and meet the needs of a growing population requiring special education and behavior support. The curriculum combines the programs of study in Special Education and ABA.

The Johns Hopkins Advantage

- A high-demand credential backed by rigorous preparation
- Opportunities for graduates to gain advantages in the job market and potentially increase their long-term earning potential
- Nationally recognized faculty experts dedicated to empowering future leaders in the field
- Opportunity to enroll in elective practicum courses (3 to 12 credits) to meet experience requirements to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Program Description

Our mission is to prepare exemplary, special education professionals who can provide quality educational experiences and serve as positive agents of change within their educational environments. The program includes completing these major components:

- Part-time course schedule offering two courses per semester in the fall, spring, and summer.
- The curriculum and delivery consist of:
  - Special Education coursework (5 courses) offered through fully online asynchronous instruction
  - Applied Behavior Analysis coursework (7 courses) is offered either on-campus or through an online format using live-stream, synchronous learning.
  - The program also provides the option to enroll in up to four elective practicum courses designed to meet BCBA Fieldwork Requirements outlined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). The practicum offers supervised real-world experiences in applying behavior-analytic services in educational settings and includes individual and group supervision. The option to enroll in practicum is limited to candidates in the Maryland/DC area.

The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the following courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.

Johns Hopkins School of Education

Established in 2007, the Johns Hopkins School of Education has quickly taken its place as a national leader in education reform through research and teaching. Grounded in the Johns Hopkins tradition of research and innovation, SOE is ranked among the top graduate schools of education in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.
| **Master of Science in Special Education**  
**Severe Disabilities with an emphasis on Applied Behavior Analysis**  

| **Credits** | 36 - 48 graduate credits - Optional four practicum elective courses (12 credits) to be eligible for the BACB®  

| **Delivery** | JHU APL Facility, Kossiakoff Center, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, Md. 20723  

| **Enrollment Options** | Part-time; degree requirements must be completed within five years  

| **Admit/Start Term** | Fall  

| **Course Meeting Times** | Weekday evenings or online  

| **Tuition and Fees** | Please visit [education.jhu.edu/admission/tuition](http://education.jhu.edu/admission/tuition) for more information.  

| **Financial Aid Eligibility** | This program qualifies for federal financial aid. Please visit [education.jhu.edu/financial](http://education.jhu.edu/financial) for more information.  

| **Scholarships** | Need-based, limited; partial  

| **Admissions Deadline** | Rolling Admissions – Applications are accepted until approximately four weeks before the fall semester starts.  

| **Prerequisites** | One course prerequisites needed. Can be transferred from previous college or taken during the program.  

| **Admissions Requirements** | Every applicant must complete an online application, plus:  
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in previous college-level coursework  
- Official transcripts  
- Two letters of recommendation  
- Essay  
- Resume  
- Applicants who meet admission requirements will be asked to interview  
- $80 application fee  

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### Frequently Asked Questions

**I live at a distance from Maryland. Can this program be completed entirely remotely?**  
The required coursework may be completed through synchronous online attendance but is not an option for students who cannot attend synchronously following Eastern Standard Time. The synchronous online format will require enrolled students to participate in live, synchronous classroom discussions.

**Who is the ideal candidate for this master’s program?**  
The ideal candidate for this master’s program should demonstrate:  
- A passion for and commitment to the field of applied behavior analysis.  
- Working or advancing a related to education or special education  
- Understand the requirements to become board certified as outlined by the BACB (see [bacb.com](http://bacb.com) for more)  
- Ability to commit to three years of intensive graduate coursework  
- Demonstration of meeting all admissions requirements

**Does this program prepare its graduates to pursue initial teacher certification?**  
The MS Special Education, Severe/Applied Behavior Analysis does not lead to Special Education teaching certification in Maryland. Candidates interested in earning teaching certification are encouraged to review the MS Special Education, Mild-to-Moderate Disabilities.

**What types of careers do graduates of this program pursue?**  
Graduates of the Special Education, ABA Master’s degree program have a competitive edge in the number of career opportunities available:  
- Special Education teacher  
- Behavior Analyst  
- Administrator/ Coordinator of Special Education programs  
- Behavior Support Specialist  
- Special Education Advisor for departments of education  
- Autism Support Specialist  
- Autism Consultant Teacher

### Contact Us

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All programs leading to certification at the Johns Hopkins School of Education are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education.

The Johns Hopkins University is an EO/AA employer committed to recruiting, supporting, and fostering a diverse community.