

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Applied Behavioral Science

Career Opportunities

The department prepares students for careers in their specialties, as well as for graduate school and professional training. Careers include work in such fields and settings as early childhood education; early childhood intervention programs; community programs for children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities; public health and health care; community-based and nongovernmental organizations; and behavioral consulting, management, human services, and business. Students enter graduate and professional schools in such areas as applied behavior analysis, applied developmental psychology, behavior analysis, clinical and counseling psychology, community development, gerontology, law, medicine, organizational behavior management, public health, social welfare, and special education.

Preparation and Advising

To graduate with the major in 4 years, prospective majors should enroll in Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science (ABSC 100 or ABSC 101) and Principles and Procedures of Behavior Modification and Therapy (ABSC 304) during the first 2 years. The content of these 2 courses will give students a basic understanding of the field of Applied Behavioral Science and help students decide whether they would like to apply to be admitted to the major. By the end of the second year, they should have consulted with an undergraduate advisor about degree requirements, concentrations, and career opportunities. By the end of the third year, they should have taken the prerequisite courses for the fourth-year practicum, which meets KU's capstone requirement. By the beginning of the junior year, majors should complete the College's Major Declaration form. They should list either ABSCA-BA or ABSCA-BGS as the major code for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of General Studies degree, respectively.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

A student must complete ABSC 100 or ABSC 101 with a C or better to enroll in ABSC 304. A student must complete ABSC 304 with a C or better to enroll in ABSC 308 or ABSC 509.

All majors must complete the introductory and core course work as well choose from 1 of the following concentration area options. Concentrations include practicum courses that count toward the required capstone.

Code	Title	Hours
Applied Behavioral Sciences Introductory Knowledge		
Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science		
ABSC 100	Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science	3
or ABSC 101	Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science, Honors	
Applied Behavioral Sciences Core Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		
Behavioral Assessment. Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 304	Principles and Procedures of Behavioral Interventions	3
Research Methods and Application. Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 308	Research Methods and Application	4
ABSC 509	Contemporary Behavioral Science: Historical, Conceptual, and Comparative Foundations	3
Concentration Coursework		20-25
Total Hours		33-38

Early Childhood Education & Intervention Concentration

This option is for students interested in understanding typical and atypical child development and learning to promote healthy development in young children (ages 0-6 years). Students who choose this option are required to participate in practica in classrooms that serve toddlers and preschool children.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration Area Core Knowledge and Skills		
Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 160	Introduction to Child Behavior and Development (Students may substitute PYSC 333 Child Psychology for ABSC 160. The credit hours for PYSC 333, however, do not count toward the 33 required ABSC major hours or toward the 15 required junior/senior ABSC hours.)	3
ABSC 380	Applied Behavior Analysis in Early Childhood Education & Intervention	3
Concentration Area Electives		
Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level ABSC courses except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required concentration courses, which include ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 380, and ABSC 509. Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count toward concentration area elective hours. Please see concentration area advisors for recommendations. (at least 8 hours)		8
Practicum 1 and 2		

Two semesters are required. The courses are offered for 5 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters, and for 3 hours during the summer session. Students must select at least one of the courses listed below. Note: ABSC 380 must be taken prior to, or concurrently with, enrollment in ABSC 675 and ABSC 677. For their other required semester, students may also select from ABSC 680 (in addition to those listed below)

ABSC 676	Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention II (for students who completed ABSC 675)	6-10
ABSC 678	Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention II (for students who completed ABSC 677)	

Capstone Courses

ABSC 675	Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention I (for students new to the Toddler Care Practicum)	
ABSC 677	Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention I (for students new to the Preschool Education Practicum)	

Total Hours **20-24**

Early Childhood Autism Intervention Concentration

This option is for students interested in conducting intervention procedures to address language and social skill deficits of children with autism in home and school settings. Students who choose this option are required to take a preparatory course and practica focusing on children with autism.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration Area Core Knowledge and Skills		
Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 160	Introduction to Child Behavior and Development (Students may substitute PSYC 333 Child Psychology for ABSC 160. The credit hours for PSYC 333, however, do not count toward the 33 required ABSC major hours or toward the 15 required junior/senior ABSC hours.)	3
ABSC 380	Applied Behavior Analysis in Early Childhood Education & Intervention	3
ABSC 377	Practicum Preparation for Behavioral Treatment for Children with Autism	1

Concentration Area Electives

Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required concentration area courses (which include ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 380, ABSC 377, and ABSC 509). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 680) do not count toward concentration area elective hours. Please see concentration area advisors for recommendations. (at least 7 hours)

Practicum 1 and 2

Two semesters are required. The courses are offered for 5 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters, and for 3 hours during the summer session. Note: ABSC 377 must be taken prior to enrollment in ABSC 680.

Capstone Course

ABSC 680	Practicum in Advanced Laboratory in the Development of Behavioral Treatments for Children with Autism	3
Select one of the following:		3
ABSC 675	Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention I	
ABSC 676	Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention II	
ABSC 677	Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention I	
ABSC 678	Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention II	
ABSC 681	Practicum II in Advanced Laboratory in Development of Behavioral Treatment for Children with Autism	

Total Hours **20**

Early Childhood Research Concentration

This option is for students interested in gaining research experience in early childhood possibly as preparation for graduate school or employment in educational and clinical research centers. Students who choose this option will enroll in research-oriented practica. Interested students would consult the department.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration Area Core Knowledge and Skills		
Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 160	Introduction to Child Behavior and Development (Students may substitute PYSC 333 Child Psychology for ABSC 160. The credit hours for PYSC 333, however, do not count toward the 33 required ABSC major hours or toward the 15 required junior/senior ABSC hours.)	3
Concentration Area Electives		
Satisfied by completing 11 hours of any junior/senior-level ABSC courses approved by the advisor. The following are recommended:		11
ABSC 380	Applied Behavior Analysis in Early Childhood Education & Intervention	
ABSC 377	Practicum Preparation for Behavioral Treatment for Children with Autism	
ABSC 477	Verbal Behavior	
ABSC 535	Developmental Psychopathology	

Practicum

Two semesters are required. The courses are offered for 3-5 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters, and for 3 hours during the summer session. Note: ABSC 308 must be taken prior to, or concurrently with, enrollment in the above practicum courses.

Capstone Course

ABSC 679	Practicum in Behavior Analysis Research in Early Childhood Education (Students must complete at least 1 semester)	3
For the students' other required semester, students may select from the following:		3
ABSC 675	Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention I	
ABSC 677	Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention I	

ABSC 679 Practicum in Behavior Analysis Research in Early Childhood Education (No more than 6 hours may count toward the ABSC major hours.)

ABSC 680 Practicum in Advanced Laboratory in the Development of Behavioral Treatments for Children with Autism

Total Hours 20

Child Life Specialty Concentration

This option is for students interested in pursuing careers as Child Life Specialists (CLS)—professionals who address the developmental impact of illness, injury, and major life transitions on children and families. Students who choose this option are required to take a two semester-long practicum that provides students with direct experiences working with Certified Child Life Specialists in hospital settings.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration Area Course		
Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 160	Introduction to Child Behavior and Development	3
ABSC 309	Child Life: Introduction to Theory and Practice	3
ABSC 529	Pediatric Health and Health Promotion	3
ABSC 626	Adolescent Behavior and Development	3
Concentration Area Electives		
Satisfied by completing 6 hours of any junior/senior-level ABSC courses from the following:		
ABSC 349	Therapeutic Benefits of Play	
ABSC 350	The Behavioral Treatment of Children with Autism	
ABSC 359	Family Systems	
ABSC 469	Special Topics in: _____	
ABSC 499	Directed Research in: _____	
ABSC 519	Psychological Aspects of Death and Dying	
ABSC 535	Developmental Psychopathology	
ABSC 632	Advanced Child Behavior and Development	
Practicum		
This practicum requires a two-semester commitment (three credit hours each semester); three of which must be ABSC 683. Space may be limited and enrollment may depend on the date of indication of interest.		
Capstone Courses		
ABSC 683	Practicum in Child Life Specialty	
ABSC 675	Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention I	
	or ABSC 677Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention I	
Total Hours 24		

Adults with Disabilities Concentration

This option is for students interested in working with people with developmental disabilities and in the development of supportive teaching programs in the community for people with developmental disabilities. The courses teach observing and defining behavior, increasing appropriate and decreasing inappropriate behavior, developing relationships, counseling, legal and ethical issues, and experimental design. The course sequence culminates in practicum work in a community-based residential

service agency or day treatment program for adults with developmental disabilities.

Graduates of this concentration are excellent candidates for positions in residential treatment programs, community human service agencies, and vocational and pre-vocational teaching programs for people with disabilities. Many students also pursue graduate studies in applied behavior analysis, special education, and psychology.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration Area Course		
Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 350	The Behavioral Treatment of Children with Autism	3
Concentration Area Electives		
Satisfied by completing 11 hours of any junior/senior-level ABSC courses to meet the 33 hour major requirement. The following are recommended:		
ABSC 410	Behavioral Approaches in Working with Adolescents	
ABSC 535	Developmental Psychopathology	
ABSC 560	The Juvenile Justice System: A Behavioral and Legal Perspective	
Practicum		
Satisfied by completing of any ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required concentration area courses, including ABSC 100, ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 350. Additionally, at least 9 hours of coursework must be at the junior/senior level. Practicum courses (ABSC 675 -ABSC 699) do not count toward concentration area elective hours. Please see concentration area advisors for more specific recommendations.		
Capstone Course		
ABSC 685	Practicum in Community-Based Services for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	
Total Hours 25		

Community Health & Development Concentration

This option is for students interested in building healthy and well-functioning communities. They may do so through public service (e.g., AmeriCorps, Peace Corps) or in a career following graduate study in an appropriate field such as public health, public policy, law, rehabilitation, psychology, social welfare, or medicine. It provides opportunities to better understand and make a difference with important community problems and goals (e.g., substance abuse, violence, education, child and youth development, independent living of people with disabilities, well-being of older adults).

Course work and practicum experiences focus on (a) intervention methods used to address community problems and goals (e.g., strategic planning, intervention, advocacy) and (b) research methods used to study the effects of community initiatives for health and development (e.g., community assessment, evaluation). The course sequence culminates in a 2-semester practicum arranged with faculty members and representatives of community organizations or governmental agencies (e.g., in public health, child advocacy, independent living, youth development, community development).

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration Area Course		
Satisfied by the following:		
ABSC 150 or ABSC 151	Community Leadership Community Leadership, Honors	3
ABSC 310 or ABSC 311	Building Healthy Communities Building Healthy Communities, Honors	3
Concentration Area Electives		
Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required concentration courses (including ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 310/ABSC 311, and ABSC 509). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count as concentration area electives. Please see concentration area advisors for recommendations. (at least 8 hours)		
Practicum		
Two semesters of practicum (ABSC 690/ABSC 691) are required (3 hours in both fall and spring semesters). Note: ABSC 310/ABSC 311 must be taken prior to, or concurrently with, enrollment in the above practicum courses.		
Capstone Course		
ABSC 690 or ABSC 691	Practicum in Community Health and Development Practicum in Community Health and Development, Honors	3
Total Hours		20

Basic Research and Conceptual Foundations Concentration

Students pursuing the basic research and conceptual foundations concentration learn about behavioral processes and research methods, and acquire skills in the experimental analysis of behavior. Students completing this option complete a 2-semester hands-on practicum in which they assist in the conduct of research on human or nonhuman behavioral processes. Students are involved in all aspects of the research endeavor, from conceptualization of problems to data collection, analysis, and presentation. Students pursuing this option are required to complete an introductory course in statistics.

Code	Title	Hours
Concentration Area Electives		
Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory and core knowledge courses (ABSC 304, ABSC 308, and ABSC 509). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count toward concentration area elective hours. Please see a concentration area advisor for recommendations.		
Statistics in Psychological Research		
PSYC 210	Statistics in Psychological Research	3
Practicum		
Two semesters of practicum (ABSC 692) are required. Practicum courses are offered for 3-6 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters, and 3 hours during the summer session. However, no more than 6 hours total apply to the major. The prerequisite is the permission of the supervisor, as space permits.		
Capstone Course		

ABSC 692	Practicum in Basic Research and Conceptual Foundations	3
Total Hours		20

Applied Behavioral Science Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 33 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Double Majors

The department encourages double majors and minors in other departments. Double majors are especially appropriate for students planning to attend graduate school or enter professional programs (e.g., psychology, law, medicine). Any of the College's other majors may be appropriate, but among the more common are psychology, human biology, sociology, political science, and speech-language-hearing.

Sample 4-year plans for the BA degree in Applied Behavioral Science with the following concentrations can be found here: Adults with Disabilities (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-adults-disabilities/>), Basic Research and Conceptual Foundations (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-basic-research/>), Child Life Specialty (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-child-life/>), Community Health & Development (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-community-health/>), Early Childhood Autism Intervention (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-early-childhood-autism-intervention/>), Early Childhood Education & Intervention (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-early-childhood-education-intervention/>), Early Childhood Research (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/ba-early-childhood-research/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

Sample 4-year plans for the BGS degree in Applied Behavioral Science can be found here: Adults with Disabilities (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Applied-Behavioral-Science-with-concentration-in-Adults-with-Disabilities/>), Basic Research and Conceptual Foundations (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Applied-Behavioral-Science-with-concentration-in-Basic-Research/>), Child Life Specialty (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/bgs-child-life/>), Community Health & Development (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Applied-Behavioral-Science-with-concentration-in-Community->

Health-and-Development/), Early Childhood Autism Intervention (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Applied-Behavioral-Science-with-concentration-in-Early-Childhood-Autism-Intervention/>), Early Childhood Education & Intervention (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Applied-Behavioral-Science-with-concentration-in-Early-Childhood-and-Education-Intervention/>), Early Childhood Research (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/applied-behavioral-science/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Applied-Behavioral-Science-with-concentration-in-Early-Childhood-Research/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- systematically acquire and retain (i.e., understand and remember; Bloom, 1956) knowledge of behavior analytic foundations, concepts, principles, and procedures.
- apply the concepts, principles, and procedures they have learned by crafting a research question considering experimental methodology and research design.
- analyze and evaluate an issue of societal importance by synthesizing and/or critiquing the literature.
- create new or original work and/or develop specialized skills in a specific area of application in behavioral science.

Departmental Honors

The department's honors program is suited for undergraduates planning to attend graduate school. Students are expected to enroll in two semesters of ABSC 599 for a total of 4 to 8 credit hours. The course combines small-group discussions on advanced topics in applied behavioral science, along with honors thesis supervision of a project of the student's design. Honors students are invited to attend the ABS graduate proseminar or department colloquium series. Students should meet with the department's honors advisor by the middle of the junior year to identify a faculty member with whom to complete the project. Prerequisite: Completion of at least 60 hours in the College with a grade-point average of 3.5 in the department.

Study Abroad

The department offers students opportunities to obtain international experience in a program offered jointly with the Office of Study Abroad (<http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu/>) (ABSC 279) and research experience with faculty members who teach research courses or a research practicum:

Code	Title	Hours
ABSC 499	Directed Research in: _____	1-3
ABSC 599	Honors and Thesis in Applied Behavioral Science	1-5
ABSC 679	Practicum in Behavior Analysis Research in Early Childhood Education	1-6
ABSC 692	Practicum in Basic Research and Conceptual Foundations	3
ABSC 698	Special Research Practicum in: _____	3-6
ABSC 699	Special Research Practicum in, Honors: _____	3-6

Research experience is recommended for students planning to attend graduate school. The department also offers some courses that include a service-learning component. Many of these programs, research experiences, and service-learning courses meet university requirements in these areas.