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; programs for individuals with physical disabilities; delinquency, juvenile justice, and law enforcement; 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.

Behavior Analysis Certification
The department offers a program of study that qualifies students to become Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts™. Students must pass ABSC 100, ABSC 304, and ABSC 308; obtain requisite supervised or mentored experience; complete the major; complete the KU degree; and pass a national examination. The Behavior Analysis Certification Board (http://www.bacb.com)™ has pre-approved ABSC 100, ABSC 304, and ABSC 308 for admission to the national examination. Students should meet with a BACB® advisor early in the junior year.

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 taken the prerequisite courses for the fourth-year practicum. This information may also be found in the department’s Undergraduate Handbook. 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. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores 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 Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

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 specialty area options.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applied Behavioral Sciences Introductory Knowledge</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ABSC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Applied Behavioral Science, Honors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applied Behavioral Sciences Core Knowledge and Skills</strong></td>
<td><strong>Principles and Procedures of Behavioral Interventions</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Research Methods and Application</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Contemporary Behavioral Science: Historical, Conceptual, and Comparative Foundations</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early Childhood Education & Intervention Specialty

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**
---|---|---
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 444 | Curriculum Development for Young Children | 3

**Specialty Area Electives**

Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required specialty area courses (which include ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 444, and ABSC 509). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count toward specialty area elective hours. Please see specialty area advisors for recommendations. (at least 8 hours)

**Practicum 1**

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 350 must be taken prior to, or concurrently with, enrollment in the above practicum courses.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 680</td>
<td>Practicum in Advanced Laboratory in the Development of Behavioral Treatments for Children with Autism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 675</td>
<td>Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 676</td>
<td>Practicum in Infant-Toddler Care and Early Intervention II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 677</td>
<td>Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 678</td>
<td>Practicum in Preschool Education and Intervention II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 679</td>
<td>Practicum in Behavior Analysis Research in Early Childhood Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 680</td>
<td>Practicum in Advanced Laboratory in the Development of Behavioral Treatments for Children with Autism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Early Childhood Autism Intervention Specialty**

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**
---|---|---
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

**Specialty Area Electives**

Satisfied by completing 11 hours of any junior/senior-level courses approved by the advisor. The following are recommended:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</table>
ABSC 302 Behavioral Assessment  
ABSC 350 The Behavioral Treatment of Children with Autism  
ABSC 444 Curriculum Development for Young Children  
ABSC 405 Children and Media  
ABSC 455 Health, Safety, and Nutrition in Early Childhood Development  
ABSC 486 Issues in Parenting  
ABSC 535 Developmental Psychopathology  
ABSC 565 Applied Developmental Psychology  
ABSC 671 Practicum I in Behavior Analysis  

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.  
ABSC 679 Practicum in Behavior Analysis Research in Early Childhood Education (Students must complete at least 1 semester)  

For the students’ other required semester, students may select from the following:  
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 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  

Youth Development & Juvenile Justice Specialty  
This specialty area is for students who want to work with children and adolescents who may be involved formally or informally with the juvenile justice system. It includes courses addressing issues such as juvenile law, developing relationships, counseling and problem-solving, behavioral contracting, and other techniques used when working with school-aged children and adolescents. The course sequence culminates in a yearlong practicum during which students work with children and adolescents in the Truancy Prevention and Diversion Program. The practicum is in collaboration with the school district, Social and Rehabilitation Services, the district attorney’s office, and the juvenile court.  
Graduates with this specialty are excellent candidates for positions as probation officers, counselors in mental health programs, intake and assessment officers, truancy prevention specialists, and treatment personnel in intervention and treatment programs for children and adolescents. Many students also pursue graduate study in social welfare, law, counseling, and psychology.  

Code  
Title  
Hours  
Required Specialty Area Core Courses  
Satisfied by the following. Students should plan their program with a department advisor.  
ABSC 410 Behavioral Approaches in Working with Adolescents (ABSC 410 must be taken prior to enrolling in the practicum. It is offered only in the spring semester.)  
ABSC 560 The Juvenile Justice System: A Behavioral and Legal Perspective  

Specialty Area Electives  
Select 9 hours of the following. Note: Although ABSC 160 is not required for this specialty area, it is a required prerequisite for some of the specialty area electives.  
ABSC 302 Behavioral Assessment  
ABSC 310 Building Healthy Communities  
ABSC 360 Drugs, Addiction, and Behavior  
ABSC 405 Children and Media  
ABSC 470 Organizational Behavior Management  
ABSC 486 Issues in Parenting  
ABSC 535 Developmental Psychopathology  
ABSC 562 Behavioral Community Approaches to Addressing Social Issues  
ABSC 565 Applied Developmental Psychology  
ABSC 626 Psychology of Adolescence  

Practicum  
This practicum requires a two-semester commitment (enrollment in ABSC 694), beginning in the fall semester and continuing in the spring semester. Space may be limited and enrollment may depend on the date of indication of interest and performance in ABSC 410.  
ABSC 694 Practicum in Juvenile Problems  

Adults with Disabilities Specialty  
This specialty area 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 specialty 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 behavioral analysis, special education, and psychology.  

Code  
Title  
Hours  
Required Specialty Area Course  
Satisfied by the following:  
ABSC 350 The Behavioral Treatment of Children with Autism  

Specialty Area Electives  
Satisfied by completing 11 hours of any junior/senior-level courses to meet the 33 hour major requirement. The following are recommended:  

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 350</td>
<td>The Behavioral Treatment of Children with Autism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABSC 302  Behavioral Assessment  
ABSC 410  Behavioral Approaches in Working with Adolescents  
ABSC 437  Independent Living and People with Disabilities  
ABSC 535  Developmental Psychopathology  
ABSC 560  The Juvenile Justice System: A Behavioral and Legal Perspective  
ABSC 565  Applied Developmental Psychology  
ABSC 671  Applied Behavior Analysis

Practicum
Satisfied by completing of any ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required specialty 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 specialty area elective hours. Please see specialty area advisors for more specific recommendations.

Community Health & Development Specialty
This specialty area 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 Specialty Area Course
Satisfied by the following:
ABSC 150  Community Leadership  3
or ABSC 151  Community Leadership, Honors  
ABSC 310  Building Healthy Communities  3
or ABSC 311  Building Healthy Communities, Honors  

Specialty Area Electives
Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required specialty courses (including ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 310/311, and ABSC 509). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count as specialty area electives. Please see specialty 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.
ABSC 690  Practicum in Community Health and Development  3
or ABSC 691  Practicum in Community Health and Development, Honors

Basic Research
Students pursuing the basic research option 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
Specialty 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 specialty area elective hours. Please see a specialty area advisor for recommendations.

Statistics in Psychological Research
PSYC 210  Statistics in Psychological Research  3
or PSYC 211  Statistics in Psychological Research, Honors  

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.
ABSC 692  Practicum in Basic Research  3

Conceptual Foundations
Students pursuing the conceptual foundations option learn about the field’s theoretical, philosophical, conceptual, and historical foundations and acquire skills in critical thinking. Students electing this option are required to complete ABSC 590. Students who complete this option complete a 2-semester practicum in which they read and research a relevant literature and write a paper that advances their understanding of the field.

Code  Title  Hours
Required Specialty Area Course
ABSC 590  Conceptual Foundations of Applied Behavioral Science  3

Specialty Area Electives
Satisfied by completing any junior/senior-level ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory and core knowledge courses (including ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 509, ABSC 798). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count toward specialty area elective hours. Please see a specialty area advisor for more specific recommendations. (at least 8 hours)

Practicum
6-10
Satisfied by the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 693</td>
<td>Practicum in Historical and Conceptual Foundations (Practicum courses are offered for 3-6 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters, and 3 hours during the summer session. No more than 6 hours total apply to the major.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Organizational Behavior Management Research & Practice

This specialty area is for students interested in studying the application of behavioral principles to people and groups in business, industry, government, and human service settings. This specialty area includes courses in behavior analysis, research methods, and organizational behavior management with a focus on its three sub-disciplines including performance management, systems analysis, and behavior-based safety. The program culminates in practica that provide students with direct experiences improving employee behavior, work safety, or organizational systems within businesses in the community. Students completing this program will gain knowledge and experience in the areas of behavior analysis, management, staff training, and systems-level interventions.

Careers: This area is relevant for students interested in behavioral consulting, management, human services, and business.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 150</td>
<td>Community Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 470</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specialty Area Electives

Satisfied by completing any junior-senior level ABSC courses, except those already required as introductory, core knowledge, and required specialty area courses (including ABSC 304, ABSC 308, ABSC 470, and ABSC 509). Additionally, practicum courses (ABSC 675-ABSC 699) do not count toward specialty area elective hours. Please see specialty area advisors for recommendations.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 682</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior Management Practicum</td>
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</table>

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 ([http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa](http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa)).

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.


Science-with-concentration-in-Organizational-Behavior-Management-Research-and-Practice), or by using the left-side navigation.

**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 3.25 and an 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, ABSC 479) and research experience with faculty members who teach research courses or a research practicum:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 499</td>
<td>Directed Research in: _____</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 599</td>
<td>Honors and Thesis in Applied Behavioral Science</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 679</td>
<td>Practicum in Behavior Analysis Research in Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 692</td>
<td>Practicum in Basic Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 693</td>
<td>Practicum in Historical and Conceptual Foundations</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 698</td>
<td>Special Research Practicum in: _____</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSC 699</td>
<td>Special Research Practicum in, Honors: _____</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.