ABA Orientation
Master’s and Certificate Programs

Dr. Sara Bauer
Director

• Master’s
  • [http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/aba-ma-program/](http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/aba-ma-program/)

• Certificate
  • [http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/aba-certificate-program/](http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/aba-certificate-program/)
ABA Program Introductions

- Sara Bauer, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA
- Pat D’Ateno, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
- Joshua Jessel, PhD, BCBA-D
- Emily A. Jones, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
- Peter Sturmey, Ph.D.

- Program assistant
  - Ms. Danielle Lucania
  - aba@qc.cuny.edu
Handout

- Please follow along with handout
First things to do:

- Activate CUNY First account
- Get a QC e-mail address
  - Use your QC email address
    - Office 365
    - Can sign up for Google Apps for Education
- Get a QC ID card
- Use program website and Progress Monitor to plan the courses you will take
Progress Monitor

- Tells you the requirements to complete your program

- Master’s Progress Monitor

- Certificate Progress Monitor

- http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/forms/
Your Plan of Study

- Progress Monitor articulates what is required and where you have flexibility
  - E.g., electives

- Consider your long term goals and timeline in order to navigate through the ABA program

- Plan now!

- Consult graduate bulletin:
  
In addition to the required coursework you must complete an additional 9 credits. There are 3 ways of doing this:

1. 9 credits of electives + comprehensive exam
2. 3 credits of electives + 6 credits of thesis
3. 6 credits of electives + 3 credits of thesis
For MA students: 9 credits of electives + comprehensive exam

- 9 credits of electives
- Comprehensive exam:
  - All questions to Dr. Bauer – including registering
  - Held in early January and early June
  - Guidelines and sample exams on website:
    - [http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/aba-ma-program/](http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/aba-ma-program/)
  - Each student has 2 opportunities to pass to remain in program. Typically taken after 3 semesters.
For MA students: elective credits + thesis

3 credits of electives + 6 credits of thesis

or

6 credits of electives + 3 credits of thesis

- If you are interested in conducting a thesis, start talking to faculty now.

- Requirements: GPA of 3.75 or greater; agreement of faculty mentor
Courses

- Use program website, Progress Monitor, and CUNYFirst to plan the courses you will take
  - NOTE: Not every class is offered each semester or each year
- Register yourself using CUNYFirst
- Drop a course via registrar’s office
  - [http://www.qc.cuny.edu/registrar/Pages/Welcome.aspx](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/registrar/Pages/Welcome.aspx)
- Incompletes: A grade of Incomplete must be requested by student and approved by instructor
- Repeating a course: You can repeat a course **one time** and have the second grade used in your GPA
Probation

☑ Must maintain a 3.0 GPA in program

☑ If lower, you will be blocked from registering
  - Must meet with Dr. Bauer - will be on probation

☑ You cannot complete a program with a GPA lower than 3.0
Payments

☐ Pay on time in order to register

☐ Check online for payment schedule:

☐ [http://www.qc.cuny.edu/admissions/bursar/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/admissions/bursar/Pages/default.aspx)
Ph.D. Programs

- If considering applying to a Ph.D. program in the future:
  - Take courses that will give you strong research foundation that will be valuable for Ph.D. programs
    - Advanced Experimental Psych (Psych 701)
    - Research Design (Psych 703)
  - Consider doing a thesis rather than the comprehensive exam
License v. Certification

- See [http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/license-and-certification/](http://aba.qc.cuny.edu/license-and-certification/)

- Some differences and some overlap between NYS Licensure regulations and Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) requirements.

- To practice behavior analysis:
  - In NYS – **MUST** have NYS License in Behavior Analysis
  - Can also have BCBA through BACB, but no required

- In other states – can have BCBA through BACB
  - Do not need NYS licensure
NY State Licensed Behavior Analyst

- Consult [http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/aba/abafaq.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/aba/abafaq.htm)

- Requirements:
  - Education Requirement (Master’s, ABA coursework)
  - Experience requirements (will be discussed shortly)

- Our program is considered to meet the education requirement and we have affiliated experiences one can obtain to accrue state license hours
Upcoming LBA changes FOR CERTIFICATE STUDENTS ONLY

- Upcoming coursework changes in LBA requirements effective August 31, 2019 mean
  - If you can finish all coursework, supervised experience hours and take the exam before August 31, 2019
  - After August 31, 2019, QC Current coursework will not meet the requirements
Upcoming LBA changes FOR MASTERS STUDENTS ONLY

- MA STUDENTS
  - will not finish coursework or experience before August 31, 2019
  - Waiting to hear back about whether our coursework will be licensure qualifying
    - If it is, great!
    - If not, when you apply with NY State you will have to submit all your coursework with syllabi for a coursework review (but you should have all the coursework in place).
Legal Practice of ABA While Completing Working Toward Obtaining Licensure

- To legally practice ABA while a student, one must qualify for the student exemption or work in an exempt setting.

- After one’s degree, obtain a limited permit (through NY State) to finish up any remaining experience hours.
Board Certified Behavior Analyst

- Consult www.bacb.com

- Requirements:
  - Master’s degree in related field (e.g., behavior analysis, education or psychology)
  - Acceptable Behavior Analysis coursework
  - Experience requirements (will be discussed shortly)
ABA Master’s Program provides Master’s degree in acceptable field

Our course sequence is a Verified Course Sequence (VCS) and so provides the necessary coursework

Our programs do not provide the BACB experience requirement

See BACB website to learn more about experience requirements
BCBA, special note

- Must earn a C or better in all course in order to sit for the BACB exam

- If you earn a C- or below, BACB will not accept course
Supervised Experience
Requirements

☐ Licensed Behavior Analyst:
  - 1500 hours supervised experience by licensed behavior analyst
  - Must work a minimum of 20 hrs/week = full time
  - Working less than 20 hrs/week = part time
  - Meet face to face with supervisor 2x per week for full time
  - Scope of practice restriction

☐ BCBA:
  - 1500 hours supervised experience by BCBA
  - Work at least 10 hrs/week but no more than 30 hrs/week
  - Only 50% of work time can be direct care, other 50% must be indirect
  - Meet face-to-face with supervisor – new documentation system
## Supervised Experience Requirements Compared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>LBA</th>
<th>BCBA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours of Supervised Experience</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face to face meetings with supervisor per week</td>
<td>2 = full time</td>
<td>5% of total hours worked during supervisory period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours worked per week</td>
<td>20 = full time</td>
<td>No less than 10, no more than 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of time implementing direct ABA treatment with client</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Maximum 50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To obtain supervised experience as a student

- On campus at QC ACES

- Faculty Research Labs

- Fellowships at local agencies and schools with whom QC has a specific affiliation
QC ACES

- Queens College Autism and Developmental Disabilities Center for Evidence-Based Services
- Includes several programs run by faculty:
  - SIBS Club – Dr. Emily Jones
  - Behavior Disorders Clinic - Dr. Joshua Jessel
SIBS Club
A Program for Families of Children with Autism

http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/~ejoneshuwer/about_us.html
Director: Dr. Emily Jones
SIBS Club: Building a community of supports that lasts a lifetime

- Children with autism receive individualized instruction while typically developing siblings participate in interventions just for them, followed by inclusive recreation opportunities for all siblings.

- Graduate students participate by:
  - Implementing and creating intervention plans for the children with autism
  - Implementing and creating sibling training interventions
60% of children with autism exhibit problem behavior such as:
- Aggression (hitting, kicking, biting others)
- Property Destruction (hitting, kicking, throwing objects)
- Self injury (hitting, scratching, biting oneself)

Problem behavior interferes with a child’s ability to
- Remain in school
- Maintain family relationships
- Eventually live independent of services

Current best practice is to understand the environmental variables contributing to the problem behavior.
Current Best-Practice

- **Assessment**
  - Empirical validation of environmental events influencing the problem behavior

- **Treatment**
  - Provide the reinforcers identified during the assessment contingent on appropriate forms of communication
  - Teach skills such as tolerance to delays and denials to those reinforcers
Possible Opportunities

- Research assistants will help:
  - Conduct assessments
  - Collect data
  - Implement treatments
  - Train family members to conduct the treatments

- Expected commitment:
  - Three to four days a week
  - 1-2 hours a day
Faculty Research Labs

- Dr. Joshua Jessel
- Dr. Emily A. Jones
- Dr. Peter Sturmey
Faculty Research Labs

- Dr. Joshua Jessel
  - Assessment and Treatment of Problem Behavior
  - Human Operant Research
  - Resurgence Following Complex Response Training with Pigeons
  - Tummy Time with typically developing infants
  - Using Transitions to Lean Reinforcement to Reduce Errors
Faculty Research Labs

- Dr. Emily A. Jones
  - Interventions to address social communication skills in children with autism
  - Early intervention for children with Down syndrome
  - Interventions to improve sibling relationships when one sibling has autism
Elective credits: 73004 (for MA students)

- When participating in on campus practical opportunities at QC ACES or faculty research labs, students can receive course credit through 73004
  - Up to 2 semesters of 73004 (counts for 2 of your electives)
  - Best if done after completing ABA theory and practicum in first year
Thesis (for MA students)

- See Thesis guidelines on website


- Get involved in a lab now!
Fellowships at local agencies and schools

- We are currently partnered with the following organizations where you can be placed for a “Fellowship” and can accrue supervised experience hours:
  - ELIJA School
  - Behavioral Intervention Psychological Services
  - ABA Psychological Services
  - Mike Marroquin Consulting
  - Kids Learning Loft
  - Long Island ABA
  - Proud Moments
  - Best Foot Forward
  - Teamwork Healthcare

- NOTE: you cannot accrue hours at an external agency unless QC has an affiliation with that agency or school!
FOR CERTIFICATE STUDENTS ONLY

- Start of your last semester
  - E-mail aba@qc.cuny.edu, let us know you will be finishing up
  - There is no formal graduation for program
  - Dr. Bauer will ensure your transcript says “Completion of Program”
FOR MA STUDENTS ONLY

- If you want to teach courses at Queens College:
  - Teaching Apprenticeship Program (TAP): complete the workshop and apprenticeship in the semester before you want to teach
  - NOTE: the TAP program is currently only offered during the Fall semester.

- Contact jeff.beeler@qc.cuny.edu
FOR MA STUDENTS ONLY

- Graduation
  - [http://www.qc.cuny.edu/registrar/graduation/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/registrar/graduation/Pages/default.aspx)
  - In last semester, must complete application to graduate
  - Found at Registrar’s office
Student Rep:

- One MA student serves as student rep
- ABA committee meets up to 2 times a semester, student rep attends these meetings
- Please let us know if you are interested in being considered
- Must be available during day to meet
FOR ALL!!

- **Professional Conduct**
  - Across all settings (i.e., in class, at off campus supervised experience sites, at on campus supervised experience sites)
  - Professional email address (e.g., jsmith@gmail.com) – please use your QC email address for correspondence with the program and faculty
  - Professional attire
  - Professional language
That’s all!