

ACAP  
3/23/17  
Agenda Item 5f

Name of Institution: Francis Marion University

Name of Program (include concentrations, options, and tracks)  
Masters of Science in Applied Psychology in Applied Behavior Analysis

Program Designation

- Associate's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree: 4 Year
- Specialist
- Bachelor's Degree: 5 Year
- Doctoral Degree: Research/Scholarship (e.g., Ph.D. and DMA)
- Doctoral Degree: Professional Practice (e.g., Ed.D., D.N.P., J.D., Pharm.D., and M.D.)

Does the program qualify for supplemental Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship awards?

- Yes
- No

Proposed Date of Implementation January 2018 CIP Code 42.2814  
Delivery Site(s): Francis Marion University, Florence, SC site # 50301

Delivery Mode

- Traditional/face-to-face\*  
\*select if less than 50% online
- Distance Education
  - 100% online
  - Blended (more than 50% online)
  - Other distance education

Program Contact Information (name, title, telephone number, and email address)

Traci A. Taber, PhD, BCBA-D  
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Institutional Approvals and Dates of Approval

FMU Graduate Council – 10/25/16  
FMU Faculty Senate – 11/15/16  
FMU Full Faculty – 11/29/16  
FMU Board of Trustees – to be approved at the March 2, 2017 meeting

### **Background Information**

Provide a detailed description of the proposed modification, including its nature and purpose and centrality to institutional mission. (1500 characters)

The Department of Psychology at Francis Marion University proposes adding a Masters of Science in Applied Psychology with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) that would address the training needs for professionals in the field of ABA. FMU has the resources and capabilities to offer an ABA training program by providing appropriate education and clinical experiences to assist graduates in obtaining employment to serve the diversified needs of the rural, underserved Pee Dee region and the state of SC as trained ABA professionals up to Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA). The proposed addition of the M.S. in Applied Psychology program includes the a sequence of 6 ABA courses that will also be available to students enrolled in the M.S. in Applied Psychology (Clinical/Counseling emphasis) and the School Psychology (Ed.S.) training program so they may also pursue the BCBA certification. The addition of this program and course sequence aligns with the university mission to make available excellent educational programs for the people of the region and the state and serve the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina. The mission of the FMU ABA training program is to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to produce highly skilled behavior professionals able to serve clients residing in the Pee Dee region and state of SC. These professionals will employ data-based problem solving and empirically-based treatment to effect meaningful change in the lives of the individuals they serve.

List the objectives of the modified program. (1500 characters)

**List of Similar Programs in South Carolina**

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Similarities</b>	<b>Differences</b>
ABA approved course sequence offered through the College of Education	University of South Carolina	ABA training offered leading to potential certification as a BCBA; ABA course sequence is approved by the BACB	ABA training (BACB approved course sequence) offered through the College of Education in conjunction with teacher certification programs
Center for Behavior Analysis ABA approved course sequence	Clemson University	ABA training offered leading to potential certification as a BCBA; ABA course sequence is approved by the BACB	Approved course sequence offered independent of an academic degree; no Master's degree program

### Description of the Program

Projected New Enrollment						
Year	Fall		Spring		Summer	
	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours
2018-2019	12	72	12	72	12	180
2019-2020	24	144	24	144	12	180
2020-2021	24	144	24	144	12	180
2021-2022	24	144	24	144	12	180
2022-2023	24	144	24	144	12	180

To predict enrollment for the first few years of the program, data was requested from universities in the region that have ABA programs.

The following data was gathered:

- UGA reports 20-25 applicants with 12-18 new students enrolling each year
- UNC Wilmington shared data for 2011-2016 indicating they average 61 applicants a year and enroll 4-8 students, depending on faculty availability
- USC reports 5-8 students enrolling each year with the intent of completing ABA coursework (please note that USC's program is less formal, and more of an 'add-on' to their teaching certification)
- Clemson reported data from 2006-2016, and stated that they fill their cohort of 15 each year. They declined to report the number of applications received each year, but stated they always have plenty of applicants

Additionally, interest in an ABA program at FMU was gauged informally by polling current undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates of the School Psychology training program. Using the data reported by surrounding universities and interest reported by alumni and current students, the predicted enrollment numbers were calculated.

### Curriculum

Attach a curriculum sheet identifying the courses required for the program.

#### Plan of Study for ABA graduate coursework (Coursework added to existing Master's Degree, 42 hours)

Year 1									
Fall		Spring		Late Spring		Summer I		Summer II	
Course	Sem. Hours	Course	Sem. Hours	Course	Sem. Hours	Course	Sem. Hours	Course	Sem. Hours
PSY 501	3	PSY 604	3	PSY 503	3	PSY 605	3	PSY 635	3
PSY 615	3	PSY 632	3			PSY 634	3	PSY 703	3
Total Credits	6	Total Credits	6	Total Credits	3	Total Credits	6	Total Credits	6

Year 2					
Fall		Spring		Late Spring	
Course	Sem. Hours	Course	Sem. Hours	Course	Sem. Hours
PSY 574 or PSY 674	3	PSY 504	3	PSY 502	3
PSY 602	3	PSY 599	3		
Total Credits	6	Total Credits	6	Total Credits	3

### Curriculum Changes

**Note: Complete this table only if there are changes to the curriculum.**

Courses Eliminated from Program	Courses Added to Program
	PSY 501
	PSY 502
	PSY 503
	PSY 504
	PSY 574
	PSY 599

### Descriptions for Courses being added to the department:

**PSY 501 Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (3) F.** This course provides an introduction to the fundamental principles of behavior including the history, theory, definitions, processes, concepts and characteristics of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Particular emphasis is given to the scientific assessment and analysis of the environmental variables controlling a behavior, and the manipulation of these variables as a method of increasing or decreasing a target behavior. Attention will also be given to the development of the field of ABA.

**PSY 502 Research Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis (3) (Prerequisite: PSY 501) S.** This course will introduce students to the practical applications of single-case research methodology in order to examine the effects and evaluate the efficacy of behavioral interventions. It will provide students with an empirical approach to designing, conducting, and critically evaluating research involving applications of the experimental analysis of behavior in the use of behavior analysis, graphic display of data, single-case research methodology, as well as ABAB, multiple baselines, changing criterion and alternating treatment designs.

**PSY 503 Ethics and Professional Practice in Applied Behavior Analysis (3) (Prerequisite: PSY 501) SU.** This course will cover the ethical standards and legal responsibilities including regulatory requirements for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) professionals who provide services to individuals with special needs and their families. The BACB® Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts will be a guiding framework for this course.

**PSY 504 Contemporary Topics and Applications of Applied Behavior Analysis (3)** (Prerequisite: PSY 503) S. Survey of modern advances in the theories and applications of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), including the behavioral treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder, behavioral economics and delay discounting, stimulus control, verbal behavior, and functional analysis. Students will gain skills in designing, implementing, and monitoring the effectiveness of a behavior change project. Attention will also be given to learning communication skills and developing an understanding of the importance of dissemination of new information in the field of ABA.

**PSY 574 Advanced Applications of Applied Behavior Analysis (3)** (Prerequisite: PSY 503) F. Survey of the applications of Applied Behavior Analysis to clinical, educational, and organizational settings, with an emphasis on empirically-supported interventions and treatments targeting the behavior of individuals or groups. This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in the techniques covered, as well as evaluate current research on behavioral techniques and determine whether treatments can be considered evidence-based. Attention will also be given to the barriers that affect the implementation and success of intervention for individuals in a variety of settings.

**599-A Internship: Applied Behavior Analysis (3)** (Prerequisite: Permission of department) F, S, SU. A practical experience utilizing applied behavior analysis for a diverse array of problems. The roles of the Behavior Analyst are performed in accordance with accepted legal and ethical standards of the profession under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) currently working in the field.

### **Faculty**

Provide a brief explanation of any additional institutional changes in faculty and/or administrative assignment that may result from implementing the proposed program modification. (1000 characters)

Dr. Traci Taber is currently a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Francis Marion University. She will serve as the Director for the M.S. in Applied Psychology in ABA, and continue to teach ABA courses for both the M.S. in Applied Psychology and the SSP School Psychology training programs. The first year of the program will require the Director to oversee the program and teach nine didactic semester hours (credits) in the fall semester and nine didactic semester hours in the spring. The Director or another qualified faculty member would be required to teach summer school for the Program. Besides that one faculty position, there is also the need for one adjunct professor per semester. The Psychology Department has adequate administrative support; therefore no new hire is anticipated to support the ABA Program in that capacity.

## Resources

Identify any new library/learning resources, new instructional equipment, and new facilities or modifications to existing facilities needed to support the modified program. (2000 characters)

Books, periodicals, and online access to journals and databases currently offered at FMU are considered adequate to support program outcomes.

The Rogers Library houses a collection of 170 print periodicals and serials. In addition, FMU provides access to an extensive collection of electronic resources, including CINAHL full text. Membership in the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) has further enhanced FMU's ability to provide a wide variety of quality resources for the School of Health Sciences program. For example, beginning January 2010, the ProQuest titles and Ovid Lippincott online became accessible to faculty and students.

Library hours are listed on the FMU website (<http://www.fmarion.edu/rogerslibrary>) and databases can be accessed 24/7.

No additional library resources will be requested; the peer-reviewed journals that are paramount to the training of professionals in Applied Behavior Analysis (listed below) are available online without cost through the BACB, or as part of membership to professional organizations such as the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). Membership in these organizations is maintained by Dr. Taber as part of her professional development requirements.

Journals currently available for no cost, or as part of a professional organization membership:

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA)

Journal of Experimental Analysis of Behavior (JEAB)

Behavior Interventions

Behavior Analysis in Practice (BHAP)

The Behavior Analyst

ERIC Searchable Research Database

**Financial Support**

<b>Estimated New Costs by Year</b>						
<b>Category</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Program Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faculty and Staff Salaries	40,000	40,800	41,616	42,448	43,296	208,160
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies and Materials	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	25,000
Library Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>45,800</b>	<b>46,616</b>	<b>47,448</b>	<b>48,296</b>	<b>233,160</b>
<b>Sources of Financing</b>						
<b>Category</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Tuition Funding	163,620	254,520	259,610	264,802	270,098	1,212,650
Program-Specific Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Funding (i.e., Special State Appropriation)*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reallocation of Existing Funds*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funding*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funding*	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,620</b>	<b>254,520</b>	<b>259,610</b>	<b>264,802</b>	<b>270,098</b>	<b>1,212,650</b>
<b>Net Total (i.e., Sources of Financing Minus Estimated New Costs)</b>	<b>118,620</b>	<b>208,720</b>	<b>212,994</b>	<b>217,354</b>	<b>221,802</b>	<b>979,490</b>

\*Note: a 2% annual increase was added to the salary estimates and Full-time resident graduate tuition amounts



### Budget Justification

Provide a brief explanation for the other new costs and any special sources of financing (state funding, reallocation of existing funds, federal funding, or other funding) identified in the Financial Support table. (1000 characters)

**Note: Institutions need to complete this budget justification *only* if any other new costs, state funding, reallocation of existing funds, federal funding, or other funding are included in the Financial Support table.**

The table above includes the new associated costs for the proposed program modification. One adjunct professor, as specified in the explanation of any additional changes in faculty on page 7 would be required for three semesters (F, SP, SU). Another anticipated cost would be the need to have current faculty offer summer school for the ABA program. One additional cost would be the estimated \$5,000 per year for supplies that will be used to purchase materials such as testing and intervention protocols, manuals for interventions to be taught as part of the ABA program, and office supplies needed to support the increased students enrolled through the Department of Psychology. As stated above, the Psychology Department has adequate administrative support; therefore no new hire would be required to support the ABA Program. Given the low cost to start up the Program because many of the requirements would be met through current faculty and facilities, it is anticipated that the program would become self-sustaining.

### Evaluation and Assessment

Will any the proposed modification impact the way the program is evaluated and assessed?

Yes

No

If yes, explain. (1000 characters)

Will the proposed modification affect or result in program-specific accreditation?

Yes

No

If yes, explain; if the modification will result in the program seeking program-specific accreditation, provide the institution's plans to seek accreditation, including the expected timeline for accreditation. (500 characters)

Will the proposed modification affect or lead to licensure or certification?

- Yes, potentially (see explanation)  
 No

If yes, explain how the program will prepare students for licensure or certification. (500 characters)

Certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) requires a Master's degree from a qualifying accredited institution, 270 hours of coursework in ABA, a supervised practicum of at least 750 hours, and a passing score on the BCBA exam. The Francis Marion University M.S. in Applied Psychology with an emphasis in ABA would provide students with the required Master's degree while also completing the necessary coursework in ABA. Supervised experience would be completed with a local agency or school district. The BCBA exam is administered through the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) for those seeking BCBA Certification.

### **Teacher or School Professional Preparation Programs**

Is the proposed modified program a teacher or school professional preparation program?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, complete the following components.

Area of Certification

Attach a document addressing the South Carolina Department of Education Requirements and SPA or Other National Specialized and/or Professional Association Standards.