





Dr. Krystal Kennedy

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<https://www.tntech.edu/education/ci/graduate.php> 

Welcome!

Congratulations on your ABA program admission. I will be your academic advisor and primary professor throughout the program. I am excited that you have chosen TTU for your graduate studies, and I look forward to working with you on this journey.

There are several "next steps" that will help you successfully start your ABA graduate school journey. Please review the steps below, and I look forward to meeting with you soon.

1. Review the ABA program packet and complete the included ABA program admission checklist.
2. Next, email me to set up your initial advisement meeting. We will discuss your schedule, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions. Advisement can be on campus or virtual.
3. Signup for courses after advisement.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Kind regards,

Dr. Kennedy

Krystal Kennedy, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

ABA Concentration Admission Checklist

Welcome TTU's ABA graduate program! The checklist below was created to ensure students take all appropriate steps to begin their first semester successfully. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Kennedy at kkennedy@tntech.edu

After Graduate School Acceptance

_____ Setup your TTU student email account. Instructions can be found in the initial acceptance email from Graduate Studies or by following [this link](#).

_____ Log into Tech Express and become familiar with the features.

_____ Review the [academic calendar](#) for important dates.

_____ Review the ABA concentration handbook to familiarize yourself with the program format.

_____ Review the BCBA Handbook. This explains all board certification requirements set forth by the BACB accreditation board. This handbook explains the extra fieldwork experience steps needed if planning to become board certified.

_____ Visit [the BACB](#) website to familiarize yourself with the field and requirements.

_____ Check with our TN ABA licensing board if you have a criminal record.

_____ After completing the steps above, contact Dr. Kennedy for advisement. She may be reached at kkennedy@tntech.edu.

TTU ABA Concentration Post-Advisement Admission Checklist

After Advisement

- _____ Use the PIN Dr. Kennedy provided during advisement to register for courses through Eagle Online (found in Tech Express)
- _____ Contact Dr. Kennedy and Olivia Newman (our administrative associate) if you receive any registration errors/permits/holds.
- _____ Pay for courses before the semester to avoid courses being purged and late registration fees! The purge date is on the Graduate Studies calendar and you will receive emails.
- _____ Begin checking your student email regularly. All TTU email communication will be via your student email.
- _____ Look for an email from Behavior Development Solutions (BDS) to sign up for the BDS modules. The email will be sent from BDS around the first week of courses. The cost ranges from \$369-\$549, depending on how long you subscribe. You will need to complete all BDS modules.
- _____ If you are planning to obtain supervision hours and sit for the board exam, begin searching for a field experience supervisor and field placement [by clicking here](#). This is not a degree completion requirement. You can find qualified supervisors on the BACB website.
- _____ Review the Field Experience Standards Handbook if planning to complete field experience hours.
- _____ Order Cooper, J.O., Heron, T.E., & Heward, W.L. (2019). Applied behavior analysis (3rd Ed.). Pearson Education, Inc. Components of this text will be used throughout most ABA concentration courses.
- _____ Virtually sign your Program of Study (usually emailed during advisement) and return to Dr. Kennedy.

Beginning the Semester

- _____ Check to make sure registered courses match your timeline.
- _____ Log in to iLearn (found in Tech Express) on the first day of classes to peruse the online course layout. Most on-campus courses use iLearn components as well. The Graduate Studies Calendar will list course start dates.
- _____ Secure a supervision contract and begin accumulating hours on first day of courses if completing field experience. The BACB does not require fieldwork completion by the end of your degree. Some students choose to take their time accumulating hours.
- _____ Check the course meeting schedule in Eagle Online.

Useful Websites

[Tech Express](#). Click on *Express* which is highlighted in yellow in the top right corner. Tech Express will be your dashboard for email, iLearn (course access), Eagle Online (for registration and student matters), and several other services.

[TTU College of Graduate Studies](#)



Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Concentration Information

Tennessee Technological University

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Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration Overview

TTU offers the applied behavior analysis (ABA) concentration as a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Curriculum & Instruction, Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) in Curriculum & Instruction, and Doctor of Philosophy in Exceptional Learning (PhD). We are part of TTU's College of Education. The ABA program consists of seven courses needed to sit for the BCBA exam. Courses will prepare prospective BCBA's with teaching, practitioner, and research experience. All seven ABA courses are offered in a hybrid format allowing student flexibility. The program's hybrid format allows students to take courses face-to-face on campus as well as virtual access for those who do not wish to commute.

The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified TTU's ABA coursework for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA) or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® (BCaBA) examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements (e.g., required fieldwork experience) before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.

Master of Arts in Curriculum & Instruction with ABA Concentration

The M.A. program consists of 33 course hours. Students complete one elective, three research related courses, and seven ABA courses. All courses may be completed online. Students may complete additional fieldwork experience hours if seeking board certification eligibility. For more information click here: <https://www.tntech.edu/education/ci/graduate.php>

Specialist in Education in Curriculum & Instruction with ABA Concentration

The Ed.S. program consists of 30 course hours. Students complete one elective, two research related courses, and seven ABA courses. All courses may be completed online. Students may complete additional fieldwork experience hours if seeking board certification eligibility. For more information click here: <https://www.tntech.edu/education/ci/graduate.php>

Doctor of Philosophy in Exceptional Learning with ABA Concentration

The Ph.D. program consists of 79 course hours. Students complete two electives, five core courses, seven research courses, eight ABA courses, and 15 dissertation hours. Fieldwork experience hours can be embedded within the program of study if seeking board certification eligibility but is not required. We offer a master's to PhD option for our ABA concentration students. Students may earn a master's degree while pursuing their PhD. For more information, click here: <https://www.tntech.edu/education/elphd/index.php>



Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration Admissions Information

TTU's Graduate Studies handles all ABA program admissions procedures. Students are admitted each fall, spring, and summer semester; however, it is recommended to begin during the fall semester.

Master of Arts (M.A.) Admissions

We follow the Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Admissions Requirements. Admission requirements include an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or above, three letters of recommendation, and the completion of additional College of Graduate Studies application requirements (transcripts, application, etc.)

You can read more about the admission requirements by selecting the purple "Admission Requirements" tab under Curriculum and Instruction after clicking on the following link: <https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/masters.php#CollegeOfEducation>

Specialist in Education Admissions

Admission requirements include an overall quality point average of 3.0 earned in a master's degree program from an accredited institution and three letters of recommendation from faculty members or other persons with adequate knowledge of the applicant's professional qualities. You can learn more about the admission requirements by clicking on the "Admission Requirements" tab (under Curriculum & Instruction) after following this link: <https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/specialist.php>

Doctor of Philosophy in Exceptional Learning Admissions

Admission requirements include the following: an average of 3.0 or above from a recognized baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from an accredited college or university, or an international equivalent based on a four-year curriculum; a valid GRE score within the last five years must Exceed 153 on Verbal Reasoning and score 140 or above on Quantitative **OR** exceed 144 on Quantitative Reasoning and score 146 or above on Verbal Reasoning. A minimum of 4.0 is required on Analytical Writing; Scholarly Writing Sample; Statement of Intent; Three Letters of Recommendation from someone who can speak of on behalf of your qualifications and the academic ability for doctoral study; and a Professional Vitae. You can read more about the admission requirements by selecting the purple "Admission Requirements" tab under Exceptional Learning after clicking on the following link: <https://www.tntech.edu/education/elphd/admission.php>

Application Procedures

When ready to apply to the program, submit your documents to the College of Graduate Studies via the Application Portal. The following link discusses the application process and will take you to the Application Portal: <https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/how-apply.php>

ABA Verified Course Sequence Information

The following courses are taken by all ABA concentration students regardless of degree. Ed.S. and Ph.D. students will take 7000 level courses.

1. EDUB 6000. Conceptual Topics and Principles in Behavior Analysis
2. EDUB 6010. Topics in Behavior Analysis
3. EDUB 6020. Behavior Change Procedures and Systems Supports in ABA
4. EDUB 6030. Assessment in Behavior Analysis
5. EDUB 6050. ABA Approaches in Developmental Disabilities
6. EDUB 6060. Ethics in ABA
7. EDUB 6320. Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

Additional M.A. Courses

Elective. Selected by the student in consultation with their advisor
 FOED 6820. Applied Educational Assessment
 CUED 6300. Quantitative Educational Research
 CUED 6305. Quantitative Problems in Curriculum

M.A. Course Sequence Based on Semester Admission

Summer Admission	Fall Admission	Spring Admission
Summer Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6060 • FOED 6820 	Fall Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6000 • EDUB 6030 	Spring Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective • EDUB 6320
Fall Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6000 • EDUB 6030 	Spring Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6020 • EDUB 6320 	Summer Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6060 • FOED 6820
Spring Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6020 • EDUB 6320 • EDUB 6050 	Summer Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6010 • EDUB 6060 • FOED 6820 	Fall Semester Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6000 • EDUB 6030
Summer Semester Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6010 • CUED 6300 	Fall Semester Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective • CUED 6300 	Spring Semester Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6050 • EDUB 6020 • CUED 6300
Fall Semester Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective • CUED 6305 	Spring Semester Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6050 • CUED 6305 	Summer Semester Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUB 6010 • CUED 6305

Additional Ed.S. Courses

CUED 6010. Curriculum Development and Evaluation
 FOED 7020. Philosophy and Public Policy
 CUED 6910. Advanced Research Project in Education

****Additional Ph.D. Courses to be determined by student, chair, and committee**

Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration FAQs

General Questions

⇒ **What is applied behavior analysis (ABA)?**

“Applied behavior analysis is largely based on behavior and its consequences, techniques generally involve teaching individuals more effective ways of behaving and working to change the social consequences of existing behavior. Treatment approaches based on ABA have been empirically proven effective in various areas. However, because ABA was first used with individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism, this practice area has the largest evidence base and has received the most recognition.” (www.bacb.com).

⇒ **Where can I learn more about ABA?**

- Association of Professional Behavior Analysts: www.apbahome.net
- Association for Behavior Analysis International: www.abainternational.org
- Behavior Analyst Certification Board website: www.BACB.com
- Tennessee Association for Behavior Analysis: <https://tennesseeaba.org>

⇒ **What type of career is a behavior analyst likely to have?**

This varies based on board certification and licensure requirements. A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) will likely have a subspecialty based on their coursework and training experience. Subspecialties may include Autism and DD/ID, Behavioral Gerontology, Behavioral Pediatrics, Brain Injury Rehabilitation, Clinical Behavior Analysis, Education, Health and Fitness, Organizational Behavior Management, Positive Behavior Supports, Prevention/Intervention in Child Maltreatment, Sports, Treatment and Substance Abuse. The roles of individuals with such subspecialties may range from a consultant to a direct treatment provider. For more information, visit <https://www.bacb.com/about-behavior-analysis/>

Program Specific Questions

⇒ **What are my applied behavior analysis concentration options at TTU?**

- **Undergraduate:** SPED non-licensure major with 12 hours ABA coursework
- **M.A.:** Master’s in Curriculum & Instruction with ABA concentration:33 hours total
- **Ed.S.:** Educational Specialist in Curriculum & Instruction with ABA concentration: 30 hours total
- **Ph.D.:** Doctor of Philosophy in Exceptional Learning with ABA Concentration: 79 hours total



⇒ **How does TTU's ABA program prepare students to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)?**

We are an ABAI Verified Course Sequence (VCS) provider for the 5th Edition Task List. TTU's ABA coursework meets the Pathway 2: Behavior Analytic Coursework criteria set forth by the BACB for board exam eligibility. Students take 21 hours of ABA concentration courses and their other degree-level requirements. All ABA concentration courses are offered in a hybrid format. TTU also offers Concentrated Fieldwork elective courses for those seeking university level supervision hours.

⇒ **What type of background do I need to prepare for TTU's ABA program?**

Effective 2022, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board will begin allowing any accredited bachelor's degree to be accepted for those pursuing a master's or further in ABA. TTU will follow the Board's recommendations by accepting all bachelor's backgrounds. That said, we are part of the Curriculum and Instruction department. This means courses will have a stronger emphasis on school-aged topics and populations. Students will be accepted assuming they have some background knowledge related to working with individuals with special needs and school-aged populations. Preferred backgrounds include education, early childhood, psychology, and sociology. Your advisor may suggest additional courses if needed.

⇒ **Do I have to become Board Certified if I complete this program?**

Although the ABA program prepares students for board exam coursework eligibility, completing the exam is not a requirement. Students may seek an advanced degree with an ABA concentration to advance their knowledge in the field.

⇒ **What type of career will this degree prepare me to have?**

ABA career options vary. Because we are an approved, verified course sequence provider, all graduates will have the coursework necessary for board exam eligibility. Because we are housed with the College of Education, students who do not wish to pursue board certification will have advanced degrees in Curriculum and Instruction. This allows for employment in the school system and education/ behavior consultation roles. Students seeking board certification will be prepared to enter the ABA workforce as an in-home, clinical, or residential service provider. Fieldwork experience hours will shape expertise areas.

⇒ **I noticed courses are listed as hybrid. What does that mean?**

Programs often vary in their hybrid attendance structure. TTU's ABA program allows various course attendance options for ABA courses. *Option 1* is to attend all ABA courses on campus. *Option 2* is to virtually attend class during on-campus meetings. *Option 3* is to watch recorded on-campus lectures at your convenience. *Option 4* is a combination of the previous options. These options are for the Seven ABA courses only. Students have additional course requirements based on desired degree. M.A. and Ed.S. students will select on-campus or online courses for their remaining required courses, however, both degrees

may be completed entirely online if desired. Ph.D. students will be required to attend a few on-campus, non-ABA courses.

⇒ **How long does the program take? Can I pursue it at a faster or slower rate?**

On average, students complete the master's program in two years. Courses can be paced faster or slower; however, they are offered in a sequenced format. Students are required to take summer courses given the sequenced offering. If seeking board certification, you must also follow the minimum to maximum allowable supervision hours. Although supervision hours do not impact courses, you will be required to complete all VCS courses and, at minimum, a master's degree before gaining board exam eligibility.

⇒ **Can I transfer credits into this program?**

Degree level transfers and BACB exam eligibility transfers are two different entities. Your advisor will review potential degree level transfer credits. ABA course related transfers will need to be reviewed and approved by the BACB at your expense before board exam eligibility.

⇒ **How much is tuition?**

Total program costs vary due to multiple factors and tuition changes each year. To be eligible for financial aid, a graduate student should be enrolled full-time and taking at least six credit hours. Some online courses require students to pay additional fees to cover material costs. TTU's Bursar's Office provides an updated tuition and fee schedule. More information can be found by visiting: <https://www.tntech.edu/bursar/tuition/>

Fieldwork Experience Questions

⇒ **What is the Fieldwork Experience requirement for board exam eligibility?**

Before board exam eligibility, students seeking board certification must complete a practical supervised fieldwork experience under a qualified supervisor. The fieldwork experience is separate from TTU's coursework requirements. The BACB offers two types of supervised fieldwork. Option 1 is Supervised Fieldwork experience. Option 1 Supervised Fieldwork Experience requires 2,000 fieldwork hours under a qualified supervisor with at least four contacts, one observation, and 5% of hours supervised monthly. Option 2 is Concentrated Fieldwork experience through an approved university. Option 2 Concentrated Fieldwork experience requires 1,500 fieldwork hours under a qualified supervisor with at least six contacts, one observation, and 10% of hours supervised monthly.



⇒ **Does TTU offer Option 2 Concentrated Fieldwork Experience?**

This varies per semester and professor availability. The Concentrated Fieldwork experience is offered during semesters when professors can take on such demands. The fieldwork course may be substituted as electives on the Program of Study. Students will need to take additional Concentrated Fieldwork Experience courses outside of their Program of Study to obtain all required hours.

⇒ **Is the Fieldwork Experience required at TTU?**

No, it is not a requirement.

⇒ **Whom can I get to be my Field Experience supervisor?**

A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D) who has been certified for at least one year and meets the supervision requirements outlined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board can supervise you. The BACB directory lists analysts in your area who meet the criteria and are willing to supervise. The directory may be found by visiting: <https://www.bacb.com/services/o.php?page=101135>

⇒ **When can I begin accumulating Field Experience hours?**

You can begin accruing hours after the first day of your first ABA course. You must also have a signed contract with your field experience supervisor.

⇒ **Where can I find more information about the Field Experience?**

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) recently published a manual with all field experience requirements. More information, including the manual, can be found by visiting: <https://bacb.com/bcba/#OngoingSupervision>

Program Admission Questions

⇒ **What are the ABA program admission requirements?**

This varies based on the degree sought. Please see the Graduate Studies Admission website for more information.

⇒ **What is the difference between an official transcript and an unofficial transcript?**

Official transcripts are sent directly from another institution to Tennessee Technological University. Unofficial transcripts are any transcripts the student can access (i.e., the student ordered their official transcript and opened it or can access their unofficial transcripts online and create a PDF or image file of the transcript).

⇒ **If I am a Tech Alumni, do I need to upload my transcript?**

You may contact the Registrar's office and they will send your transcript to Graduate Studies free of charge.

⇒ **I have an undergraduate degree in Education from a TN university.**

TTU is happy to offer a Flight Path opportunity to prospective students who meet certain criteria to qualify for an exemption from taking the MAT or GRE graduate entrance exam(s) for Master's and Education Specialist degrees. Students are eligible for our Flight Path opportunity if they've completed EdTPA requirements, graduated with a 3.0 Undergraduate GPA, passed their required Praxis and hold a Teacher License.

⇒ **How do I send my application documents?**

When ready to apply to the program, you will submit your documents to the College of Graduate Studies via the Application Portal. The following link discusses the application process and will take you to the application portal:

<https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/how-apply.php>

