

# ASACR 5

Office of the President  
May 8, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science with a major in Applied Behavior Analysis degree in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling, in the College of Education, effective in Fall 2015 Semester.

Background: The field of behavior analysis has grown exponentially nationwide over the past ten years. As the number of individuals with challenging behaviors has increased, there has been a need for professionals uniquely trained to support them in educational, familial, and vocational settings. Behavior analysts provide assessment, intervention and evaluation of challenging behaviors through the use of behavioral principles that should result in a meaningful change in the individual's social behavior(s).

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) has acknowledged the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling as an approved university training site for the course sequence to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) certification examination.

Currently, the master's degree programs that offer some of the courses for the BCBA require teacher certification to enter the program. The proposed program will provide an opportunity for students not seeking teacher certification to be able to complete a graduate degree while fulfilling the requirements to sit for the BCBA examination. The program will allow for recruitment of students from a variety of undergraduate majors. In addition, it will provide a depth of understanding in applied behavior analysis, managing challenging behaviors and autism spectrum disorders; train students to work in school and with parents and caregivers. Students from this program will be marketable in a variety of private and public entities.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the 45 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_