

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

March 2022



Behavior Specialist

A mental health counselor who observes, assesses, and provides support to adults and children who have emotional or behavioral issues. Some specialists work with those who have Autism Spectrum Disorder, are developmentally disabled, or simply are in need of behavioral therapy.

Average Annual Salary: \$41,040

How Do I Become a Behavior Specialist?

- Obtain a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Human Services, Psychology, Behavioral Science or related field; master's degree sometimes preferred.
- Some employers may hire those with associate degrees in related fields or based on experience with special needs.
- Behavior specialist qualities include patience, compassion and a strong foundation in behavior analysis.

**Projected Job
Market Growth:
22% Increase by 2029**

Requirements for obtaining a license varies by state.

What Does a Behavior Specialist Do?

- Observe, record and evaluate a patient's behavior
- Design behavioral treatment strategies
- Provide assistance and guidance following treatment plan
- Communicate with patients, their parents and teachers

- Collect data about a patient's progress
- Write patient reports and document behaviors
- Perform tests to evaluate patient growth
- Behavior Specialists can find employment in diverse workplaces, including schools, clinics, or government institutions



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