

Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

September 2023

Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) & Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)

Applied behavior analysts (ABA's) study why people do what they do. They define and measure behaviors, analyze how the environment impacts behavior, and track whether the behavior is changing in a way that is meaningful. They help individuals, communities and organizations. Behavior analysts assist those with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, behavioral disorders, emotional disturbances, or no diagnosis at all, to achieve individually developed goals, learn new skills and improve challenging behavior. They design, implement, and evaluate environmental stimuli to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior. They work in education, business and healthcare as consultants and practitioners. Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT's) are paraprofessionals who are certified in behavior analysis. They assist in delivering behavior-analytic services and practice under the direction of an ABA.



Average Annual Pay-ABA, \$102,900 & RBT, \$54,000

"It is rewarding to witness real-time progress within individuals and families..."
Daemen ABA student

How Do I Become an ABA OR RBT?

**PROJECTED JOB
MARKET GROWTH:
22% BY 2031**

To become a Certified Behavior Analyst, you must earn a bachelor's degree and then complete graduate level coursework with a minimum of a master's required in Behavioral Analysis. Some may choose to complete a doctorate program. Students must complete supervised field work before taking the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Exam. Graduates must obtain a license in the state where practicing. Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT's) must have a high school diploma and complete 40 hours of training to enter the field.

What Does an ABA OR RBT Do?



Assist businesses to help employees perform their best.

✓ Aid schools and teachers to help students to learn new skills or to reduce challenging behaviors.

✓ Work with individuals with autism or students with disabilities.



Help athletes perform better.

✓ Make lasting environmental impacts by helping people to recycle and reduce carbon emissions.

✓ Work with the elderly, treating age related issues, like memory problems, wandering, medication adherence and more.



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A Professional Account

Daemen's Master's Behavioral Analyst students share their personal insight from working in the field of ABA...

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

"Being able to work 1:1 with multiple individuals and being able to establish rapport with them. I enjoy having flexibility in my schedule, working with different individuals each day. We work on social skills too, so playing board games and having conversations is a fun part of the day-to-day job."

"Witnessing real-time progress within individuals and families, in terms of individuals achieving independence in several vital skills and families learning to better communicate with their loved one who is receiving services. Also, the relationships with colleagues, families, and my clients!! Also, I am always learning!"

What is the most challenging?

"Maintaining objectivity in frustrating situations when not seeing the progress we hoped to see or being able to de-escalate situations we expected to."

"There are moments when an initial plan or intervention fails, and it can be discouraging. However, this is part of the "always learning" aspect."

What do you wish you knew back in school that you know now?

"That there is such a wide variety of opportunities in the health and human services field."

"It is okay not to know exactly what you want to do with your life right now, or for several years! The best thing for you to do at this stage in your life is to try different things, learn as much as you can, and follow what feels good."

Anything else you want to share?

"Behavioral sciences can be applied to any area of a person's life. Behavior analysts work in business settings, healthcare, schools, sports... anywhere people want to set goals and change their behavior."

"The law for ABA has recently changed so behavioral science can now be applied to anyone with a diagnosis and a prescription for ABA services."



Click on the image for information on Applied Behavior Analysis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnyYwWlenJg>



Scan Me



Click on the image for a professional account from an Applied Behavior Analyst

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zikug_hVgMY



Scan Me

For more information visit the Behavior Analyst Certification Board or the Association of Professional Behavior Analysts
<https://www.bacb.com/> | <https://www.apbahome.net/>

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EXPLORE HEALTH RELATED PROGRAMS AT DAEMEN UNIVERSITY



College of Health, Human Sciences & Business

Behavioral Science Vicki Knapp, yknapp@daemen.edu

Health Promotion Stephanie Malinenko, smalinen@daemen.edu

Public Health Brian Wrotniak, bwrotnia@daemen.edu

Social Work Diane Bessel, (dbessel@daemen.edu)

College of Health Professions

Physician Assistant Cara Innus, cinnus@daemen.edu,

Allyson Kirk, akirk@daemen.edu and Joel Patterson, jpatters@daemen.edu

Physical Therapy Michael Ross, mross@daemen.edu

Nursing Martha Kershaw, (mkershaw@daemen.edu)

To learn more visit: <https://www.daemen.edu/>

For more information on Daemen's **Behavioral Science Program** visit the website or use the QR code below.



<https://www.daemen.edu/academics/college-health-human-sciences-business/behavioral-science>



PATC

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NOW HIRING:

PAID TEEN EDUCATORS

APPLICATIONS DUE: 9-17-23

