

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, February 12, 2010

DECISION ITEM A-1:

Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis To Be Offered by Ball State University Statewide via Distance Education Technology

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve the Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis to be offered by Ball State University Statewide via Distance Education Technology, in accordance with the background discussion in this agenda item and the *Abstract*, January 29, 2010; and

That the Commission recommend no new state funds, in accordance with the supporting document, *New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary*, January 29, 2010.

Background

Ball State University Department of Special Education, which will deliver the proposed program, currently offers a master's degree in Special Education, which enrolled 210 headcount or 88 FTE students and had 35 graduates in FY2008. The Department also offers two 15-semester hour certificate programs: one in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and one in Autism. The certificate programs currently enroll 65 and 80 students, respectively. The proposed program will build on the foundation and track record of the certificate programs, so that students will be able to earn a master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis with a special emphasis on Autism.

The Indiana Department of Education reports there are over 10,000 children in public schools who are diagnosed with autism. Prevalence rates from the Center for Disease Control suggest there are a minimum of 31,000 adults with autism spectrum disorders in Indiana.

Available to treat this population are just 47 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), who are best positioned to treat this disorder. Medicaid is required to provide reimbursement for services provided by BCBA personnel, which is also true for private insurers, as a result of the Autism Insurance Mandate that was passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2001. For these reasons, schools, hospitals, residential facilities, and other mental health employers have a strong preference for hiring individuals who are BCBA credentialed. Individuals who are CBAs are also able to set up their own centers and private practices for treating people with autism.

Ball State University is the only university in the state that is accredited to prepare students – through the existing certificates and the proposed master’s program – for BCBA certification. Every state in the 12-state MHEC region has at least one program -- certificate or master’s – for preparing BCBA’s. With the exception of the practicum, the proposed M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis will be delivered entirely through Internet-based courses.

Supporting Documents

- (1) *Abstract - Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis To Be Offered by Ball State University Statewide via Distance Education Technology*, January 29, 2010.
- (2) *New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary – M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis*, January 29, 2010.

Abstract

Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis
To Be Offered by
Ball State University Statewide via Distance Education Technology

January 29, 2010

Objectives: To fill the shortage of Board Certified Behavior Analysis in the State of Indiana.

Clientele to be Served: Teacher, psychologists, and other human service professionals throughout the state who deal with various issues related to autism. The program is designed to meet the needs of part- and full-time students, currently employed professionals, non-traditional students, and career-changers.

Curriculum: A total of 30 semester credit hours are required to complete the program, distributed as follows:

Required Courses (30)

- Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- Behavioral Consultation (3)
- Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- Professional Issues in Applied Behavior Analysis (3)
- Research in Special Education (3)
- Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis (6)
- Introduction to Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders (3)
- Interventions and Treatments for Persons with Autism (3)
- Practicum in Autism (3)

Employment Possibilities: Schools, hospitals, residential facilities, and other mental health settings. There is also a strong demand for behavior analysts to work with individuals with disruptive behavior disorders, individuals with developmental delays, and learning problems. Parents also hire behavior analysts to work with them when modifying specific behaviors that interfere with development and learning.

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

January 29, 2010

I. Prepared by Institution

Institution/Location: Ball State University to be offered statewide via distance education technology

Program: M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis

	Year 1 FY2010	Year 2 FY2011	Year 3 FY2012	Year 4 FY2013	Year 5 FY2014
Enrollment Projections (Headcount)					
Full-Time	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Part-Time	<u>47</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>80</u>
Total	<u>47</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>80</u>
Enrollment Projections (FTE)					
Full-Time	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Part-Time	<u>73</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>101</u>
Total	<u>73</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>101</u>
Degree Completions Projection	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>40</u>
New State Funds Requested (Actual) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
New State Funds Requested (Increases) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

II. Prepared by CHE

New State Funds To Be Considered For Recommendation (Actual) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
New State Funds To Be Considered For Recommendation (Increases) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

CHE Code: 09-34

Campus Code: 1786

County: All 92 Counties

Degree Level: 07

CIP Code: Federal – 131013; State – 131013

* Excludes new state dollars that may be provided through enrollment change funding.