Health Psychology (HLTHPSYC)

HLTHPSYC 3100: Applied Behavior Analysis and Autism
Students will learn the behavioral principles and techniques currently employed to help children with autism acquire functional language, appropriate social behavior, and general academic and living skills as well as decrease problematic behaviors. The objectives of this course are:
1. To identify and describe key features of applied behavior analysis (ABA), particularly as it applies to intervention for children with autism.
2. To identify and describe key issues in curricular design, program development, and evidence-based interventions in autism.
3. To become familiar with key outcome research in behavioral interventions for children with autism.
4. To become familiar with key research on language, social skills, self-help skills, and problem behavior reduction as these areas relate to the behavioral treatment of autism. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

HLTHPSYC 8100: Concepts and Principles in Behavior Analysis
This course will provide an overview of both classic and contemporary theory and research on nonhuman and human learning. We will focus on a behavior-analytic conceptualization of learning and the underlying research on basic processes and operations that result in learning. The readings and class discussions will provide you with a strong foundation in the psychology of learning from a behavioral orientation, with particular emphasis on the relation between biological and environmental contributions to selection of behavior. To effectively produce socially significant behavior change among members of clinical populations, we must approach the task with a thorough understanding of these basic principles. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites or Corequisites: Admission to the Graduate Certificate program in Applied Behavior Analysis

HLTHPSYC 8200: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
This course provides students with a basic understanding of the fundamentals of behavior analysis and behavioral interventions designed to establish, shape, strengthen and maintain desirable behavior and reduce aberrant behavior. The course focuses on the application of behavioral principles using procedures such as differential reinforcement, extinction, antecedent interventions, and punishment. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

HLTHPSYC 8250: Methods in Applied Behavior Analysis
This course provides students with a basic understanding of systematic data collection and analysis methods used in applied behavior analysis to make informed (data-driven) clinical decisions. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: One of the following - HLTHPSYC 8200, ESC_Ps 8087 or SPC_ED 8440

HLTHPSYC 8300: Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis
This course provides the student with an in-depth coverage of ethics and professional behavior in applied behavior analysis. This course will help the student become prepared to sit for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board exam. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in ABA or Master's in ABA program

HLTHPSYC 8350: Individualized Assessment and Intervention
This course builds upon the basic principles of learning and applied behavior analysis presented during previous courses in the Behavior Analysis core. The course will offer advanced coverage of the functional assessment of problem behaviors. In particular, there will be a strong emphasis in the functional analysis of problem behaviors. Additionally, this course will focus on how identification of function guides treatment development (i.e., function-based treatments). Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: HLTHPSYC 8100

HLTHPSYC 8400: Survey of Applied Behavior Analysis
This course builds upon the basic principles of learning and applied behavior analysis presented during previous courses in the Behavior Analysis core. The course will offer coverage of the many different applications of behavior analysis (e.g., behavioral medicine, behavioral gerontology, substance abuse, organizational behavior management, etc.). Finally, this class will cover topics related to professional development. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: HLTHPSYC 8100 OR HLTHPSYC 8200

HLTHPSYC 8450: Verbal Behavior
This course will provide an introduction to a behavior analytic approach to the study of language (i.e., verbal behavior). The course will have two related focuses: (a) the theoretical underpinnings of a functional approach to language as outlined by B.F. Skinner in Verbal Behavior (1957), (b) a review of the testing of this theoretical approach through research and practice (primarily with children and individuals with Intellectual Disabilities). Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: HLTHPSYC 8100

HLTHPSYC 8800: Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis
The Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis provides practical training in ABA. Graduate students will participate in an intensive practicum that focuses on developing well-rounded training in ABA. Students will work hands on with children at the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. By the completion of the practicum, students will be well versed in the development of skill building programs as well as behavioral reduction programs that focus on function-based interventions (e.g., functional analyses). Graded on S/U basis only.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in ABA or Masters of Science in ABA programs
HLTHPSYC 8900: Capstone in Applied Behavior Analysis
The capstone will consist of a clinical question or direct replication of previous research, which will serve as a demonstration of the student's knowledge of applied behavior analysis. Graded on S/U basis only.

Credit Hour: 1-9
Prerequisites: Graduate student in the M.S. program in Applied Behavior Analysis

HLTHPSYC 8950: Thesis in Applied Behavior Analysis
The thesis will consist of an original research question, which will serve as a demonstration of the student's knowledge of applied behavior analysis. Graded on S/U basis only.

Credit Hour: 1-9
Prerequisites: Graduate student in the M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis program