Behaviour Analysis Online

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have any more information about Behaviour Analysis?
Please see our webpage http://www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/study/subjects/psychology/graduate-study/behaviour-analysis-online for more information about Behaviour Analysis.

Will the University of Waikato ever offer internships to online students?
At this stage it is not possible to confirm whether internships will be offered to online students but the possibility is being investigated by staff.

When will these courses be available?
All courses will be offered in 2013.

What are the technological requirements for completing the online courses?
A lot of teaching and assessment for these courses will be done via video conferencing and video streaming. Therefore you are required to have a high speed (broadband) internet connection and a webcam and microphone.

Will I need to visit New Zealand at any time for any of the courses?
No these courses offered by the University of Waikato are fully online courses, you will not need to visit New Zealand in person at all.

As the courses are fully online will I be considered a domestic or international student?
If you are reside in New Zealand and are a New Zealand or Australian resident you will be considered a domestic student.
If you and not a New Zealander and if you reside outside of New Zealand you will be considered an international student. See the following links for more information on international students: http://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/admission/internationalstudents.html

What skills will I acquire from completing these courses with the University of Waikato?
Behaviour Analysis is a scientific approach to understanding why people and animals do what they do. Studying Behaviour Analysis will teach you how both animal and human behaviour is affected by events in the social and physical environment and what you can do to help produce behaviour change to help improve lives. Knowledge of this science of behaviour and its behaviour-change technology will assist you in a variety of careers.
As a field, Behaviour Analysis consists of concepts, principles and techniques. As a student of Behaviour Analysis, you will learn the basic skills by which behaviour can be understood and changed. These skills include techniques to define and measure behaviour, create behaviour change programs and evaluate their effectiveness. Many of these techniques and strategies are taught in the courses that combine theoretical and practical learning to produce marketable skills.

How will the courses be delivered and what will the assessments be like?
The courses will be delivered via a range of online mediums, video conferencing, recorded videos, chat systems, voice recorders, provided readings, online tutorials etc may all be used.
The assessments will also vary an example of some assessments are completing online tutorials, essays, article reviews and recorded or streamed presentations.

**What are points and what is the difference between points and credit hours?**
Each course (a.k.a. a paper) at the University of Waikato is worth a set number of points. A fulltime work load is the equivalent of 120 points taken over one year. The University of Waikato does not use credit hours to describe the workload for each course. For information on workload please contact us.

**What is the difference between a “paper” and a “course”?**
In NZ, a paper and a course are the same thing.

**Can I withdraw and get my fees back?**
You can get a full refund if you withdraw from your course(s) prior to the end of the second Friday of semester (NZ time). After this date, you cannot get a fee refund but you can still withdraw up until the last date of assessment for that course so you do not fail it. There are two semesters in New Zealand - A and B - and the dates of these can be found at http://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/dates/teaching.html

**Do I need to enrol in a degree or diploma or can I enrol in just a course or two?**
You do not need to enrol in a degree or diploma. If you enrol in courses that are not being taken towards a qualification, then you will receive Individual Paper Credit (IPC) for each of those courses. Any course you you take this way may be credited towards a degree or diploma later. A list of the qualifications available at Waikato can be found at http://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/.

**What is the difference between a degree course, a non-degree course, and a continuing-education course?**
All Waikato the courses that are approved by the BACB® are all degree or diploma courses. A degree course can count towards a university qualification whilst a non-degree course cannot. Those approved as part of the coursework sequence for BCBA® are all postgraduate courses. Some universities around the world offer non-degree, continuing-education courses courses that are approved by the BACB®.

**What is the difference between BACB®-approved and non-approved courses and sequences?**
The BACB® pre-approves courses that meet their requirements. Each course is assigned a number of contact hours across up to 10 content areas. A total of 270 hours is required for a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA®) and 180 for a Board Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst (BCaBA®) and the hours in each content area range from 10-45 hours for BCBA® and from 5 to 45 hours for BCaBA®. If the hours in the courses you have taken sum to the required total for each content area, then you have met the BACB® coursework requirement. It does not matter if the courses are from different institutions. If you have taken or take behavioural courses that have not been approved, the BACB® can assess these courses on a case-by-case basis (see their website). The Waikato courses are BACB® approved.
What are the BACB®-approved content hours for each course?
Each of our courses has been approved by the BACB®. The hours in each content area of each course and the full course sequences are given at http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/subjects/psychology/research/dairy3/BACB.shtml

Will I receive credit towards BACB® coursework hours for courses that I have taken at another University?
If your courses were approved by the BACB®, then you can meet the BACB®'s coursework requirement by taking additional courses at Waikato or elsewhere so long as the sum of the content hours meet the Board's requirements of 270 hours across the 10 content areas. The BACB® will make the final determination on your coursework hours when you apply to take the certification exam with them. Simply sum the hours in each content area across courses to see where you stand. Additionally, the BACB® requires an undergraduate degree for BCaBA® and a masters degree for BCBA® (http://www.bacb.com); however, the BACB®'s coursework requirement can be done in addition to these degrees. It does not matter if the courses are from different institutions. If you have taken or take behavioural courses that have not been approved, the BACB® can assess these courses on a case-by-case basis. The Waikato courses are BACB® approved.

Will I become a certified BCBA® or BCaBA® if I complete all the postgraduate behaviour analysis courses offered by the University?
No the courses offered contribute only towards meeting the coursework requirements. See http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=53 for additional information on the other requirements set by the BACB®.

I have heard that the BACB® is changing its requirements for certification?
Yes this is true; however the University of Waikato has been working towards implementing the new changes and from 2013 the University of Waikato will have adjusted the courses offered to meet the new requirements.

Where can I find supervision to meet the requirements to become a registered BCaBA® or BCBA®?
You can search the BCBA® certificant register to find people that may be available as supervisors. http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=100155