The Autism and Behavioural Science program was developed in response to the growing public concern about services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

It was designed to deepen the expertise in the field of autism and behavioural sciences for application within the children’s sector, and simultaneously create a pool of qualified individuals to meet the needs of service agencies that provide autism or children’s services.

The program enables graduates with university degrees and graduates of Early Childhood Education, Social Service Worker, Child and Youth Care, Developmental Service Worker and similar programs to acquire the specialized skills and expertise they need to work with individuals with a diagnosis of autism.

Students learn about:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Intervention methods including Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI)
- Applied Behaviour Analysis theory (e.g. operant conditioning)

SKILLS AND APTITUDES

Consider this career path if these terms describe you:

- caring
- tenacious
- analytic
- detail-oriented

UNIQUE PROGRAM FEATURES

- Full-time and part-time faculty who have extensive experience in ABA, IBI and ASD.
- Well-established relationships with agencies providing services for individuals with a diagnosis of autism.

PART TIME STUDY OPTIONS

This program is not available on a part-time basis.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Field education in semesters one and two

YOUR FIELD STUDY OPTIONS

Field experience plays an important role in preparing students for the real work ahead. Each opportunity is designed to reinforce classroom theory within an actual setting where students could ultimately find work.

In Semester 1, the field placement experience lasts for three weeks. During that time, students will visit an agency partner (e.g. ABA centre, school, residential home, daycare settings, etc.) to observe an individual with Autism.
During Semester 2, field placement is seven weeks long. Students will go to an agency partner where they will not only observe an individual with autism, but will be required to identify a target behaviour and develop a treatment plan accordingly.

**PROGRAM STANDARDS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. Assess and analyze the characteristics, skills, and behaviour of individuals with ASD to effectively implement evidence-based behavioural interventions.
2. Design and implement effective behavioural intervention plans under appropriate supervision and based on the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA).
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of behavioural intervention plans based on the principles of ABA.
4. Work collaboratively with families, teams, service providers, and the broader community to respond to the learning and behavioural needs of individuals with ASD.
5. Design, implement, and evaluate as part of a team ABA-based transition plans for individuals with ASD.
6. Comply with established ethical principles and professional guidelines
7. Provide leadership in the promotion and provision of services to meet the needs of individuals with ASD and their families.
8. Evaluate empirical evidence in order to select appropriate interventions for individuals with ASD.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**SEMESTER 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BST1101</td>
<td>Introduction to Applied Behaviour Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1102</td>
<td>Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1104</td>
<td>Working with Families and Teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1105</td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Professionalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1106</td>
<td>Field Placement I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1108</td>
<td>Field Seminar I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1121</td>
<td>Behavioural Skill Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEMESTER 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BST1103</td>
<td>Treating Challenging Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1107</td>
<td>Crisis Prevention and Intervention (2-day module)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1122</td>
<td>Parent and Staff Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1123</td>
<td>Specialized Instructional Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1124</td>
<td>Transition Planning and Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1125</td>
<td>Field Placement II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST1126</td>
<td>Field Work Seminar II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOUR CAREER**

Graduates of the program will be prepared for employment as instructor-therapists with agencies offering ABA for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as in schools and private family settings. Graduating from the program may lead to opportunities for advancement into supervisory or consultant roles.

Previous education at the diploma or degree level may also lead to other career opportunities, such as:

- resource teacher
- educational assistant
- program supervisor

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- Completion of a 3-year or 4-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree (no specific major, though a major in Psychology, or related discipline, is highly recommended*).
- Or a 2-year or 3-year diploma in a human services discipline (a major in Psychology is recommended*)
- It is recommended that related degrees/diplomas include at least one or more psychology course(s)

* Please note: This program has a strong focus on behaviour change and behavioural sciences, so some previous psychology-related education is highly recommended in order to be successful in the program.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Applicants with international transcripts who do not provide English proficiency test results must test at the College level in the George Brown College English assessment to be considered for admission.

Please visit georgebrown.ca/englishproficiency for more details.

**COURSE EXEMPTIONS**

College or university credits may qualify you for course exemptions. Please visit georgebrown.ca/transferguide for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Visit the International Admissions page for more information.

**APPLY TO**

Domestic students should apply through Ontario Colleges

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**

Students must meet the requirements of the George Brown College pre-placement student health passport before attending a field placement.
PRE-PLACEMENT HEALTH FORM

• Upon confirmation of acceptance into this program, students must meet all the mandatory pre-placement health requirements for the program. It may take up to four months to complete all the requirements.
• All costs, service fees and fines associated with the overall health requirements are the responsibility of the student.
• For further details and to download the mandatory pre-placement health form, go to the Pre-placement website at georgebrown.ca/preplacement

POLICE VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK

• In compliance with the requirements of our placement partners, all students in this program are required to have a police vulnerable sector check completed, and this check must be renewed annually before entering into field or clinical placement.
• The police vulnerable sector check process typically takes two to three months, but under some circumstances can take four to eight months. This is required to protect the clientele of our placement partner agencies, who are considered “vulnerable persons” under the law.
• Students are responsible for ensuring that the police vulnerable sector check covers appropriateness for “individuals being employed and/or volunteering who will be working with vulnerable person(s).”
• Students are required to keep the original copy of their police vulnerable sector check.
• Students who are unable to provide a “clear” police vulnerable sector check may not be able to start their field or clinical placement and therefore may be unable to complete the program. Students who are not eligible to attend their practice placement due to a “not clear” status will jeopardize their progress in the program.
• Failure to meet the requirements for field placement will prevent students from completing the program and/or securing employment.
• The fees for the police record check vary and must be paid by the student. For more information, please visit the Pre-placement website at georgebrown.ca/preplacement

"The Autism and Behavioural Science program absolutely propelled me into the fulfilling career of working to better the lives of those living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Without this program at George Brown College, I am certain I would not have had the educational jump-start I was given to land me my first clinical position immediately upon graduation. What I valued most was the privilege to form the influential relationships that I did with the skilled professors already working within the field. I am grateful I chose to pursue this post-graduate certificate; it truly was the catalyst to a profession that I take great pride in every single day."

Shanna Reeso (Graduate 2013, Autism and Behavioural Science)

"The program at George Brown College will play an important role in developing the knowledge, skills and expertise of current and potential instructor-therapists in the public and private sectors. Their strong complement of faculty, innovative plan and existing relationship with many IBI providers put George Brown at a vantage point for getting this program up and running quickly. Few other colleges would have access to the necessary number of student placements required for a program of this magnitude."

Board of Directors of the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis

CONTACT US

To book an information session, call the School of Health and Wellness at 416-415-5000, ext. 4542 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., or email kcallemartinez@georgebrown.ca. For more information about George Brown College, you may also call the Contact Centre at 416-415-2000 (TTY 1-877-515-5559) or long distance 1-800-265-2002.
George Brown College is continually striving to improve its programs and their delivery. The information contained in this calendar is subject to change without notice. It should not be viewed as a representation, offer or warranty. Students are responsible for verifying George Brown College admission, graduation, and fee requirements as well as any requirements of outside institutions, industry associations, or other bodies that may award additional designations concurrently with, or after completion of, a George Brown College program.