

University of West Florida | Graduate School

Student Spotlight: Dawn Semmes

Updated November 27, 2018

Dawn Semmes, Exceptional Student Education (Applied Behavior Analysis)

So I actually moved to Pensacola in August of 2015, after my son received a diagnosis of autism earlier in that year. And we actually moved here because we couldn't get access to ABA therapy in the state that I was in. So once we got here, and he started ABA therapy, I just thought that it was a wonderful therapy. He made great progress. And I actually said, "Hey, I want to look into doing a career change." And so, when I looked into UWF's program and saw how affordable it was, I said, "I think this is something that I want to pursue." And so I jumped in, and I started doing these classes. Like I said, I'm a single mom, so the online program was the only way that I probably would've been able to actually pursue this degree.