

# EDF 6325 AUTISM AND THE LAW

2 Semester Graduate Course Credit Hours

BACB 5th Edition Task List/QBA Competency Standards

30 Hours Legal, Ethical, and Professional Considerations (QBA Standards)

Syllabus Effective Date: August 1, 2021

## Prerequisites

Students must be eligible to enroll in Master's level courses.

## Course Description.

This course focuses on legal and ethical concerns related to behavior analytic service delivery. The content is partially based on specific topics in the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Task List, the Ethics Code for Behavior Analysts and covers the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board (QABA) Qualified Behavior Analyst (QBA) Competency Standards for Legal, Ethical, and Professional Considerations and QABA Code of Ethics. In addition to these specific organizations, legal codes, mandates, and case law relevant to Applied Behavior Analysis are also covered. This course serves as only one in a series of courses that prepares students to apply for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam or the Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) exam or the Qualified Behavior Analyst (QBA).

## Course Format/Type

This course is 100% Online. Students will be required to participate in weekly online videoconference style classes. In addition, students are required to access supporting documents from the Internet including the syllabus, assignments, and assessments. Weekly attendance in either live or recorded sessions is mandatory and proctored using the online educational platform provided by the University of West Florida.

## Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify key legal codes that affect behavior analytic services and practices as evidenced by participation in active student responding quizzes, at least an 82% on specialized assignments, and scoring 100% on assessments.
2. Define key legal codes that affect behavior analytic services and practices as evidenced by participation in active student responding quizzes, at least an 82% on specialized assignments, and scoring 100% on assessments
3. Elaborate on the importance of being fluent with applicable legal codes in the scope of behavior analytic service models and the implications of law violation as evidenced by participation in active student responding quizzes, at least an 82% on specialized assignments, and scoring 100% on assessments.
4. Discuss landmark legal cases and their implications to behavior analysis service models (and general healthcare mandates) as evidenced by participation on discussion posts by scoring at least an 82% based on the rubric.
5. Apply legal codes and ethical violations via the scope of US Law and the Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, while adhering to BACB guided Supervision and Management items (see Topics Covered below) to vignettes and activities as evidenced by participation in active student responding quizzes, scoring at least an 82% on specialized assignments, and scoring 100% on assessments.
6. Demonstrate generality via cumulative assessments throughout the course evidenced by 100% acquisition scores on exams.

## Topics Covered

### BACB Task List E

E-1	Responsible conduct of behavior analysts
E-2	Behavior analysts' responsibility to clients
E-3	Assessing behavior
E-4	Behavior analysts and the behavior-change program
E-5	Behavior analysts as supervisors
E-6	Behavior analysts' ethical responsibility to the profession of behavior analysis
E-7	Behavior analysts' ethical responsibility to colleagues
E-8	Public statements
E-9	Behavior analysts and research
E-10	Behavior analysts' ethical responsibility to the BACB

### BACB Code of Ethics

Section 1.	Responsibility as a professional
Section 2.	Responsibility in practice
Section 3.	Responsibility to clients and stakeholders
Section 4.	Responsibility to supervisees and trainees
Section 5.	Responsibility in public statements
Section 6.	Responsibility in research

### QABA Code of Ethics

1.0	Compliance
2.0	Competence
3.0	Privacy/Confidentiality
4.0	Provision of service
5.0	Responsibility to clients and client's rights
6.0	Human relations
7.0	Supervision and training
8.0	Record keeping and fees
9.0	Public statements
10.0	Research

### QABA Legal, Ethical, and Professional Considerations (B)

1	QABA Code of Ethics (e.g., applied behavior)
2	HIPAA regulations (e.g., confidentiality including limitations, mandated reporting,
3	Collaborations with professionals and family members (e.g., behavior contracts, breaking
4	Educational laws (e.g., IDEA, LRE, IEP, ADA, Rehabilitation Act, 504 Plan)
5	Positive behavior supports
6	Person-centered planning
7	Socially significant behaviors
8	Treatment plan (e.g., drafting, development, goal writing, implementation)
9	Transitioning services (e.g., thinning of reinforcement, prompt hierarchies, mastery
10	Responsibilities to clients (e.g., referrals)
11	Professional competency (e.g., supervision from competent sources)
12	Informed consent
13	Risk benefit assessments

## Required Texts and Materials

Yell, M. (2019). *The Law and Special Education*. Pearson. ISBN-13 9780135178324

## Optional Texts and Materials

Unumb, L. S. & Unumb, D. R. (2011). *Autism and the Law: Cases, Statutes, and Materials*. Carolina Academic Press. Durham, North Carolina.

## Grading System

Points will be allocated using the following weighted system

1. Participation in weekly assignments (30% of final grade)
2. Exam #1 (30% of final grade)
3. Exam #2 (40% of final grade)

## Exams

All exams are cumulative and are available on the UWF eLearning system. Computers must be able to take the exam using a lock-down browser.

## Assignments

Content hours earned towards BACB requirements and QABA requirements have been carefully calculated. If a student neither attends the live virtual class nor views the recorded lectures for each week, a 10% response cost to the final grade will be administered for each missed session or recording. If 3 or more class sessions are missed, this will result in an automatic (F) failing grade assigned for the course. Students must also complete weekly assignments to receive a passing grade in the course. Assignments submitted beyond one week from the due date will not receive points, but assignments still must be placed in eLearning by the end of the course in order to earn a passing grade. If any assignments are not submitted to eLearning by the end of course, a 10% response cost to the final grade per missing assignment will be administered. If 3 or more assignments are missed, this will result in an automatic (F) failing grade assigned for the course.

## Virtual Class

Our students have choices in attendance and participation: Students are encouraged to attend all live, real-time, class sessions. If students cannot attend live, they must watch the recording each week, in addition to any other pre-recorded lectures.

## Grading scale

A	92-100
A-	90-91
B+	88-89
B	82-87 - <i>Grades of 82% or higher are required for courses with prerequisites in the program</i>
B-	80-81
C+	78-79
C	72-77
C-	70-71
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Incomplete grades (I) will not be given except under very extreme circumstances. Please see the UWF catalog for rules about Incomplete grades

## Special Technology Requirements

Each student is expected to activate a MyUWF account and access it 2-3 times per week and access their UWF email account 2-3 times per week. Students will need broadband internet (laptop or desktop computer preferred) via a compatible web browser (complete list in Canvas). Students are expected to participate in the online learning environment by downloading files from Canvas and uploading and attaching files to send to others. Students will need audio input, built-in, or external computer speakers, as well as an internal or external webcam (recommended) in order to actively participate in the on-line live classroom and check ins.

- Canvas Support Hotline (Open 24/7) - 1-844-866-3349
- UWF ITS Help Desk - 1-850-474-2075 or email [itshelpdesk@uwf.edu](mailto:itshelpdesk@uwf.edu)
- PrecisionX Help Desk - [institute-support@centralreach.com](mailto:institute-support@centralreach.com)

## Student Accessibility Resources

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the Student Accessibility Resources (SAR). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, e-mail [sar@uwf.edu](mailto:sar@uwf.edu) or call 850.474.2387.

## Expectations for Academic Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The Student Code of Academic Conduct defines various forms of academic misconduct including cheating and plagiarism and describes the process for addressing allegations of academic misconduct. More information and links to the University regulations governing both student conduct and academic conduct can be found on the Dean of Students website listed under the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

UWF maintains a university license agreement for an online text matching service called Turnitin. At our discretion, we may use the Turnitin service to evaluate the originality of student papers. We also may employ other services and techniques to evaluate your work for evidence of appropriate authorship practices as needed.

Respondus LockDown Browser is a client-based application that "locks down" a computer or device during an online exam delivered on a third-party assessment platform, such as a Learning Management System (LMS). [Privacy information for Respondus LockDown Browser.](#)

Respondus Monitor is a companion product for LockDown Browser that enables students to record themselves with a webcam and microphone during an online exam. The recordings and other data from the exam session are processed automatically; summary information is provided to the instructor, such as if the student left the video frame during the exam session. [Privacy information for Respondus Monitor.](#)

## Military and Veterans' Resource Center

The [UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center \(MVRC\)](#) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill ® education benefits, active-duty tuition assistance, out-of-state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising, and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550

## Mental Health Support

At the University of West Florida, we recognize that to learn, thrive, and flourish, you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources online or on campus.

- For health concerns, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172.
- For mental health or substance use concerns, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420.
- For 24/7 crisis counseling, call 850-474-2420 and press option 6.

All students are encouraged to utilize Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) to strengthen skills to cope with anxiety, depression, stress management, and more. TAO is an interactive web-based self-help program that is available 24/7. Access TAO anonymously at [uwf.edu/tao](http://uwf.edu/tao).

If you feel like you need somewhere to talk anonymously to others who can support you, peer support is available to all students 24/7 via TogetherAll. TogetherAll is an online community where members are anonymous and can share how they are feeling and support each other. Learn more and join TogetherAll at [uwf.edu/togetherall](http://uwf.edu/togetherall)

Mental Health is one aspect of holistic health, which encompasses all of the eight wellness dimensions. The eight dimensions do not have to be equally balanced. Instead, you should strive to achieve your own authentic personal harmony. You have unique goals, priorities, and aspirations. You determine how to live your best life. ArgoWell is here to help you make the healthy choice, the easy choice, and support you in your wellness journey. [Meet ArgoWell](#)

## Discrimination or Harassment Reporting

The University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination and harassment policies. Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty are required to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with the UWF's Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420. This service is free for students. Faculty can also help direct you, or you may refer to the [University's Title IX website](#).

## Emergency Information and Course Continuity Statement:

In the case of severe weather or another emergency, the campus might be closed and classes canceled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM.