

# SLPA A112: INTRODUCTION TO AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	10/06/2021
Top Code	122000 - Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology
Units	2 Total Units
Hours	36 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 36)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S)

## Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the foundations of Autism Spectrum Disorder in children, Applied Behavioral Analysis treatment, and evidence-based intervention for treatment. This will include collecting Antecedent-Behavior-Consequence ABC data, and learning operations to increase/strengthen behavior and weaken/decrease behavior. Enrollment Limitation: ALH A112/CDE A112; students who complete SLPA A112 may not enroll in or receive credit for ALH A112 or CDE A112. Transfer Credit: CSU.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. The student will be able to identify and describe atypical acquisition of communication and pragmatic skills, strength and weakness traits, and examples of possible interfering behaviors associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
2. The student will define and give examples of learning operations to increase/strengthen behavior and weaken/decrease behavior during speech and language therapy.

## Course Objectives

- 1. Learn current research and identify key characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in children.
- 2. Identify Autism Spectrum Disorder atypical acquisition of communication.
- 3. Identify Autism Spectrum Disorder student learning strength and weakness traits, and potential interfering behavior challenges.
- 4. Identify the historical research behind Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and determine why ABA treatment is a preferred methodology.
- 5. Determine professionally accepted research based treatment vs. non-research based treatment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- 6. Define and give examples of operational definitions of behavior, antecedent, and consequences.

- 7. Observe and accurately collect Antecedent-Behavior-Consequence, ABC data.
- 8. Define and give examples of learning operations to increase/strengthen behavior and weaken/decrease behavior.
- 9. Identify and give examples of behavior change methods using reinforcement schedules.

## Lecture Content

Key Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder Impairments in social communication, language, and related cognitive skills. Presence of restricted, repetitive behaviors. Sensory and feeding issues may also be present. Variations in developmental level and severity. Autism Spectrum Disorder communication acquisition Atypical communication Visual support Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Augmentative communication Autism Spectrum Disorder learning strengths and weaknesses Auditory Visual Tactile School Challenges Public education setting Least Restrictive Environment Autism Spectrum Disorder interfering behavior concerns in the home and school setting Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) BIP class share Autism Spectrum Disorder Therapy Neurology Medical intervention Research-based treatment Non-research-based treatment Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) operational definition Appropriate operational definitions Inappropriate operational definitions Antecedent-Behavior-Consequence ABC data collection Consequences Likelihood behavior will increase Positive reinforcement types Social Automatic Secondary Intrinsic/Extrinsic Reinforcement schedule Fixed ratio Variable ratio Fixed interval Variable interval Time to use each schedule Likelihood behavior will decrease Extinction Response cost Punishment Behavior observation

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

## Instructional Techniques

Lecture and application of ideas Demonstration of techniques Multimedia Paired and small group exercises with instructor feedback Role-playing

## Reading Assignments

Students will spend 2 hours per week reading chapters assigned from the text and related primary/secondary source material.

## Writing Assignments

Students will spend 1-2 hours per week completing course appropriate projects/case studies, homework assignments, and content-based technical examinations.

## Out-of-class Assignments

Students will spend 2 hours per week completing written homework assignments and a case study. The class includes one outside observation with writing assignment and presentation.

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Student performance on case studies, homework assignments, and content-based technical examinations.

## **Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration**

Behavior Intervention Plan—class share; homework assignments; case studies; content-based technical examinations, role playing

## **Eligible Disciplines**

Speech language pathology: Master's degree in speech pathology, speech language pathology, speech language and hearing sciences, communicative disorders, communicative disorders and sciences, communication sciences and disorders, or education with a concentration in speech pathology, OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

## **Textbooks Resources**

1. Required Kearny, A. J.. Understanding Applied Behavior Analysis: An Introduction to ABA for Parents, Teachers, and Other Professionals, Latest ed. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2015 Rationale: The previous book, Handbook of Applied Behavior Analysis was too advanced for the introduction class. As a result, a more practical and comprehensive textbook is suggested in order to effectively achieve student success and understanding of this topic. 2. Required Prelock, P., McCauley, R.. Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Evidence-Based Intervention Strategies for Communication and Social Interactions, 2nd ed. Brooks Publishing, 2021 Rationale: Text covers treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders with practical examples.