

# **A Description of a New Higher Education Specialization Program, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Marking its Development, Basic Philosophical Tenets, and the Research Methodology it Employs**

Dr. Gerald Simon and Dr. Sharylyn Crump  
Department of Educational Administration and School Counseling/Psychology  
Sanford College of Education  
National University  
La Jolla, California, USA

## **Abstract**

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has become an important credential specialization in education and psychology in the United States over the last 50 years. ABA provides a new and interesting focus on the philosophy of behaviorism and incorporates a unique and robust approach to functional behavioral assessment and analysis. The authors have been instrumental in the development of a new ABA graduate degree and credential program within the Sanford College of Education at National University and they provide both the philosophical tenets of Applied Behavior Analysis and its applications in classroom and other settings.

This paper examines the philosophy and basic tenets of Applied Behavioral Analysis and how it is integrated into public school systems within the United States. However, National University's Applied Behavior Analysis program is also designed to facilitate delivery of direct ABA services into clients' homes, particularly to children, adolescents and adults with a diagnosis of autism or other developmental disabilities in which insurance coverage is provided for such services in the United States. Finally, the paper also provides a full description of applied behavioral research methods and its robust approach to functional behavior assessment, analysis, treatment.