



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Fully Online

The University of South Florida's College of Behavioral and Community Sciences offers a fully online Graduate Certificate in Positive Behavior Support. This certificate program offers an evidence-based approach to resolving challenging, and supporting prosocial, behavior in children and youth within schools and early education settings.

The core certificate courses include: 1) Intensive Individualized Positive Behavior Support (PBS), 2) Consultation and Collaboration, and either 3) Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Young Children or 4) School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (9 hours of required courses). Students choose an additional one elective course (3 hours of electives), which may include the fourth core course, one of the listed electives, or an approved independent study.

The certificate will benefit students by equipping them with necessary skills to provide systemic applications of PBS. The applications vary from understanding consultation at the individual level in the home and community, with young children in preschool settings, and/or school-age children within classrooms and schools. The mental and behavioral health electives or other relevant courses round out the certificate.

Course Requirements (12 Credit Hours)

This fully online graduate certificate consists of three core courses, and one elective courses for a total of 12 credit hours. Students also may choose to take a fourth core course as an elective. Students pursuing a graduate certificate will be required to meet the same academic requirements as those defined for degree-seeking students to remain in good standing.

Required courses (9 credit hours)

Choose three from the following core courses:

- MHS 6410 – Intensive Individualized Positive Behavior Support (3)
- MHS 6608 – School-Wide Positive Behavior (3)
- MHS 6605 – Addressing Behavior Challenges in Young Children* (3)
- MHS 6900 – Consultation & Collaboration* (3)

Elective courses (3 credit hours)

Choose one from the following or take the fourth core course:

- MHS 6640 – Mental Health Informatics (3)
- PHC 6240 – Cultural Competency in Child. Ment. Health (3)
- MHS 6095 – Family-Centered Interdisciplinary Practices (3)
- PHC 6543 – Foundations in Behavioral Health Sys (3)
- MHS 6901 – Approved Independent Studies in Mental Health (1-4)
- Other relevant elective, approved case by case

** Pre-requisites apply. Contact Jolene Ferro or Tanisha Clarke-Dobney for requirements.*

Admission/Application Process

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Below are instructions on how to apply:

1. Go to www.gradcerts.usf.edu
2. Click on "Apply." Download and complete forms.
3. Remember: If you are not currently enrolled, or have not attended USF in the past two semesters, you must apply as a non-degree-seeking graduate student. (Scroll down to #1 in the instructions.)
4. Provide, as part of the application:
 - An official transcript
 - Resume/curriculum vita
 - Letter of interest (250 words) stating your objectives in pursuing this certificate
5. Return completed forms and documents (by mail, fax or e-mail) to:

Office of Graduate Certificates

University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave., SVC1072
Tampa, FL 33620-9951

Phone: (813) 974-2442
Fax: (813) 974-7061

E-mail: gradcerts@admin.usf.edu
Website: www.gradcerts.usf.edu

6. Once the application is processed and approved, students must contact Dr. Jolenea Ferro to develop a program of study and obtain permits to register for courses.

The GRE is not required.

All students who wish to pursue approved graduate certificates must be admitted to a corresponding area of study before a second graduate certificate course is completed.



Tuition & Fees

Both in- and out-of-state students pay in-state tuition. For current tuition and fee information, go to <http://usfweb2.usf.edu/ucocashaccounting/tuition.asp>. Remember, this is an estimate.

Financial Aid

Non-degree seeking students are not eligible for financial aid. However, private student loans may be available.

Registration Process

Complete a program of study and obtain electronic course permits. Then, go to: <http://usfonline.admin.usf.edu>, the link to OASIS, USF's online registration system. Follow the directions given online.

Time Limit

Courses must be completed within two years after acceptance into the program.

Graduate Degrees

These graduate certificate courses may be applied to masters or doctoral degrees contingent upon departmental approval. Students should speak with their respective program advisors.

Department Contact

Jolenea Ferro, PhD, BCBA-D

Associate Professor
College of Behavioral & Community Sciences
(813) 974-7881
jbferro@usf.edu

Course Offerings

Spring

- Intensive Individualized Positive Behavior Support
(*Dr. Jolenea Ferro*)

Summer

- School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (*Dr. Don Kincaid*)
- Addressing Behavior Challenges in Young Children
(*Dr. Lise Fox and Dr. Kwang Sun Blair*)

Fall

- Consultation and Collaboration (*Dr. Heather George*)

For more information, including course descriptions, visit <http://pbs.cbcs.usf.edu>.

For more information about the College of Behavior and Community Services certificates and degrees, follow the links on the web at www.cbcs.usf.edu.

STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist, and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine. Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.