The Low Incidence Disabilities and Autism (LIDA) program at Sam Houston State University provides training in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). ABA is a field that applies scientifically derived principles about variables in the environment that affect behavior to socially significant behavior. The LIDA program provides comprehensive training in ABA with an emphasis on intellectual disabilities and autism.

This program is available as a Master of Arts or Master of Education. Both degrees require the completion of 36 credit hours. Additionally, the program offers a 27-hour certificate for those who already hold a Masters.

The **Master of Arts** requires the completion of a thesis with a public defense. The **Master of Education** requires the completion of a research project that is not defended.

The **Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Certificate** is a 27-hour course sequence with a concurrent year-long internship that prepares for the BCBA exam.

Note: All enrolled Master's students are also enrolled in the certificate program.

The program offers Applied Behavior Analysis coursework following the Behavior Analysis Certification Board task list. Students in this program must complete a year of supervised fieldwork in Applied Behavior Analysis with both individual and group supervision provided by faculty or approved practicum sites. The course sequence, practicum, and research experience provide the academic foundations to sit for the BCBA exam.

Upon completing any LIDA program and passing the BCBA exam, graduates will be qualified to work as:

- ABA consultants
- Skilled teachers of children with autism and related disabilities
- Behavior Specialists
- Autism Specialists

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### Coursework

**MA and MEd in Special Education (required)**

- SPED 6301 Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPED 6302 Seminar in Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPED 6303 Behavioral Assessment and Intervention
- SPED 6304 In-Home Training and Family Issues
- SPED 6306 Evaluation and Measurement of Behavior
- SPED 6307 Behavior Change and System Support
- SPED 6308 Practicum and Methods in Special Education
- SPED 6309 Internship in Behavior Analysis
- SPED 6314 Research Methods in Behavior Analysis
- SPED 6315 Thesis (MA only)
- SPED 6317 Applied Research in Special Education
- SPED 6318 Ethics for Behavior Analysts

**Electives (choose one)**

- SPED 5303 Study of Cognitive and Low-Incidence Disabilities
- SPED 6305 Study of Behavior Disorders in Children

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"Those who already hold a master’s degree and are only interested in obtaining Board Certification as a Behavior Analyst are only required to complete these courses.

"SPED 6315 Thesis is required for the MA track only. MEd students will choose one elective to replace SPED 6315."
Why earn your degree at Sam?

As a student at SHSU, you will benefit from receiving an exceptional learning experience from a well-established and respected department that has a long history of delivering quality education. We welcome students from a variety of backgrounds; students do not need to have an undergraduate degree in education.

The LIDA program is designed for working professionals as well as full-time students. The program provides flexibility, allowing our students to keep working full-time while continuing their education. Because the majority of our graduate students are full-time teachers, our courses are offered in the evening, both on and off campus, with classes offered at The Woodlands Center, SHSU’s campus in The Woodlands. During the summer months, some of our classes are offered during the late afternoon and early evening to support those who teach summer school.

Most students take two courses per semester and graduate with a master’s in special education in two years.

Apply Now

Apply today and discover the benefits of enrolling in Sam Houston State University’s Special Education-LIDA program. To be considered for admission, please submit the following:

1. Graduate Admissions Application (available online at ApplyTexas.org)
2. Application fee
3. Official transcript from the baccalaureate degree granting institution
4. Two recommendation forms
5. Writing sample

Recommendation forms and writing sample instructions are available online at shsu.edu/academics.

Early Deadline: January 5
Final Deadline: March 10

Publish and Present Your Work

You will have the opportunity to become actively involved in research by publishing and presenting your work under the direction of world-renowned faculty. You will be encouraged to present original research at conferences nationwide and to develop articles for submission to professional journals.

Sam Houston State University

Since 1879, Sam Houston State University has touched the lives of over 100,000 graduates and helped shape the economic, social and cultural development of the state and nation. Steeped in tradition and Texas hospitality, the university offers the type of educational experience most often found at private institutions. The low student-to-faculty ratio allows for more individual attention, while our beautifully maintained campus and historic architecture provide a serene backdrop to high-tech facilities, equipment and amenities. SHSU’s tuition rates combined with exceptional faculty and academic programs produce one of the best educational values in Texas.

Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations

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