



The Graduate Autism Endorsement
Approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission



Berry College ABA Program Mission Statement
**Empowering students to improve lives with
behavior analysis.**

What is it? A teacher with the Autism Endorsement has strengthened and enhanced competency levels for working with students with autism. This endorsement does not replace the certification requirement of holding the appropriate special education base-field certificate for working with students with autism. Offered in a summer institute with on-line and blended classes (combination of on-line lectures and in class activities/field experiences).

Includes 4 courses:

- **EDU 625 Concepts/Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis for Educators**
- **EDU 652 Applied Practice of ABA for Educators**
- **EDU 634 Teaching Children with Exceptional Needs** -Students with current teaching certification should already have credit for this course.
- **EDU 632 Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities for Educators**

Benefits of the Autism Endorsement

- **Increased Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder**
1 in 68 children in the U.S. are living with ASD. Classroom teachers are needed that are familiar with the characteristics of ASD, establishing and assessing goals, and how to collaborate with other skilled professionals to include them in regular education classes and community.
- **Skill Enhancement in addressing skill acquisition and addressing challenging behaviors.** As a teacher in a public or private school it is very likely you will have children included in your classes who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (of ASD), or have characteristics of ASD. As part of this endorsement, you will take two courses in Applied Behavior Analysis, an empirical approach to understanding behavior and developing strategies that can increase learning of specific skills and decrease behaviors that interfere with learning.
- **A multidisciplinary understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder, including:**
 - How to collaborate more effectively with parents, administrators, special educators, Speech Language Pathologists, OTs and others supporting these children in your school.
 - An understanding of the various curriculums and programs commonly used to support children and youth with ASD
 - A legal and historical framework for making informed decisions about your teaching when including and advocating for students with ASD and other disabilities in your classroom.

