

THE ABCS OF APPLYING TO GRAD SCHOOL

SABAS

UPCOMING SABAS EVENT

SABAS presents:

Behavioral Analysis Job Fair

Connect with recruiters in major companies that are looking for psych students interested working as ABA therapists and more!

Hear from the following companies:



Kennedy Krieger
Institute Inpatient Outpatient and Feeding
Shafer Center
Verbal Beginnings
Signature Behavioral Health



Come out to
SOND414
Nov. 8th from
12-2!



ABA Open House Event



**UMBC MASTER'S
PROGRAM IN
APPLIED BEHAVIOR
ANALYSIS**

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE EVENT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 FROM 6:30-7:30 PM

- 1**
Are you interested in graduate training in behavior analysis?
- 2**
UMBC faculty will highlight features & expectations of the program. They will also discuss career opportunities associated with successful completion.
- 3**
Attendees will have the opportunity to ask faculty members and students questions about the program.

[WEBEX LINK](#)
We hope to see you there!

OVERVIEW

- Graduate school application requirements
- Types of academic programs and how to choose the right one for you
- Curriculum vitae (CV) and resume
- Statement of purpose

TYPE OF PROGRAMS

- Master's vs. Ph.D. vs. Psy.D.
- Research vs. practitioner focused
 - Is a thesis required? Are students actively engaged in research?
 - What are the practicum placement and what type of services or research is the emphasis on?

QUALITY INDICATORS OF PROGRAMS

- [BACB passing rate](#)
- Faculty and students' [research productivity](#)
- Information about alumni's productivity and career development
- Retention rates, time to graduation
- Do current and former students speak positively of their experience?

TRAINING FOCI AND PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

- Research vs. practitioner oriented
- Focused training in specific areas (e.g., feeding, problem behavior, early intervention)
- Are practicum placements predetermined or do you have to seek them out yourself?

CAREER GOALS

- For Master's level clinician
- If applying to a Master's program but you are ultimately interested in a Ph.D., consider whether the Master's program has a terminal doctoral program
- [Ph.D. vs. Psy.D.](#)

COSTS AND FUNDING

- Does the program offer tuition remission or other benefits?
- Does the approved practicum placement (or placements) offer tuition remission or other benefits?

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum GPA
- Baccalaureate degree
- GRE scores (**NOT** required for most programs this year)
- Letters of recommendation
- Specific coursework
- Transcripts
- Resume or CV
- Personal statement
- Two to three letters of recommendations (preferably at least two from former professors)

WHAT MAKES ONE COMPETITIVE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

- GPA
- GRE (when applicable)
- Other academic accomplishments (e.g., fellowships, scholarships, awards)
- Research experience, including accomplishments such as poster presentations and publications
- Clinical experience
- Diversity and inclusion considerations
- Strong letters of recommendation
 - Etiquette matters!
 - How to select references
 - How to provide assistance in the process of letter writing
- Other (e.g., interview)

UMBC ABA PROGRAM

- Consistently one of the highest passing rates on the BACB exam
- Program focus:
 - Prepares students to practice as M.A. level BCBA's
 - Prepares students to enter Ph.D. programs in applied behavior analysis and experimental analysis of behavior
- Research mentors:
 - Dr. Carrie Borrero, BCBA-D
 - Dr. John Borrero, BCBA-D
 - Dr. Mirela Cengher, BCBA-D
 - Dr. Michelle Frank-Crawford, BCBA-D
 - Dr. Matthew Novak, BCBA-D

UMBC PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3
- GRE **NOT** required this year
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology and ABA coursework preferred (PSYC 210, PSYC 365, PSYC 397, PSYC 393, PSYC 411)

RESUME VS. CV

Resume	CV
- Good for non-academic job applications or internships	- Good for graduate school applications or other academic appointments, fellowships, or awards
- Brief outline of academic and professional accomplishments and skills	- Outline and description of academic and professional and skills
- Typically, 1-3 pages	- No page limit

CV BASICS

- Aesthetics matter
- List everything in reverse chronological order
- See [sample](#) and [advice on crafting your CV](#) from the American Psychological Association

CV CONTENT

- **Name and contact information**
- **Education**
 - List all in reverse chronological order
 - Include graduation year, or expected graduation year
 - Only include GPA if high (over 3.5)
 - List the name of the research mentor and honor's thesis, if applicable



Jane Doe

Cell: 111-111-1111 | name@umbc.edu | Address

Education

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), *Baltimore, MD*

Bachelor of Sciences in Psychology, Minor in Biological Sciences

Pre-Professional Track: Pre-Occupational Therapy

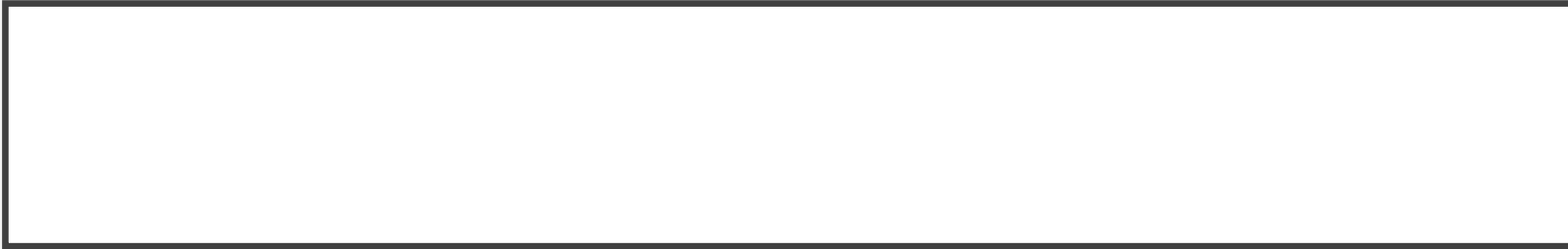
Honors thesis: Awesome Research Project

Expected **Dec. 2021**

GPA: 3.96

CV CONTENT (CONTINUED)

- **Awards, honors societies**
 - List only
- **Licenses and certifications**
 - List only
- **Research experiences**
 - List and describe (a) each laboratory that you worked in, including the mentor's name, and (b) under each laboratory, describe each project that you worked on, including your responsibilities and accomplishments



Awards

<i>UMBC Merit Scholar</i>	Aug. 2018 - Present
<i>Shimoff Distinguished Achievement Award in Psychology at UMBC</i>	Mar. 2021
<i>UMBC Internship and Service Fund</i>	May 2020 - Dec. 2020
<i>UMBC Intern of the Week</i>	Sept. 2020
<i>Mid-Atlantic College and University Housing Officers (MACUHO) Academic Excellence Award</i>	Feb. 2020
<i>Governor's Volunteer Service Certificate</i>	May 2019

Honors Societies

<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>	Apr. 2021 - Present
<i>Phi Kappa Phi</i>	Apr. 2021 - Present
<i>Psi Chi International Honor Society of Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County</i>	Mar. 2020 - Present

Licenses and Certifications

Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)	June 2021
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Research Experiences

Matching-to-Sample Study, Dr. Cengher's Lab at UMBC, Department of Psychology

Aug. 2020 - Present

- Used a programming software, called Gorilla, to create a match-to-sample program that could be used for children research via online
- Developed a task analysis on creating programs using Gorilla for future research assistants in the lab
- Used a programming software, called PsychoPy, to explore and create another version of a match-to-sample program

Practices to Teach Simple and Conditional Discriminations Study, Dr. Cengher's Lab at UMBC

June 2020 - Present

- Created an online survey, using Qualtrics, to assess the methods in which behavior analysts teach simple and conditional discriminations to children with developmental and intellectual disabilities
- Developed task analyses on creating Qualtrics surveys for future research assistants in the lab
- Analyzed results to determine the future implications on children's learning efficiency and the congruence of methods to current empirical literature
- Wrote drafts of the manuscript for publication
- Presented the data at national and local professional conferences

Set Size Study, Dr. Cengher's Lab at UMBC

May 2021

- Created datasheets that pre-randomized the positions of stimuli presented to a child while teaching discriminations

Pictures for Children Research, Dr. Cengher's Lab at UMBC

Dec. 2020

- Collected generic pictures belonging to common categories used to teach children everyday objects
- Created a GoogleForm that included all pictures for researchers to decide which pictures they should use for each study

CV CONTENT (CONTINUED)

- **Publications**

- Use APA style for formatting
- Content: authors, year, name of manuscript, (if accepted or submitted) name of journal, issue number, page number, DOI
- Make sure that the order of authors for these and for presentations (below) is accurate

- **Presentations**

- Use APA style
- List authors, year, name of presentation, whether it was a poster or a talk, name of symposium (if presented as part of a symposium), conference, location.



MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Cengher, M., Bowman, M., Shawler, L., Ceribo, M. (invited for resubmission). Motivating operations and mands for information: a systematic review. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Ceribo, M. & Cengher, M. Diversity and Inclusion in the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Psychology Programs.



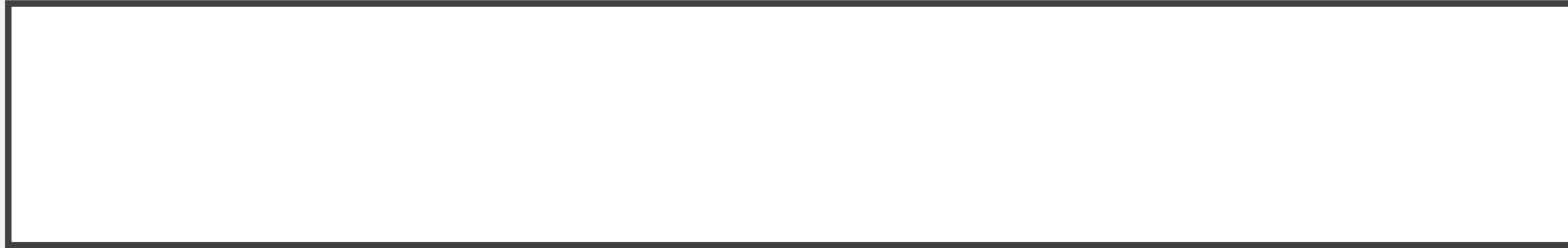
PRESENTATIONS

Ceribo, M., Cengher, M., Bowman, M. D., Shawler, L. (April 2021). Teaching Children with Disabilities How to Ask Informative Questions: A Systematic Review. Poster presented at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day. Presented online due to COVID-19.

Ceribo, M., Cengher, M., Bowman, M. D., Shawler, L. A. (December 2020). Motivating Operations and Mands for Information: A Systematic Review. Poster presented at the Maryland Association for Behavior Analysis, Baltimore, MD. Presented online due to COVID-19.

CV CONTENT (CONTINUED)

- Clinical experiences
 - List and describe
- Leadership experience and volunteer work
 - List relevant volunteer work
- List of courses that are relevant
- Languages and proficiency level
- List of references and their contact information
 - Make sure they agreed to serve as reference!



Professional/Clinical Experiences

Applied Behavior and Learning Consultants, *Frederick County, MD*

Feb. 2021 - Present

Registered Behavior Technician (Part-time)

- Implemented individualized service and behavior support plans within the clients' homes
- Documented progress on program and behavior goals, and daily service
- Utilized the children's preferred activities and objects to create a fun and motivating atmosphere, under the supervision of a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

Meritus Health, Total Rehab Care, *Hagerstown, MD*

Aug. 2021

Student Observer (~40 hours)

- Shadowed occupational therapists in the neurological rehabilitation outpatient unit, and hand therapists at the hand center
- Observed the use of a variety of therapy equipment and instruments, such as Dynavision, Grastron, electrical stimulation bikes, splinting, grippers, etc.



Leadership and Extracurricular Involvement

UMBC, Baltimore, MD

<i>Students of ABA Society President</i>	June 2021 - Present
<i>Students of ABA Society, Co-Founder and Vice President</i>	May 2021 - June 2021
<i>Filipino-American Student Association District VI Representative</i>	May 2020 - May 2021
<i>Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue Incorporation (FIND Inc.) Treasurer</i>	May 2020 - May 2021
<i>Residential Life Resident Assistant</i>	Aug. 2019 - May 2020
<i>Filipino-American Student Association Treasurer</i>	May 2019 - May 2020
<i>University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) CURE Scholars Program Mentor</i>	Oct. 2018 - May 2019
<i>Filipino-American Student Association Freshman Representative</i>	Sept. 2018 - May 2019

Relevant Coursework

- PSYC 311: Research Methods in Psych I
- PSYC 312: Research Methods in Psych II
- PSYC 365: Children with Disabilities
- PSYC 411: Applied Behavior Analysis



Professional References

Mirela Cengher, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, UMBC

Email: cengher@umbc.edu

Phone: 410-455-1055

STEPS TO WRITING A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Do your research on the program (i.e., application requirements, coursework, graduation requirements, faculty and their research focus, practicum placements, etc.)
- Contact the program director or any other faculty whose research is aligned with your interests ahead of time
- If possible, discuss questions you may have that are **NOT** listed on the website
- Once you have a first draft of your statement of purpose, ask mentors and peers for feedback

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- A way for the admissions committee to get to know you
- Should include:
 - An introductory paragraph
 - Academic background and career goals
 - Synthesize how well you did as an undergrad, what your career goals are, and how this program can help you achieve your goals
 - Show and don't tell
 - Professional background and career goals
 - Issues related to diversity and inclusion, including career goals

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (CONTINUED)

- Other things to consider
 - Personal anecdotes to support your statements
 - Explanation of potential gaps and limitations in your academic or professional training
 - Integrate what you have learned about the program in the letter of purpose
- No longer than 1-2 pages, unless otherwise specified
- Make sure it is aligned with the application requirements (e.g., page length, content)

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Read proof MANY times
- Ask for help and feedback
- Pay attention to spacing and formatting
- Share your CV with your references. Also a great idea to include a spreadsheet that entails (a) each program that you are applying to, (b) deadlines for submission
 - Be consistent with the fonts, letter heads, and layout

QUESTIONS?