



8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.3925  
FAX: 778.782.5876

vpacad@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic

**MEMORANDUM**

---

**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** February 16, 2010  
**FROM** Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1  
**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Full Program Proposal for a Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis in the BA Psychology Major (SCUP 10-11)

---

At its January 27, 2010 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the Full Program Proposal for a Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis in the BA Psychology Major in the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis in the BA Psychology Major in the Department of Psychology within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

encl.

c: D. Connolly



8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.4636  
FAX: 778.782.5876

avpcio@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic

## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	January 11, 2010
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 10-02kvi)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of January 7, 2010, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the full program proposal for Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis.

**The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.**

/.



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

TO: Jo Hinchliffe, Secretary  
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Paul Budra, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee

RE: Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis

DATE: December 8, 2009

On November 19, 2009, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee approved the full program proposal for B.A. Psychology Major, Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis. The Notice of Intent was forwarded to SCUP on May 26, 2009.

Would you please place this item on the agenda of the next meeting of SCUS.

:pl  
Att.

**FULL PROGRAM PROPOSAL**  
**Proposal for B.A. Psychology Major,**  
**Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis**  
**September 2009**

**Executive Summary**

- A new program for a B.A. Psychology Major, Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis, is proposed as a collaborative initiative by SFU, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Psychology and Douglas College, Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies. This proposed program is a novel combination of existing courses.
- The intent of this proposal is to allow students to graduate with a broad background in psychology together with applied skills in behaviour analysis
- The proposed program fits within the University's goals as outlined in the President's Agenda 2005-2009 (Michael Stevenson, June 2005). Dr. Stevenson stated that "our general objectives must remain: to establish the best liberal arts and science education in Canada; the most innovative interdisciplinary and professional programmes; and the most responsive engagement with the broader community" with a specific goal "to increase the diversification of our programmes, increasing the number of professional and quasi-professional programmes, as well as creating new interdisciplinary specializations."
- This proposal is coincident with a new proposed collaborative initiative between SFU and Douglas College in which students will be able to co-register in both institutions and earn a Douglas College Associate Degree and/or a Simon Fraser University Bachelor of Arts
- It also fits within the Douglas College Academic Plan in that it addresses broadening the range of credentials and Building on College strengths with regional collaborations (DC, 2005, pg 2).
- SFU students interested in taking this concentration will be directed by the Undergraduate Studies Committee or Advisor in SFU's Psychology Department.
- DABA (Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis) courses taken at Douglas College will be directed by the Coordinator, Classroom and Community Support Department within the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies at Douglas College.
- Douglas College students who complete their Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis Advanced Citation may apply for admission to SFU. If admitted to SFU and if accepted as a Psychology major, the DABA courses will articulate as upper-division Psychology credits as discussed next,
- The courses associated with the Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis Citation will be articulated into SFU as a single block and will provide the student with 15 upper division Psychology credits
- Program Admission Requirements for SFU students:
  - SFU: after declaration of the Psychology Major at SFU, students may apply to the Concentration option. Students must have a minimum 2.33 CGPA and must be admitted into the Douglas College citation program.
  - Students must meet the Douglas College General Admission Requirements (Category B). Applicants must be in good standing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of the degree at SFU.
- Graduates of this degree will be well prepared to move on to:
  - Employment in careers in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) support and treatment
  - Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB) certification as an Associate/Assistant Behavior Analyst (after successfully completing the required practicum hours and an examination)
  - Graduate degrees in Counseling and/or Education
  - Graduate degrees in Psychology

**Curriculum**

1. **Credential to be awarded:**  
B.A., Psychology Major with Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis (granted by SFU). Citation in Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis (granted by Douglas College and used as transfer credit towards the SFU degree).
2. **Location:**  
SFU, Burnaby Campus, and DC (Douglas College)
3. **Faculty/Department/School offering the new program:**  
Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Simon Fraser University; and Classroom and Community Support Department, Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies, Douglas College
4. **Anticipated program start date**  
September 2010
5. **Content**

The objective of this program is to provide students with comprehensive training in psychology and thorough training in Applied Behaviour Analysis. As can be seen below, the education in psychology meets that objective and currently supports a degree at SFU. The training in Applied Behaviour Analysis is offered at Douglas College (transferred to SFU as a block of 15 UD psychology credits). These courses are taught by Instructors certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. The courses are also Board certified.

	LD Credits	UD Credits
PSYC 100, 102, 201, 207, 210	17	
PSYC 221, 241, 250	9	
PSYC 300W, 356, 371		9
Upper division psychology electives		12
DABA courses (see PSYC 4xx-15, below)		15
EDUC 315 and 422		7
B-Hum, B-Sci, & B-Soc requirements (designated breadth)	18 (or UD)	
Electives, any subject, upper division		3
Electives outside Psychology, any level	12 (or UD)	
Electives any subject, any level	18 (or UD)	
	<hr/>	
Minimum credits for degree	74 LD	46 UD.
	<hr/>	
Grand total	<u>120 Total</u>	

- The Psychology Major with Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis consists of 36 credits of upper division psychology, 21 from SFU and 15 from Douglas, 7 credits of upper division Education, plus at least 3 additional upper division credits.
- Students must meet the Psychology Department's requirements for major declaration as well as all requirements for graduation as set by the Psychology Department and the University.
- Students are encouraged to take PSYC 354, PSYC 365, PSYC 450, PSYC 451, PSYC 452, PSYC 453, and LING 350.
- Students are encouraged to consider completing the Minor in Learning and Developmental Disabilities in the Faculty of Education.

a) **Summary of Requirements for Graduation**

i) Major Program – A minimum of 120 credit hours including 45 Upper Division credits, of which 36 are Upper Division Psychology credits. Completion of the 15 credit DABA courses at Douglas College (which will transfer as PSYC 4xx-15).

ii) Honours Program – A minimum of 132 credit hours including 60 Upper Division credits, of which 50 are Upper Division Psychology, including successfully completion of PSYC 300W and 301, and the honours proposal and honours thesis courses PSYC 490 and 499. Completion of the 15 credit DABA courses at Douglas College.

**b) PSYC 4xx-15**

Courses to be taken at Douglas College transfer into SFU as PSYC 4xx-15 and are:

DACS 5111 Disability in Context	3
DACS 5121 Applied Behaviour Analysis: Basic Principles	3
DACS 5112 ASD Community of Practice I	1.5
DACS 5122 ABA: Behavioural Techniques	3
DACS 5113 ASD Community of Practice II	1.5
DACS 5123 ABA: Research and Applications	3

**c) Additional Information:**

As the DABA courses offered through Douglas College are certified by the Behaviour Analyst Certification Board (BACB), this program enables students to fulfill the coursework component of the "Board Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst". No DABA practicums are offered at this time.

**d) University WQB Requirements:**

- Writing – the SFU writing requirement is satisfied by required courses PSYC 201 and 300.
- Quantitative – the SFU quantitative requirement is satisfied by required courses PSYC 201 and 210.
- Breadth – Students will be required to take 18 designated breadth (6 B-Sci, 6 B-Soc, and 6 B-Hum). Students are also required to complete 12 undesignated breadth credits (satisfied by elective courses).

**6. Description of proposed program:**

**a) Aims, goals, and/or objectives**

The intent of this proposal is to increase the level of expertise in Applied Behaviour Analysis Practitioners in this area.

**b) Anticipated contribution to mandate and strategic plan of the institution**

The proposed program fits within the University's goals as outlined in the President's Agenda 2005-2009 (Michael Stevenson, June 2005). Dr. Stevenson stated that "our general objectives must remain: to establish the best liberal arts and science education in Canada; the most innovative interdisciplinary and professional programmes; and the most responsive engagement with the broader community" with a specific goal "to increase the diversification of our programmes, increasing the number of professional and quasi-professional programmes, as well as creating new interdisciplinary specializations."

- It also fits within the Douglas College Academic Plan in that it meets/addresses: Broadening the range of credentials, building on College strengths with regional collaborations (DC, 2005, pg 2).
- It also addresses the following Douglas College Strategic Goals:
  - "Develop curriculum and new credential programs" (goal theme: "Content of student learning")
  - "Deliver curriculum and services more flexibly" (goal theme: "Means for facilitating learning")
  - "Strengthen external relations" (goal theme: Community outreach") (Douglas College, 2006)

**c) Target audience**

SFU Psychology degree students, non credentialed behavioral interventionist, disability support workers

**d) Distinctive characteristics**

The proposed new program will benefit students who have otherwise been pursuing their interests through major/minor combinations and work experience. These interests are better accommodated by an interdisciplinary program with specific focus on standards in this specialized field.

**e) Anticipated completion time**

Four years. Up to three years would be completed at SFU, while at least one year would be completed jointly at SFU and DC. Students who enter SFU via college transfer may use a maximum of 45 first and second year transfer credits towards their SFU degree.

**f) Policies on student evaluation (degree requirements)**

As per general regulations of the University, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and DC.

## **Learning Methodology**

### **Linkages between learning outcomes and curriculum design**

The objective of this program is to provide students with comprehensive training in psychology and thorough training in Applied Behaviour Analysis. The former is the responsibility of the Department of Psychology at SFU: Students in this program will benefit from the comprehensive education currently available to SFU psychology students. The latter will be the responsibility of faculty in the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies at Douglas College. All relevant Douglas College courses have been approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and will be taught by Board Certified Instructors.

### **Delivery Methods**

The program is based upon existing courses at SFU and Douglas College.

### **Internship or Co-Operative Education**

Not applicable.

## **Faculty**

Faculty at SFU will hold a PhD or equivalent. Faculty at DC will hold a graduate Masters (PhD preferred) degree. ABA courses will be taught by BACB Board Certified Behaviour Analysts. The number of faculty who will teach students in this program cannot be known as students may select various combinations of courses to fulfill their psychology requirements at SFU. For this reason, we do not include CVs of all faculty who may be involved in teaching students in this program. Attached are CVs from representative faculty and outlines of representative courses. No new faculty positions are required to launch this program.

Contact information for the faculty member responsible for program development:

Deborah Connolly, Department of Psychology, [debc@sfu.ca](mailto:debc@sfu.ca) or 778 782 3996

Lori Woods, Douglas College, [woodsl@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:woodsl@douglas.bc.ca) or 604-527-5129

## **Program Consultations and Evaluation**

### **Level of support and recognition from other post-secondary institutions (including plans for admission and transfer within BC) and relevant regulatory or professional bodies**

As per SFU's transfer credit procedures, students may transfer from BC colleges or universities to enroll into this program. The applicable regulatory or professional bodies in the field of Applied Behaviour Analysis is the Behaviour Analyst Certification Board® and the British Columbia Teacher Qualification Service. The DABA courses offered at Douglas College have been approved by both Boards. At SFU, this proposed program has been discussed with and accepted by Education (Maureen Hoskins) and Linguistics (Jane Fee), the two most related disciplines.

### **Related programs at SFU and other British Columbia post-secondary institutions**

- Collaborative degree between DC and University of Calgary Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation
- Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care (UVic and DC)

6.

4.

- UBC includes a cluster of ABA courses within the Masters of Education; these courses make graduates eligible to write the BACB exams at the graduate level (to become Board Certified Behaviour Analysts).
- The BC Ministry of Education's Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders (POPARD) offers a single non-credit or 4-credit course for teachers (through SFU – Field Programs) "Planning and Support for Students with ASD" that includes reference to ABA.
- Proposed Capilano University Bachelor of Psychology

#### **Policies on program assessment**

All academic units at SFU are subject to external review every six years. DC programs are formally reviewed every five years.

#### **Admission**

##### **Enrolment plan**

It is proposed that students apply to this program after declaration of the Psychology Major at SFU and upon acceptance into DC.

##### **Student enrollment thresholds for both institutions**

It is anticipated that there will be 15-20 SFU students enrolled in this program each year.



## Other

### Background

Douglas College is considered a provincial leader in health and human service post secondary career programming. Presently, specifically in regards to autism and other developmental disabilities, it offers an eighteen-credit entry level Behavioural Interventionist Citation and within its 60 credit, Classroom and Community Support Diploma Program, students are able to take a Behavioural Interventionist Specialty. As part of the continuum of credentialing originally begun in 2005, the addition of a fifteen-credit advanced citation in **Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis (DABA)** began in September 2008. All of these programs were the result of intense appeals from the autism community, which culminated in a \$500,000 supporting grant from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

The upper level, undergraduate, Disability and Applied Behaviour Analysis (DABA) credential is approved by both the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® (BACB) and the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS). It introduces a consistent professional standard of ABA education and qualifications to the province via specialized courses. In addition, University of Calgary Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation and University of Victoria Bachelor in Child and Youth Care programs have formally agreed to offer the DABA coursework within the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of their degrees.

### Overview

#### A. The Context

##### 1. Autism

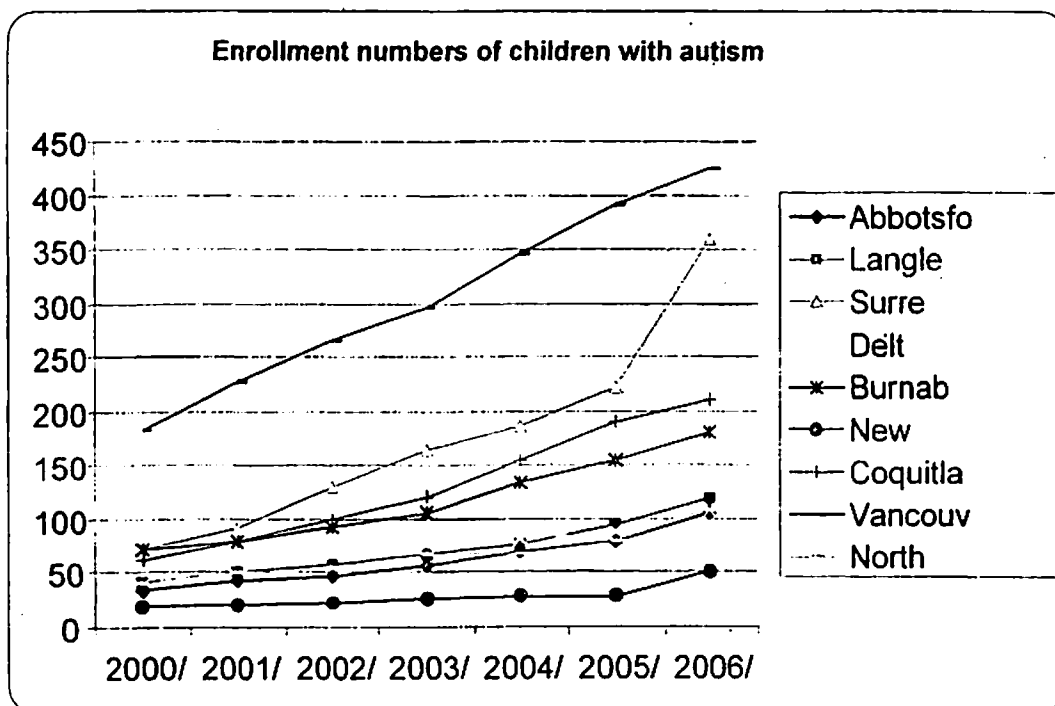
The diagnosis of ASD is primarily based upon behavioural criteria established through the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (Fourth Edition)* (DSM IV).

Autism falls within the autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a diagnostic category that includes a number of diagnoses, specifically, Rett Syndrome, Asperger Syndrome, Autistic Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified [PDD-NOS]). Autism consists of deficits in social skills/interactions and communication, and certain behavioural patterns such as stereotyped and repetitive behaviours, resistance to change, etc.).

- There has been a marked increase in the prevalence of children diagnosed with Autism throughout the world. It is now recognized as the most common neurological disability affecting children today. As of several years ago, estimates regarding the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Canadian children were approximately one in 165 (Frombonne, et.al., 2006). However, the prevalence of autism continues to increase.
- In a study by the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (February 2007), the autism prevalence rate in the United States is now one in 150 (or 6.7 in 1000). Ministry of Children and Family Development also now reports a prevalence rate of one in 150 (Autism Council of BC, January 25 2007 meeting).
- Further, new research is anticipating that the rate of children with autism entering into kindergarten in BC will reach 1:100 in the next several years (Autism Council of BC, January 25 2007 meeting). Data from school district enrollments demonstrates a continued, significant growth in the number of students with autism. Below is a sample of enrollment rates of school districts in the Lower Mainland,

Enrollment numbers of children with autism

School District	2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Abbotsford	33	43	48	56	70	80	105
Langley	41	50	58	67	76	94	118
Surrey	72	90	130	163	186	222	360
Delta	62	64	69	77	81	87	108
Burnaby	72	80	92	106	133	154	180
New Westminster	18	20	23	27	29	28	51
Coquitlam	62	79	99	121	155	190	211
Vancouver	182	228	265	296	346	391	426
North Vancouver	42	50	55	67	68	79	107



Rate of increase of children with autism

School District	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	Average Annual Rate
Abbotsford	30.3%	11.6%	16.7%	25.0%	14.3%	31.3%	21.5%
Langley	22.0%	16.0%	15.5%	13.4%	23.7%	25.5%	19.4%
Surrey	25.0%	44.4%	25.4%	14.1%	19.4%	62.2%	31.7%
Delta	3.2%	7.8%	11.6%	5.2%	7.4%	24.1%	9.9%
Burnaby	11.1%	15.0%	15.2%	25.5%	15.8%	16.9%	16.6%
New Westminster	11.1%	15.0%	17.4%	7.4%	-3.4%	82.1%	21.6%
Coquitlam	27.4%	25.3%	22.2%	28.1%	22.6%	11.1%	22.8%
Vancouver	25.3%	16.2%	11.7%	16.9%	13.0%	9.0%	15.3%
North Vancouver	19.0%	10.0%	21.8%	1.5%	16.2%	35.4%	17.3%

plan is implemented by the family and, usually, behaviour interventionists who are hired by the family. Associate/Assistant Behaviour Consultants typically work under the direction of a master's prepared Behaviour Consultant.

## 2. Applied Behaviour Analysis

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) is based on the principle of reinforcement: behaviours that are immediately followed by reinforcers are more likely to be repeated in the future, while behaviours that are not reinforced are less likely to be repeated.

Applied principles can be used to create effective strategies for behavioural change in all aspects of life. With respect to behavioural change, the emphasis is on the learning of new behaviours. The goal of ABA is to increase the repertoire of functional behaviours. Thus, it has application to a broad number of educational and occupational contexts, ranging from addictions to teaching vocational skills. It is also used in autism intervention.

### B. Labour Market Demand

A 2007 Douglas College Feasibility Study survey found that the vast majority of respondents report that their learning of applied behaviour analysis comes from conferences, workshops and self-study.

#### Respondent educational background/qualifications

	Response Percent	Response Total
Professional workshops and conferences	61.6%	175
Employer training workshops	46.8%	133
Self Study	41.2%	117
Continuing Education courses at an accredited post-secondary institution	12.7%	36
Courses at the certificate or diploma level	11.3%	32
None	10.6%	30
Courses at a bachelor level	8.1%	23
Courses at a Master's level	7.4%	21
Courses at a post-degree citation or post-degree certificate level	1.8%	5
Courses at a Doctoral level	1.8%	5

This lack of training is identified by respondents, 17.9%, N = 48 of whom declare outright that they do not have enough training to do their jobs, 48.5%, N=130 of whom report that their training prepares them only to "some extent." 56.2%, N = 126 of stakeholders report that course work related to applied behaviour analysis would benefit their skills at work. A further 25%, N = 56 believed that it would perhaps benefit them.

The availability of formal, post-secondary ABA training will provide a superior alternative to a community that currently manages training of practitioners through informal and non-standardized workshops. It will introduce baccalaureate level courses that will lead to certification of practitioners at the Associate/Assistant Behavior Analyst level—a level which is seen as valuable by respondents.

**Additional Material Required by SFU**

**Summary of resources (faculty members, space, and equipment) required to implement the program**  
 The Major and Honours programs can be accommodated with present courses and faculty.

**Brief description of any program and associated resources that will be reduced or eliminated when the new program is introduced**  
 None.

**Collective agreement implications relative to program**  
 Not applicable.

**Accounting of FTE, tuition fees, application and other fees as required**  
 Not applicable.

**Budget**  
 There are no additional costs associated with this program.

**Appendices**

I	Calendar Entry	Page 11
* II	Curriculum Vitae of key faculty members	
	Dr. Jeremy Carpendate, SFU	Page 12
	Dr. Grace Iarocci, SFU	Page 27
	Dr. Arlene Young, SFU	Page 41
	Bruce Hamm, Douglas College	Page 51
* III	Syllabi of Selected Courses at SFU	
	PSYC 354	Page 53
	PSYC 356	Page 56
* IV	Syllabi of courses to be taken at Douglas College	
	DACS 5111	Page 59
	DACS 5112	Page 62
	DACS 5113	Page 65
	DACS 5121	Page 68
	DACS 5122	Page 71
	DACS 5123	Page 75

\* APPENDICES II, III, IV available upon request by contacting Bobbie Grant,  
 Senate Assistant at 778.782.3168 or email bgrant@sfu.ca

## Appendix I – Proposed Calendar Entry

### Major Program with Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis

The objective of this program is to provide students with comprehensive training in psychology and thorough training in Applied Behaviour Analysis.

#### Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Psychology Major at SFU, students must obtain a grade of C (2.0) or better in each of the following courses.

PSYC 100-3 Introduction to Psychology I

PSYC 102-3 Introduction to Psychology II

PSYC 201-4 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology

PSYC 207-3 Introduction to History of Psychology

PSYC 210-4 Introduction to Data Analysis in Psychology

Note: The above requirement applies to courses transferred from other institutions as well as to courses completed at Simon Fraser University.

After admittance to the Psychology Major at SFU, students must apply for admittance to the Douglas College DABA program. Please refer to the Douglas College website.

Upon completion of the Douglas College courses (described below) and upon transfer of these credits to SFU, students may apply to the Psychology Advisor for declaration of the BA, Psychology Major, Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis.

To receive a major with concentration in applied behaviour analysis, students must:

- meet the graduation requirements of the University (see "Student Appeals" on page 32) and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (see "Graduation GPA Requirements" on page 89)
- complete PSYC 221, 241 and 250
- complete PSYC 300 with a grade of C or better
- complete PSYC 356 and 371, and 12 additional upper division psychology credits
- complete PSYC 4xx-15 at Douglas College, which is comprised of the Douglas College courses as follows:
  - DACS 5111-3 Disability in Context
  - DACS 5121-3 Applied Behaviour Analysis: Basic Principles
  - DACS 5112-1.5 ASD Community of Practice I
  - DACS 5122-3 ABA: Behavioural Techniques
  - DACS 5113-1.5 ASD Community of Practice II
  - DACS 5123-3 ABA: Research and Applications
- complete EDUC 315 and EDUC 422
- No more than six directed studies units may be applied to the major.
- A minimum of 21 upper division psychology units must be completed at Simon Fraser University.

Students are encouraged to take PSYC 354, PSYC 365, PSYC 450, PSYC 451, PSYC 452, PSYC 453, and LING 350.

Students are encouraged to consider completing the Minor in Learning and Developmental Disabilities in the Faculty of Education.

The Psychology Major with Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis is offered jointly by SFU and Douglas College. In summary, it consists of a minimum of 36 credits of upper division psychology, 21 from SFU and 15 from Douglas, plus 7 credits of upper division Education, plus at least 3 additional upper division credits.

The Psychology Honours degree with Concentration in Applied Behaviour Analysis is consistent with the regulations for the Psychology Honours Program. In summary, it consists of a minimum of 132 credit hours including 60 Upper Division credits, of which 50 are Upper Division Psychology including PSYC 300W, 301, 490, 499, and PSYC 4xx-15 as described above.

12.

11.