Trinity Christian College’s program offers teachers a unique opportunity. It is the only special education master’s degree program in the state of Illinois to combine the LBS II endorsement with the BACB® approved course sequence and intensive practicum. It is also the only program situated within a Reformed context.

Teachers with both these credentials will be able to handle difficult behaviors, use operant conditioning to teach new skills, or move into a more specialized position within the field of special education or general education.

Trinity also offers the opportunity for students who already have a Master’s in Education, Psychology or Applied Behavior Analysis to take only the BACB® approved courses to become eligible to take the BCBA Examination.
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS IN SCHOOLS

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a widely accepted set of technologies that lead to behavior change. In this program, students will learn the principles of ABA and how to apply these principles by utilizing both classroom instruction and practicum experiences, with an emphasis on special education in K-12 schools. Particular emphasis is given to both behavior reduction and skill accusation programs.

Through the examination of the current body of research, Illinois School Code, and the BACB* Code of Ethics, students will learn the best practice for use of ABA in schools. This will include how to conduct a Function Behavior Assessment (FBA) and create a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP). Students will also focus on how to write appropriate IEP goals for skill accusation and how to use ABA technologies to teach students the new skills.

To demonstrate competence in these areas, students will be eligible to take the LBS II Behavior Intervention Specialist exam as well as the Board Certified Behavior Analyst* (BCBA) exam after graduation.

*The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. (BACB®) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1998 to meet professional credentialing needs identified by behavior analysts, governments, and consumers of behavior analysis services. The BACB adheres to the national standards for boards that grant professional credentials.

CLASSROOM DYNAMICS

From your first class meeting until graduation day, you will be part of a supportive group or cohort. Each class has a maximum size of approximately 20 students to facilitate an effective classroom environment among students and professor.

AFFORDABLE TUITION

Tuition for the M.A. in Special Education LBS II program is $610 per credit hour, for a total tuition of $25,010 (for 41 credit hours).

CONVENIENT PROGRAM

The program is offered every fall at our main campus in Palos Heights, Illinois and can be completed in less than two years. Classes meet 2 nights a week, which is combined with additional online instruction.
YOUR COURSE OF STUDY

Students who complete all requirements receive a Master of Arts in Special Education with LBS II endorsement, upon successful completion of Illinois state tests, and BCBA certification upon successful completion of the BCBA test.

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board®, Inc. has approved the course sequence as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Examination®. Applicants will have to meet additional requirements to qualify. See BACB.com for current requirements.

SPED 517: Tests and Measurements: Assessing Students with Special Needs (3 credits)

SPED 510: Applied Behavior Analysis * (6 credits)

SPED 520: Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (3 credits)

SPED 525: Teaching Students with Low Incidence Disabilities Age 3-22 * (6 credits)

SPED 530: Communication and Collaboration in Special Education * (3 credits)

SPED 540: Behavioral, Social, Problem-solving and Performance Supports (3 credits)

Online Course

SPED 680: Research in Special Education: Thesis Project Design (3 credits) *

SPED 545: Strategies, Methods, Interventions and Approaches to Teaching Reading, Math, Writing and Content Area Information * (6 credits)

SPED 685: Master’s Thesis Project (4 credits)

SPED 695: BCBA Supervised Practicum (4 credits)- 750 hours

* Blended courses that combine face-to-face and online components.

For course descriptions, visit graduatstudies.trnty.edu

LEARN FROM DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Trinity’s experienced faculty members have decades of experience in the classroom working with students with special needs. Specifically, Dr. Patti Powell and Sara Baillie, who is BCBA certified, have dealt extensively with children with severe behavior disorders.

All of Trinity’s professors, many of whom have terminal degrees in their field, infuse their faith into their work. They are committed to helping you gain additional skills to teach with excellence.

SOME OF YOUR PROFESSORS

Patti Powell, Ph.D.
Professor of Education; Director of the Graduate Programs in Special Education

Powell is a Fulbright Scholar who has been awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Illinois Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Sara Baillie, BCBA
Assistant Professor of Special Education

Baillie has experience as both a general education teacher and special education teacher, along with being a Behavior and Autism School Consultant and BCBA for early intervention.

Students who already have a qualified Master’s can choose to take only the courses approved by BACB® to be eligible to take the BCBA Exam. This would be just one course each semester: SPED 510, SPED 520, SPED 540, SPED 545, and SPED 695. Call for details about this option.
Admissions Requirements
To begin the admissions process for the M.A. in Special Education LBS II program, you need:

• One of the following: LBS I license from the state of Illinois; or an LBS II certificate in Deaf and Hard of Hearing or Visual Impairments; or a special education degree and teaching license with LBS I Endorsement from another state and approved program.

• Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in your undergraduate program.

• One year of teaching experience in a special education setting.

Education Department Mission Statement
The Education department at Trinity Christian College prepares teachers through critical thought in coursework and application in field and clinical experiences to embody Christ-like servanthood; to cultivate relational peace, educational equity, and justice in diversity; to impact, through excellence in teaching, the mind, body, and soul of each student; and to exemplify professionalism and ethical behavior inside and outside of the classroom.

Trinity Christian College is accredited by and a member of The Higher Learning Commission (www.ncahlc.org or 800.621.7440). Trinity’s education programs are accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Other Graduate Studies Programs
• Master’s in Special Education leading to LBS I endorsement on your teaching license
• Master’s in Counseling Psychology preparing students to become Licensed Professional Counselors

SIMPLE STEPS TO APPLY

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION
(apply online at apply.trnty.edu or download application at graduatestudies.trnty.edu)

SUBMIT $50 APPLICATION FEE
(make check payable to Trinity Christian College)

PLEASE SEND OFFICIAL, UNOPENED COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS, TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE TO:

TRINITY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
GRADUATE STUDIES
6601 W. COLLEGE DRIVE
PALOS HEIGHTS, IL 60463

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Brittany Lee,
Graduate Studies Coordinator

graduatestudies.trnty.edu
graduatestudies@trnty.edu
708.293.4567