

Students who graduate with an undergraduate degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences will be prepared for a variety of occupations in settings including (but not limited to):

- Public Health, Human Services, and Community Agencies
- Nonprofit and Governmental Agencies
- Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities, including Hospice Care
- Educational and Vocational Rehabilitation Centers
- Hospitals, Clinics, Group Home, and Substance Abuse Facilities

This proposed degree program will also provide strong foundational training for students who ultimately wish to continue their education beyond the undergraduate level in interdisciplinary graduate or professional programs related to the Applied Behavioral Sciences. Students who have earned an ABS degree would be well-prepared for admission to graduate and professional programs in Public Health, Health Care Administration, Nonprofit Management, Occupational Therapy, Behavioral Medicine, Community Psychology, Counseling, Applied Sociology, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Organizational Development, Education, and Human Resource Administration. Graduate degree programs in these occupational fields are widely available in the Midwestern region. We anticipate that some ABS majors will choose to continue their education in one of these interdisciplinary areas following completion of their undergraduate ABS degree from Fontbonne University.

*****Additional Information for Clarification Purposes:** It is important to note that the Applied Behavioral *Sciences* degree differs from an Applied Behavior *Analysis* degree, which is typically a graduate-level degree or certificate offered through Departments of Education or Departments of Psychology. The current program proposal is an undergraduate, multidisciplinary degree program offered during evening hours. The program is grounded in the core disciplines of Psychology and Sociology, and is enhanced with supplemental elective coursework across related academic areas that ideally align with individual student interests.

Rationale/Evidence of Need

Internal Demands

- Current and past students enrolled in the Psychology and Sociology traditional programs have expressed interest in completing their Bachelor Degrees within the context of an evening program format. Many of our students have work and family responsibilities that make it difficult to complete their undergraduate degrees within the constraints of traditional scheduling. Several of these prior students have transferred from Fontbonne or fallen just short of degree completion due to these external constraints.
- Several students enrolled at Fontbonne have indicated that they would like to complete a blended major in Psychology and Sociology that prepares them for graduate degree programs in interdisciplinary career areas (e.g., Health Care Administration, Behavioral Medicine). For many of these students' career goals, an undergraduate ABS degree would provide broader and more appropriate training than a traditional Psychology or Sociology degree.

External Demands

- The Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Enrollment Management, and the Program Prioritization Committee have recently asked academic departments to address the needs of current and potential students who must work either full-time or part-time during daytime

hours. We have developed the proposed evening program in Applied Behavioral Sciences to directly address this request from the Fontbonne University administration.

- The proposed evening program at Fontbonne University would be the only undergraduate degree program in Applied Behavioral Sciences available within the St. Louis region. One notable exception is Webster University, which currently offers a Dutch-Accredited undergraduate degree in Applied Behavior and Social Sciences through its Leiden Campus in The Netherlands. However, this degree program is only available to students as part of Webster's student exchange and study abroad program, which limits its utility for students who need an applied behavioral sciences degree but must remain in the St. Louis area due to occupational, familial, or financial constraints. The proposed ABS major would fill a niche in the St. Louis region for this specific type degree program, as well as filling a currently empty niche for students who need to complete an evening undergraduate degree in a behavioral sciences field.
- According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities in the applied social and behavioral sciences are expected to grow by 23% by 2018. The proposed ABS degree program will provide strong undergraduate training in the behavioral sciences, with an emphasis on applying core concepts from those disciplines to solve real-world problems. This broad-based behavioral sciences education is designed to prepare students for careers paths in business, educational, community, and health organizations. Our proposed requirements for the ABS degree program are consistent with typical Applied Behavioral Sciences course offerings at colleges and universities across the United States (e.g., Penn State, University of Kansas, DePaul University, Misericordia University, Our Lady of the Holy Cross College, National-Louis University). The Applied Behavioral Sciences degree is most commonly offered as an evening degree program and is housed within Departments of Behavioral Sciences, Departments of Psychology, or Departments of Sociology.

Alignment with Fontbonne's Mission and Strategic Plan

The proposed major in Applied Behavioral Sciences is aligned with the University mission and strategic plan in the following specific ways:

- The program is consistent with the Fontbonne University mission to promote excellence and educate leaders to serve a world in need. This multidisciplinary degree program also integrates a variety of perspectives and promotes an integrated understanding of social and behavioral systems.
- The program will advance excellence in teaching and learning by providing opportunities for faculty-student interaction in undergraduate research opportunities and exploration-based learning. The ABS degree program is solidly grounded in the behavioral sciences tradition of applying scientific theory and using varied research techniques to solve problems, promote human welfare, and positively affect the functioning of human social systems. (Strategic Plan Goal #2)
- The program provides a new opportunity to attract and retain students who currently work in full-time or part-time positions during traditional daytime hours. The implementation of this program may reduce attrition among Behavioral Sciences majors who have previously

needed to discontinue their enrollment at Fontbonne University due to their conflicting occupational and familial responsibilities. (Strategic Plan Goal #3)

- In addition, the proposed degree program will fill a niche in the St. Louis regional area as the only local Applied Behavioral Sciences degree available to students interested in interdisciplinary undergraduate education in the behavioral sciences. It is our hope that this program will provide new educational opportunities for a student population that is currently underserved in the St. Louis community. (Strategic Plan Goal #2, Goal #3, and Goal #5)

Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall 2012

Projected Enrollment:

Estimated initial enrollment = 10–12 students; Target enrollment is 20 students/year.

Financial Impact (describe/list projected amounts):

- **Faculty:**
During the first year of the program, the faculty salary cost for this new program is expected to be \$0. The Department of Behavioral Sciences already offers a majority of the required courses during evening hours or online. With a significant increase in student enrollment, additional sections may be needed for core courses and upper division ABS courses. However, those costs are expected to be minimal and would primarily consist of part-time faculty salaries and/or overload pay for individual courses.
- **New Library Holdings**
None
- **Equipment**
None
- **Audio-visual / software**
None

Effect on currently enrolled students: Evening elective courses in all departments will likely see increased enrollment, which will slightly increase the average class size in our evening courses. Initially, there may also be some currently enrolled traditional daytime students in Psychology and Sociology who choose to switch majors to the evening program.

Does the proposed program replace an existing one? No

New Program Objectives/Outcomes:

1. ABS graduates will be academically prepared for graduate study and/or employment in applied behavioral science professions.
2. ABS graduates will be able to critically analyze and apply psychological and sociological theories to solve problems in applied settings.
3. ABS graduates will demonstrate mastery of research design, evaluation, and analytical techniques used in the applied behavioral sciences.

4. ABS graduates will be able to differentiate among various points of view and integrate diverse perspectives to solve practical problems.

Course Listings for New Program:

List all courses required for the new program. Include course number/title and credit hours for each course. If new courses are being proposed, please complete the Motion to Modify, Add, or Drop a Course Form for each course.

Required/Existing Courses

Credit Hours

REQUIRED COURSES:

PSY 100: Introduction to Psychology	3.0
PSY 200: Developmental Psychology	3.0
PSY 315: Abnormal Psychology	3.0
SOC 100: Survey of Sociology	3.0
SOC 115: Social Problems	3.0
SOC/PSY 310: Social Psychology	3.0

PSY 325: Introduction to Clinical Psychology	3.0
OR	
PSY 327: Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3.0

SOC 265: Diversity Studies	3.0
OR	
SOC 355: Sociology of Aging	3.0

Any Level Elective (see electives list)	6.0
3XX or 4XX Level Elective (see electives list)	3.0

MTH 115: Introduction to Statistics	3.0
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Capstone Experience:

ABS 4XX: Portfolio Project	1.0
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ABS 3XX: Research Design and Evaluation	3.0
OR	
SOC 355: Program Evaluation	3.0

OR	
SWK 380: Strategies for Evaluation of Social Service Programs	3.0

ABS ELECTIVE COURSES (9 hr required):

Counseling/School/Community Electives:

EDU 120	Psychology of the Exceptional Child	3.0
EDU 392	Assessment of Ability and Achievement	3.0
HES 337	Family Relations	3.0
HES 397	Advocacy in Professional Practice	3.0
PSY 325	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	3.0
PSY 391	Testing and Measurement for the Beh Sciences	3.0

HUS XXX	Any HUS course	3.0
SWK XXX	Any SWK course	3.0

Behavioral Research and Communication Electives:

ABS 293	Special Topics in Applied Behavioral Sciences	3.0
ABS 490	Independent Study	3.0
ABS 494	Special Topics in Applied Behavioral Sciences	3.0
ABS 495	Undergraduate Research	3.0
COM 220	Nonverbal Communication	3.0
COM 230	Gender Communication	3.0
COM 240	Intercultural Communication	3.0
PSY XXX	Any PSY elective course	3.0
SOC XXX	Any SOC elective course	3.0

Business Leadership Electives:

BUS 230	Management Principles	3.0
BUS 303	Public Administration/Nonprofit Management	3.0
BUS 310	Organizational Behavior	3.0
BUS 331	Human Resource Management	3.0
BUS 357	Consumer Behavior	3.0
BUS 471	Leadership: Managing in a Changing Environment	3.0
PSY 327	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3.0

New Courses

Credit Hours

(All motions for New Courses are Attached)

ABS 293/494: Special Topics in Applied Behavioral Sciences	3.0
ABS 3XX: Research Design and Evaluation	3.0
ABS 440: Internship in Applied Behavioral Sciences	1.0 – 6.0
ABS 490: Independent Study	3.0
ABS 495: Undergraduate Research	1.0 – 6.0
ABS 4XX: Portfolio Project	1.0

Does this new program affect another department/college? YES NO

If yes, has this department/college approved of this new program?

Required Course:

Listed below is the only required course from another department:

MTH 115: Introduction to Statistics (3 hr)

- The Chair of the Mathematics and Computer Sciences department has approved this degree requirement for the proposed ABS degree program.

Elective Courses:

All remaining courses from other departments listed in this proposal are elective courses for the Applied Behavioral Sciences major. Any potential impact on other departments is expected to be minimal, due to the large number of electives available to fulfill the 9 hr of elective course requirements for the ABS degree.

- The Chairs of all other Departments affected by this proposed degree program have provided input regarding the proposed degree program and granted approval for inclusion of elective courses from their departments for ABS majors. Affected departments include the following specific departments/colleges:
 - Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies
 - Education & Special Education
 - English & Communication
 - Human Environmental Sciences
 - Social Work

Additional information:

This proposed major will provide an additional alternative for students seeking an evening undergraduate degree program in an area outside of Fontbonne University's current evening programs in Business.

Students who graduate with an undergraduate degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences may be interested in pursuing additional graduate degrees at Fontbonne University in Business Administration, Management, Family and Consumer Sciences, Master of Arts in Teaching, or Nonprofit Management, which has the potential to boost graduate enrollment in these areas.

It is expected that forthcoming evening program proposals (e.g., Communication, Interdisciplinary Studies) would benefit from the addition of our ABS 3XX: Research Design and Evaluation course, as students in those departments typically enroll in one of the Research courses currently offered by the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

If approved, distribute to the following:

- Catalog
- Registrar
- Fontbonne Policy Manual Volume I
- Advisors' Manual
- Student Handbook
- Part-time Faculty Manual
- Staff Handbook
- Other: *Office of Admissions, Office of Financial Aid*

Please note, all forms must be submitted to UCC by the Department Chair/College Dean.