WHAT IS IPA? IPA is an interdisciplinary graduate program designed to prepare master’s level psychology and special education majors for the high-intensity demands of autism services in education settings. Scholars will complete a two-year, 39-40 credit program that includes interdisciplinary course work, department-specific courses, and a supervised practicum. Upon completion, all graduates will be prepared for certification as Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs). Special education majors will also be eligible for a Michigan autism endorsement.

WHO CAN APPLY? Applicants to either the MA program in Special education or Psychology (behavior analysis) are welcome to apply. Specific requirements for admission to each department are available on the Special Education and Psychology websites. Twelve special education and psychology majors will be accepted as IPA scholars in 2018 and 12 more students will be accepted in 2020.

WHAT IS THE TUITION BENEFIT? IPA Scholars can receive tuition support for up to 40 credits, a $125/year materials stipend, and $950 for travel to attend professional conferences. This is a federally-funded project and includes a service requirement for two years of professional service to the field of autism for every academic year of tuition-support. Tuition for the IPA program is provided at the WMU in-state tuition rate only.

HOW DO I APPLY? Submit an application to the WMU Graduate College by February 1, 2018 for admission to the MA in Special Education (for certified teachers seeking an autism endorsement) or Psychology (behavior analysis only). Please indicate in your personal statement and/or application that you would like to be considered for the IPA program. For more information, please contact the IPA Program Office at psy_ipa@wmich.edu or 269-387-5947.

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Interdisciplinary Preparation in Autism

IPA

Interdisciplinary Courses & Key Program Dates

CORE INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES*

- PSY 6050  Professional and Ethical Issues in Psychology
- PSY 6100  Conditioning and Learning
- SPED 6380  Applications of Behavior Analysis in Special Education
- PSY 6260  Behavioral Assessment
- SPED 6390  Evidence-based Instructional Practices: Autism
- SPED 6370  Applications of Research in Special Education
- PSY 6270  Supervision and Applied Behavior Analysis

*Special education majors will complete 18 additional credits in autism coursework. Psychology majors will complete 19 additional credits in behavior analysis coursework.

KEY PROGRAM DATES

- Application deadline:  February 1, 2018
- Interviews:  February 10 & February 24, 2018
- Acceptance notification:  March 16, 2018
- Program orientation:  March 30, 2018
- First class begins:  May 7, 2018
- Expected graduation:  May 2020