

# Interdisciplinary Preparation in Autism

## IPA

**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](mailto:psy_ipa@wmich.edu) or 269-387-5947.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
Department of  
Special Education  
and Literacy Studies



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
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Psychology

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### 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



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