



Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 720

Course Name: Behavior as Communication: FBA, BIP & Positive Support in Special Education

Instructor: TBD

Credits Earned: 3 Graduate Credits / 67.5 PDPs (for courses completed before June 8, 2025) or 22.5 PDPs (for courses completed on or after June 8, 2025)

Credits Issued By: Gordon College

Course Fee: \$675 (\$575 for early bird registration)

Course Description:

This course equips both special educators and general education teachers who work with students with disabilities with the knowledge and skills to understand behavior as communication, conduct functional behavior assessments (FBAs), develop behavior intervention plans (BIPs), and implement positive behavioral supports aligned to Massachusetts IEP requirements and the 2025 regulatory amendments to 603 CMR 46.00. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts Educator Evaluation Framework.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply a function-based approach to understanding student behavior, identifying the communicative intent behind challenging behavior.
2. Conduct a functional behavior assessment (FBA) using direct observation, data collection, and hypothesis development aligned to Massachusetts IEP requirements.
3. Develop a behavior intervention plan (BIP) that addresses the function of behavior, teaches replacement skills, and includes positive supports.
4. Implement positive behavioral supports with fidelity in general and special education settings, including progress monitoring and data-based decision making.
5. Apply the 2025 amendments to 603 CMR 46.00 to ensure behavioral intervention practices are legally compliant, equitable, and prevention-focused.

The Denty Connection, LLC.

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