

Graduate Course Description Form

Course Number: IGC 720

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

Instructor: Casey Rekowski

Credits Earned: 3 Graduate Credits, which equates to:

- 67.5 PDPs (courses taken prior to June 8, 2026)
- 22.5 PDPs (courses taken after June 8, 2026)

Credits Issued By: Gordon College

Course Fee: \$675 (\$625 with early registration discount)

Course Description:

This course provides Massachusetts special educators and related service providers with deep expertise in Functional Behavioral Assessment and Behavior Intervention Planning within the legal and ethical framework of Massachusetts special education law. Participants develop skills in identifying the communicative function of behavior, designing positive behavioral support plans, and collaborating with IEP teams to support students with significant behavioral needs. n Framework and Massachusetts special education regulations (603 CMR 28.00). ; conversations that are both educationally essential and professionally challenging. This course builds the facilitation skills, discussion structures, and professional dispositions Massachusetts teachers need to lead these conversations well: preparing students to engage productively, maintaining psychological safety, handling moments when discussion breaks down, and navigating the relationship between classroom discussion and community context. This course is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Conduct a legally compliant Functional Behavioral Assessment using direct observation, interviews, and data review.
2. Identify the communicative function of behavior and use function-based reasoning to design effective interventions.
3. Develop a comprehensive Behavior Intervention Plan that includes antecedent modifications, skill-building, and reinforcement strategies.
4. Collaborate with IEP teams to integrate behavioral support goals into a student's overall special education program.
5. Apply Massachusetts special education law (603 CMR 28.00) and 603 CMR 46.00 to the development and implementation of behavioral supports.