

The College of Applied Behavioral Sciences is home to both traditional and innovative accredited programs in the behavioral sciences and mental health. Applied behavioral sciences programs focus on understanding human behavior in contextual environments, human diversity, social welfare policies and services, research and scientific principles. The College offers unique holistic training opportunities to address behavioral health, to promote healthy individual functioning, to strengthen families and communities, and to enhance agencies and organizations. Coursework in psychology, mental health counseling, and social work emphasize individual psychological functioning, assessment and diagnosis, case conceptualization. Mental health counseling helps to address normative developmental transitions and the importance of career, family, and school adjustment. Social work training highlights the importance of improving the well-being and social functioning of individuals, families, and communities, especially oppressed and vulnerable populations and their communities, employing direct services, advocacy for social and economic justice, and planned social change, relying heavily on the ecological and strengths perspectives. Psychology training emphasizes intrapsychic processes, understanding the mind, and diagnosing and treating mental and emotional issues.

Students in the college also have the opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary course work in the areas of behavioral health and families and children. Interprofessional training in integrated health care is designed to prepare graduates to improve the health care and psychological functioning of individuals who live within the state of Indiana as well as the nation. Interprofessional clinical training is provided for students via an integrated clinic at UIndy and at specialty places in the city. Students may also specialize in training that focuses on empowering families and children through culturally responsive practice with families and children. Coursework and clinical experiences will help graduates understand development through biological, intrapsychic, interpersonal, and sociocultural levels of analysis as well as contextual and environmental factors including poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.

The framework for programs includes the importance of *transforming lives*. We work to transform the lives of students through training, self-reflection, and preparation for service and leadership in the communities in which they will serve. Our graduates will transform the clients, families, agencies and organizations, and the communities in which they will serve and live.

Graduates from the programs in the College will be prepared to *transform lives through science*, using principles from behavioral and psychological science to solve complex problems. Course work includes the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, psychological disorders and how they are assessed and treated, the interrelationships between culture, mind and behavior, and social welfare, and environmental and contextual influences on psychological functioning and well-being.

Students in the program learn to *transform lives through learning and service*. Graduate programs include clinical experiences working with diverse clients to develop exceptional competence for generalist and specialized practice and service. Undergraduate programs similarly engage in clinical work or service learning opportunities reflecting the university's motto on *Education for Service*.

Graduates are prepared to *transform lives by changing behaviors*. This may include engaging in clinical work, individual, family, and group therapy, prevention and outreach services, as mental health technicians. As programs prepare generalists for service, students are exposed to a variety of approaches to changing behaviors and improving mental health.

Finally, students are educated to *transform lives through improving communities*. The University’s mission states that programs prepare “graduates for effective, responsible, and articulate membership in the complex societies in which they live and serve”. Program philosophies highlight the need to promote individual and community well-being. The college prepares its graduates to advocate for social justice, to examine and enhance programs in social service agencies, to reduce mental health stigma, and to give voice to the marginalized.

