

Evaluation of Puerto Rico's First University-Based Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) Program

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Objective:

This project aims to evaluate and analyze the first registered behavior technician (RBT) program in the Medical Science Campus in Puerto Rico.

Method:

Students were provided with pre and post measures of knowledge of ABA before, during and after the RBT program. Specifically, 3 English exams (85 items each) were provided to mimic the national RBT exam and a briefer pre- and post- exam in Spanish was provided. Additionally, we evaluated student satisfaction with the curriculum.

This is a descriptive transversal study of survey data. Participants included 20 professional students who were enrolled in the course. Of the 20 students, 18 completed the course with all the requirements and two dropped out. Participants' ages were between 21-30 (11.76%), 31-40 (64.71%), 41-50 (23.53%). -Gender: Men (3), Women (14). -Professions: Psychology (25%), Speech-Language Pathology (13%), Social Work (6.25%), Teachers (12%), Other (43.75%)

Procedure:

Students were provided with pre and post measures of knowledge of ABA before, during and after the RBT program. Specifically, 3 English exams (85 items each) were provided to mimic the national RBT exam and a briefer pre- and post- exam in Spanish was provided. Additionally, we evaluated student satisfaction with the curriculum.

There are three measures that were collected: a) Pre and post-test: Brief Spanish tests that includes demographic data, and 1-2 knowledge questions per course objective. b) Mock exams: An 85-item 90 min test in English that simulates the national RBT exam. c) Satisfaction Survey: The Puerto Rico University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (PR UCEDD) survey to evaluate satisfaction with the course and gather any recommendations for modifications.

Results/Conclusion:

Results of the study showed that students gained knowledge and skills in the areas studied. Specifically, in the mock exam students improved from 4 out of 20 students passing the baseline mock exam to 18 out of 18 students passing the final mock exam. In the Spanish pre and posttest, we saw an improvement of 10 out of 19 passing the pretest to 13 out of 14 passing the post test. In the satisfaction survey, students reported that their knowledge increased from low knowledge before the course to much higher knowledge after the course. Overall, all students rated high satisfaction with the course. Students offered many strengths of

the course and suggested a few changes. Professors met to review student evaluation suggestions (e.g., more time, more practice) and made changes to the course in 2022. To date, 5/5 students who have taken the national RBT exam have passed it.