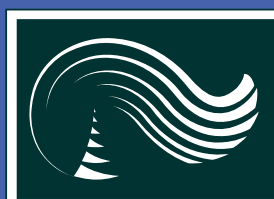


ANIMAL BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY



ANIMAL
BEHAVIOR
INSTITUTE

A more personal education



MEANINGFUL

WHAT

IS ANIMAL ASSISTED
THERAPY?

Animal Assisted Therapists incorporate animals into therapy programs, using the unique power of the human-animal bond to help their patients reach their physical, social, and emotional goals. Animals create enormous motivation in people of all ages; interactions with animals can reduce stress and increase our sense of well-being. They can be an integral component of the success of therapists, counselors and educators. In Animal Assisted Education (AAE), educators incorporate animals into teaching and learning activities. Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) are used by a wide array of professionals and volunteers to improve the physical and emotional welfare of both people and animals.

Are you ready to share your love of animals with others, bringing the unique benefits of human-animal interaction into the lives of those who need it most? Do you want an education that spans the breadth of animal assisted therapy, education and activities? Our accredited, online program in Animal Assisted Therapy will give you the skills you need to effectively incorporate animal activities into your practice, start your own program, or embark on a new career.



PERSONAL

WHO

USES ANIMAL ASSISTED
THERAPY?

Many of our graduates start their own programs after completing their certificate, working as independent contractors or volunteers. Others may incorporate their training into other positions, such as:

- Occupational therapist
- Therapy assistant
- Recreational therapist
- Counselor
- Social worker
- Psychologist
- Teacher
- Reading specialist
- Program manager
- Special ed teacher
- Nurse
- Nurses' aide
- Residential coordinator
- Physical therapist
- Therapy aide
- Teaching assistant

Animal Assisted Therapy is a new field, poised for growth. The outlook for professionals employing Animal Assisted Therapy is extremely positive. For example, employment opportunities for many types of therapists and therapy assistants are projected to grow much faster than average for the next decade, at a rate of 29-41%.*

*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook.

FLEXIBLE



WHEN

CAN I START?

Now! Getting started is easy - you can apply online in minutes. Your academic advisor can help you plan your courses. Your certificate in Animal Assisted Therapy requires the completion of five online courses and 40 hours of relevant field experience. Most students finish their certificate in 6-12 months.

Academic Curriculum

The coursework is designed to provide you with rigorous education in Animal Assisted Therapy coupled with an elective that allows you to focus on a species of your choice.

The four required courses for this certificate program are:

ABI 117 Working with People and Animals

ABI 211 Animal Assisted Interventions

ABI 232 The Human-Animal Bond

ABI 233 Animal Training^{*+}

*Students may substitute ABI 234 Canine Training, ABI 235 Feline Training or ABI 267 Equine Training.

+Must have access to an animal.

You will also select one elective from the following:

ABI 238 Training Your Therapy Dog**

ABI 251 Behavior & Training of Marine Mammals

ABI 261 Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies

ABI 271 Canine Behavior & Enrichment**

ABI 272 Feline Behavior & Enrichment

ABI 331 Animal Behavior

**Must have access to a dog.

Field Requirement

We believe that academic training must be accompanied by real world experience to be truly effective. During your time as a student, you will complete a field requirement consisting of 40 hours of hands-on experience as an employee, intern or volunteer at an approved institution of your choice. One of the strengths of our program is that students are able to choose where they would like to complete their fieldwork; the facility is not assigned.



EXCEPTIONAL

WHY

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
INSTITUTE?

Widespread Recognition & Acceptance

You can be confident about pursuing your education with the Animal Behavior Institute. Our quality programs enjoy widespread acceptance at other institutions. We are licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges* and accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). As a result of this Accredited Provider status, the Animal Behavior Institute is able to offer IACET CEU credits. These credits are accepted by hundreds of professional associations, including those in the fields of therapy, counseling and health care. Credit from our courses can also be applied to meet the continuing education requirements of many educational institutions, including public and private schools.

In addition, individual courses are accepted directly for CEU credit by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Please see our website at www.animaledu.com for a complete listing of our educational partners.

Upon graduation, students may begin using the designation CAATP, Certified Animal Assisted Therapy Professional.

*The Animal Behavior Institute is licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges having met the requirements of Article 8 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes of North Carolina. Please note that the NC State Board of Community Colleges is not an accrediting agency.

Personal Support

We'll provide you with close personal support from the day you begin until well after you've finished your program. When you enroll at the Animal Behavior Institute, your academic advisor will help you plan your individual program and answer any questions that arise along the way. Students have the freedom to choose how many classes to take each semester, when to take them and how to pay for them. And our flexible financing makes any program affordable. Students can choose to finance a single course or their entire program – it's up to you.

As an alumnus, you'll have access to the same resources you've come to enjoy as a student. This includes access to job and internship listings, advising and assistance with resumes and cover letters. We're with you before and after you graduate.

Our Approach

All courses at the Animal Behavior Institute share a common core, building a strong foundation and then applying that core to problem solving. The highlight of each week is a student-centered discussion; students work collectively to solve real world problems and case studies. Our approach helps build a strong rapport between each individual, their student colleagues, and the faculty. Small class sizes ensure that you'll know your instructors and receive the personal education you deserve.



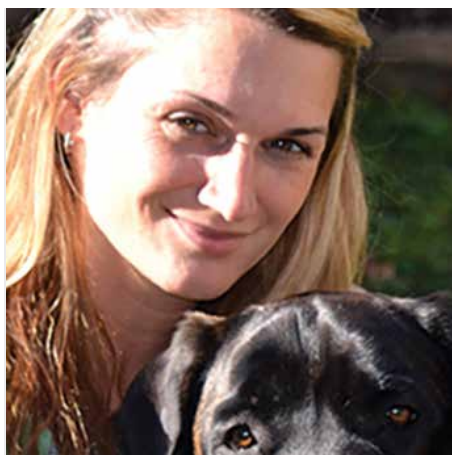
PROFESSIONAL

WHAT

IS UNIQUE ABOUT
OUR FACULTY?

An academic institution is only as strong as their faculty and ours are outstanding. Our faculty are selected on the basis of their education, experience, and passion for teaching. We'd like to introduce you to two of the instructors in our Animal Assisted Therapy program.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



JENNIFER CELLI

Professor of Animal
Assisted Therapy

Professor Celli is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Play Therapist with over 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents, and families. She specializes in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), providing evidence-based treatment for youth struggling with suicidal behaviors, self-injury, and emotional challenges. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including work with sexual abuse survivors in a residential treatment facility providing psychotherapy and psycho-education for both clients and support staff.

Deeply committed to the healing power of the human-animal bond, Professor Celli has been extensively trained in Animal-Assisted Therapy. Alongside her English Mastiff, Matilda, she is certified through Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs and the International Institute for Animal Assisted Play Therapy. Together, they bring comfort, connection, and non-judgmental support to clients in need.

Professor Celli is also certified as a Mental Health Professional through EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) and is developing a non-profit organization offering Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Learning.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



KATRINA WINSOR

Professor of Animal
Assisted Interventions

Professor Winsor is an Animal-Assisted Intervention Specialist with expertise in designing, implementing, and evaluating programs that enhance traditional therapies such as occupational, physical, and speech therapy. With a strong background in research and data analysis, she serves as both Research Coordinator and Data Specialist, ensuring her programs are evidence-based and impactful.

Her passion for the human-animal bond is reflected in her lifelong learning, including certificates in Dog Emotion & Cognition from Duke University and Animal-Assisted Therapy from the University of New Hampshire, along with professional experience at the North Shore Animal League and Canine Companions for Independence. Professor Winsor actively contributes to the field through research, conferences, committee work, and publications.

Alongside her expertise in AAT, she has also worked as a marine biologist and wildlife rehabilitator—experiences that reflect her lifelong dedication to animals and their well-being.

Visit us at www.animaledu.com for a complete list of instructors and their qualifications.

Office of Admissions

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