

# ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

AT THE 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.

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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
- Recreational therapist
- Social worker
- Teacher
- Program manager
- Nurse
- Residential coordinator
- Therapy aide
- Therapy assistant
- Counselor
- Psychologist
- Reading specialist
- Special ed teacher
- Nurses' aide
- Physical therapist
- 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, 2014-15 Edition.



FLEXIBLE

# WHEN

CAN I START?

**Now!** Getting started is easy - you can apply online in minutes. Once you're ready to schedule your courses, your academic advisor can help you plan the program that best fulfills your needs. 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:

1. ABI 116 Practical Psychology
2. ABI 211 Animal Assisted Therapy
3. ABI 232 The Human-Animal Bond
4. ABI 233 Animal Training

### You will also select one elective from the following:

1. ABI 238 Training Your Therapy Dog
2. ABI 251 Behavior & Training of Marine Mammals
3. ABI 261 Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies
4. ABI 271 Canine Behavior & Enrichment
5. ABI 272 Feline Behavior & Enrichment
6. ABI 331 Animal Behavior

## 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.

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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](http://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.

### **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. Qualified 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.

\*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.

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## PROFESSIONAL

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. Each class collectively works 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.

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. (For a complete list of instructors and their qualifications please visit us at [www.animaledu.com](http://www.animaledu.com).)



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## DR. ELIZABETH DUKE Professor of Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy



Dr. Duke received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology as well as a Master of Arts in Clinical

Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Equine Studies, Western Training Emphasis and Psychology. She is a Registered Therapeutic Riding Instructor and a certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship. Dr. Duke and her dog are a Registered Animal Therapy Team through Pet Partners (previously the Delta Society).

Her therapeutic experiences with animals and love of the natural world have deeply influenced her understanding of healing. In her clinical practice, Dr. Duke focuses on cultivating meaningful and balanced relationships with nature, spirit, self, and others. Dr. Duke's primary area of interest is Animal Assisted Therapy; and she has developed a new Animal Assisted Therapy program at Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center.

## TRACEY DEPAUL Professor of Animal Assisted Therapy and Education



Professor DePaul is the Animal Assisted Therapy and Nature Education Program Supervisor at Wordsworth RTF, a non-profit residential treatment

program for children ages 10-21 who require Residential Placement because of serious emotional disturbances or because they are exhibiting aggressive, pre-delinquent behavior. She coordinates the Treatment Team to provide both individual and group Animal Assisted Therapy & Education for these children.

Professor DePaul received her own training in Animal Assisted Therapy under Dr. Aaron Katcher. Dr. Katcher is one of the original pioneers in the field of AAT, completing groundbreaking research at the University of Pennsylvania and the Devereaux Foundation for disturbed children.

**Office of Admissions**

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