Curriculum Vitae

ELISA CRUZ, ED.D., BCBA-D

Florida Atlantic University
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EDUCATION

- **Ed.D., Special Education**, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, May 2015

DISSERTATION: *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad*

- **Applied Behavior Analysis Program**, online, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL, Fall 2010
- **M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction**, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, August 2009
- **B.A., Psychology**, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, May 1997

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Florida Atlantic University: Boca Raton, FL

Senior Instructor – Department of Special Education

2015 – Present

- Responsible for instruction and assessment of graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in applied behavior analysis, autism spectrum disorders, and special education courses
- Designated liaison between University and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board® for monitoring and communicating changes related to program requirements
- Coordinate the re-design of the Department's ABA certification program
- Conduct research on ASD/ABA-related topics, such as parent training in delivering evidence-based interventions to their children with autism and assess effectiveness of tracking equipment of missing persons with special needs
- Share results of research at conference presentations

ABA Program Coordinator – Department of Special Education

2016 – Present

- Responsible for advising and guiding prospective graduate students interested in pursuing Board Certification of Behavior Analysis, as well as other university parties, of expectations and requirements of certification process
- Correspond in a timely manner to BACB requests, application deadlines, and other related tasks
- Inform faculty and students of pertinent ABA coursework information, including changes to standards or requirements
- Disseminate off-campus employment and supervision opportunities to interested students by maintaining a relationship with local behavior therapy providers and agencies
- Notify BACB of changes to non-certified instructors or course content

ABA Program Advisor – Department of Special Education

2013 – 2015

- Responsible for advising students and other university parties in accordance with current certification eligibility standards and degree requirements
- Orient and inform all incoming certificate-seeking students of expectations and requirements
- Developed stand-alone Ethics course to meet BACB coursework requirements
- Spearheaded task force that resulted in the revision of ABA coursework to meet 4th Edition Task List requirements

Consultant and Research Coordinator – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
2016 – 2018

- Consult with administrative staff to support data management and clinical procedures as needed
- Support research projects, including Missing Persons project funded by Florida Department of Education
- Consult with clinical staff to enhance service delivery and materials for culturally and linguistically diverse families

Assistant Director – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
2014 – 2016

- Responsible for the supervision of two student assistants and 10 clinical staff, each of which provide consultation, technical assistance, and training to over 3,700 families and constituents across the Palm Beach and Treasure Coast regions
- Consulted with and facilitated training for registered families and professionals in the community
- Assisted Director in developing and writing grant deliverables, budgets, and narratives for 90% of total agency funding
- Coordinated fundraising efforts and organize and execute special events with Director and Coordinator of Marketing and Information Publications
- Managed database software and ran quarterly reports required by Florida Department of Education to meet and maintain grant requirements
- Support program development of grant funded and special interest agency initiatives (iRISE^2 Mentoring Program, Autism Friendly Business, Little Owls Parent Training Program)

Clinical Support Specialist – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
2010 –2014

- Provided therapeutic and intervention support to individuals with autism and its related disabilities and their families
- Collaborated and consulted with professionals in the field of special education
- Developed trainings and workshops for parents, professionals and other persons interested in or involved with the field of autism and its related disabilities
- Conducted developmental screening for low-income populations
- Designed and created monthly e-blasts and seasonal newsletters and distributed to registered families and professionals

<u>Palm Beach County School District</u>: Royal Palm Beach, FL
December 2002 – August 2010

Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities teacher

- Created lesson plans and provided daily instruction for students with special needs, modified assignments, and implemented learning strategies
- Maintained a modified and diversified curriculum with behavioral modifications and appropriate classroom management
- Developed IEPs and differentiated instruction to meet IEP and FBA needs
- *Team Leader (August 2004 – August 2010)*
- *Environmental Science Club sponsor (August 2007 – August 2010)*
- *Student Council sponsor (August 2007 – August 2010)*
- *ESE Department Chair (August 2005 – June 2007)*
- *Learning Strategist (December 2002 – June 2003)*

<u>Northampton County MH/MR:</u> Bethlehem, PA
February 2000 – November 2002

Intensive Case Manager for Children and Adolescents

- Counseled clients and members of their families and helped them utilize available community resources
- Provided protective and supportive service for clients undergoing treatment, hospitalizations, and/or suffering from internal and/or external conflicts
- Applied problem-solving techniques, monitored clients' behavior, developed service plans and goals, and coordinated with related service providers

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Books:

Cruz-Torres, E. (2020). Working with behavior challenges. In Cunningham, A. Counseling adults with autism: A comprehensive toolkit (pp. 158-181). Abingdon, UK: Taylor & Francis/Routledge

Journal Publications:

Miller, B. J., Finnegan, L., **Cruz, E.,** & Adams, K. (2026). Teaching money math literacy skills to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Journal of Special Education Technology, 0*(0), doi: 10.1177/01626434261441844

Miller, B. J., Berlingo, L., Adams, K., Kearney, K., **Cruz, E**., & Finnegan, L. (2026). Using video modeling to teach romantic relationships to college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Sexuality and Disability, 44*(1), 12. doi: 10.1007/s11195-025-09925-7

Randolph, K.M., Chubb, C. S., Hott, B. L., & **Cruz-Torres, E.** (2021) iCoaching behavior-specific praise in a rural classroom. *Rural Special Education Quarterly, 40*(2). doi:10.1177/8756870520982302

Cruz-Torres, E., Duffy, M. L., Brady, M. P., Bennett, K., & Goldstein, P. (2020). Promoting daily living skills for adolescents with autism spectrum disorder via parent delivery of video prompting. *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders, 50,* 212–223. doi: 10.1007/s10803-019-04215-6

Magazine Publications:

Cruz-Torres, E. (2020, April). How to incorporate technology to build a lifetime of skills. *Autism Parenting Magazine, 101*, 14-18.

Press Releases:

Florida Atlantic University. (2026, March 26). *Video Training Helps Young Adults with Disabilities Navigate Romance* [Press Release]. www.fau.edu/newsdesk/articles/young-adults-idd-romance.php

Works in Progress:

PRESENTATIONS

International

Cruz, E., Cadette, J., Barrett, C., & Page, E. J. (2024, May). *From Self-awareness to Accountability: A Multidimensional Approach to ABA Supervision (*Symposium Presenter: *Culturally Responsive Supervision: Before We Go Out, We Must Go In.*) 50th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: Philadelphia, PA.

Cruz-Torres, E., Cadette, J., Barrett, C., & Jimenez, E. (2022, May). *Adhering to Our Ethical Core Principles for the Promotion of Humanistic Behavior Analytic Treatment*. 48th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: Boston, MA.

Cigales, M., Vasquez, J., Korner, M., & **Cruz-Torres, E.** (2021, October). *Lessons from 2020 to Carry Forward.* 42nd Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Cruz-Torres, E., Cadette, J., Page, E., & Jimenez, E. (2019, May). *From Coursework to Practice: Emphasizing Ethics Along the Way*. 45th Annual Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: Chicago, IL.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2015, May). *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad.* Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: San Antonio, TX.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2014, May). *Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs.* Association for Behavior Analysis International 40th Annual Conference: Chicago, Illinois.

National

Cruz-Torres, E., Scott, J., Balsamo, N., (2018, September). *Workshop: Special Ethical Issues Faced by BCBAs when Providing Services to Persons with ASD.* 38th Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Bonita Springs, FL.

Axelrod, C., Caldevilla, C., **Cruz-Torres, E.**, & Leibowitz M. D. (2017, October). *Transitioning into adolescence and adulthood. (Spanish Symposium).* 37th Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Daytona Beach, FL.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2017, January). *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad.* 24th Annual CARD Conference: Orlando, FL

Scott, J., Honsberger, T., **Cruz-Torres, E.**, (2016, September). *What Should Behavior Analysts Do to Assess Client Safety? Guidance from the Behavioral Literature.* 36th Annual Meeting of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis: Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Cruz-Torres, E., Pinter, E., & VanLaarhoven, T.R. (2016, May). *Symposium: Effectiveness of Video-based Instruction to Support Parents, Teachers, and Learners with Disabilities in Applied Settings*. Association for Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference: Chicago, IL.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2016, January). *Promoting Daily Living Skills for Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders via Parent Delivery of Video Prompting on the iPad.* Association for Behavior Analysis 10th Annual Autism Conference: Translating Research into Evidence-based Practice: New Orleans, LA.

Duffy, M. L., Brady, M. P., Randolph, K., McCormick, J., Stamile, J., Carey, G., **Cruz-Torres, E.**, and McLaughlin, E. (2014, February). *A Continuum of Coaching.* Eastern Educational Research Association Conference: Jacksonville, Florida.

Regional/local

Cruz-Torres, E., Baratz-Patin, S., & Korner, J., (2018, July). *RBT: Éticas y Practicas (RBT: Ethics and Practices- Spanish Presentation).* FABA Multicultural Special Interest Group Inaugural Mini-Spanish Conference: Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Scott, J., Balsamo, N., & **Cruz-Torres, E**. (2018, April). *Special Ethical Issues Faced by BCBAs when Providing Services to Persons with ASD.* Florida Atlantic University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities: Jupiter, FL.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2014, March). *Reading and Understanding Research.* Department of Exceptional Student Education, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida.

Cruz-Torres, E. (2014, January). *Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs.* Inaugural Positive Behavior Supports in the Home and Community Conference: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

GRANTS

July, 2016 – CS/SB 230 – Missing Persons with Special Needs Bill approved by the Governor addresses personal safety of persons with special needs who elope (wander) by providing personal safety devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for such persons and $100,000 funding for each of three pilot study projects.

In collaboration with FAU College of Business and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities tested the effectiveness of search-and-rescue technology, including unmanned aerial systems, when used in combination with personal safety devices to reduce search and rescue recovery time associated with wandering and elopement cases.

January, 2013 – Autism Speaks $5,000 Community Service Grant for Project iCAN: Using the iPad to Communicate and Access Needs providing income eligible families with iPads and a communication app. Project focused on coaching parents in navigating, customizing, and using the iPad and app to promote effective communication skills in their children with ASD and included in-home follow-up support to maximize procedural fidelity.

TEACHING

EEX 4763: Special Education Technology (*distance learning*) – 2012 to 2016

This course provided undergraduate students with the opportunity to use, design, and apply the principles of Universal Design for Learning for people with a range of disabilities in class and during field experiences.

EEX 4937: Gap Course in ABA (*distance learning*) – 2017 to 2018

As a BACB course that met BACB requirements, this course provided content from the BACB 4th ed. Task List that met the gap in hours for students who previously took the coursework covering the 3rd ed. Task List.

EDG 4419: Classroom Behavior Management (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2017 to present

This course provided undergraduate students with an overview of strategies and techniques for organizing and managing classroom settings in the elementary and secondary school settings.

EEX 4616: Classroom Management for Inclusive Elementary Schools (*distance learning & face-to-face*) -2019 to present

This course provided undergraduate students an overview of strategies and techniques for elementary education teachers learning to organize and manage K-5 classroom settings with diverse learning, behavioral, linguistic, and cultural characteristics.

EDG 6408: Classroom Behavior Management (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – Spring 2021

This graduate-level course was designed to prepare educators to meet the needs of all students in diverse, inclusive classrooms and provided teaching strategies for academic and behavior problems, effective discipline, behavioral support, and academic interventions.

EEX 5612: Applied Behavior Analysis (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2016 to present

As an ABAI approved graduate course for meeting requirements for the standalone concepts and principles content hours, this course provided an introduction to applied behavior analysis with anticipated application to children and youth with exceptionalities, with emphasis on a proactive and positive supportive orientation for reinforcing desirable behaviors and facilitating the acquisition of new behaviors.

EEX 6095: Nature & Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2015 to present

This course provides graduate-level students working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) education regarding possible etiologies, diagnosis, and classification as well as appropriate curriculum, family involvement, and community-referenced behavioral techniques.

EEX 6210: Diagnosis, Assessment, and Instructional Decision Making in ASD (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2016 to 2020

This graduate-level course informed on the assessment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) placing emphasis upon the utilization of assessment results for the purpose of instructional decision making.

EEX 6298: Interventions for Social, Communication, Academic, and Functional Skills for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2019 to present

This is a comprehensive course covering effective instructional practices for teaching social, communication, academic, and functional skills to students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

EEX 6626: Behavior Analytic Supervision & Management (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2022 to present

Developed this course to meet BCBA-approved graduate course requirements for the supervision and management content coursework. The objective is to prepare students seeking BCBA certification and special education leadership skills to serve as supervisors for staff disseminating procedures rooted in ABA and related fields.

EEX 6615: Behavior Assessment & Intervention Strategies (*distance learning*) – 2025 to present

This course is an advanced study of behavior assessment, emphasizing functions of problem behavior in school, community, and home settings. Students learn steps and tactics of indirect, descriptive, and analog assessment (emphasizing experimental assessment in natural settings). Students will analyze and interpret data and select intervention strategies based on that analysis.

EEX 6747: Ethics in ABA (*distance learning & face-to-face*) – 2015 to present

Developed this course to meet BCBA-approved graduate course requirements for the standalone ethics content hours. The objective is to enhance understanding of ethical & legal issues behavior analysts often face when working in the field, aiming to build capacity for

correctly implementing behavior analytic procedures & equipping students with the skills & knowledge needed to become ethically & professionally skilled behavior analysts.

EEX 6680: Theories and Philosophies in Behavior Analysis *(developed Fall 2024; first offered and taught Fall 2025)*

Developed this course to meet BCBA-approved graduate course requirements for the standalone philosophical underpinnings content hours. It examines the philosophical foundations of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), with a focus on B.F. Skinner's writings and other significant historical contributors and aims to develop a deep understanding of the history and philosophy of behaviorism, theoretical frameworks, and the interpretation of behavior through the core principles of ABA.

EEX 7618: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis (*distance learning*) – 2025 to present

This course is an advanced study of applied behavior analysis that enlarges and expands on behavior analytic research procedures. It emphasizes single subject research and examines the theory and application of a variety of models of behavior analysis applied to education. It challenges the advanced doctoral student to identify and extrapolate behavior analytic tactics and strategies from the research literature, emphasizing the differentiation between experimental and non-experimental single subject research.

Advising Activities

Spring 2026
- Supervised doctoral student, Nicholas Carrannante, GTA for EEX 7618
- Supervised doctoral student, Riane Santa Cruz de Melo, GTA for EEX 6615

Spring 2025:
- Supervised doctoral student, Kimberlee Miller, GTA for EEX 6615
- Supervised doctoral student, Ghari Shirley, GTA for EEX 7618

Fall 2024:
- Supervised master's program student, Aiko Tanaka, GTA for EEX 5612

SERVICE

Service to the Institution

2016 – 2021	Advisory Board, Project I², FAU
2016 – 2020	Faculty Advisor, IMPACT Autism @ FAU Student Organization
2013 – 2015	Board Member, IMPACT Autism @ FAU Student Organization

Service to the Discipline/Profession

2017 – 2022	Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, Multicultural Special Interest Group
2020 – present	Association for Behavior Analysis International, Behavior Analysis Special Interest Group on Supervision

Service to the Community/Public

2011 – 2018	Restraint Reduction Committee, Palm Beach County School District
2013 – 2015	Special Needs Committee, Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center
2013 – 2015	School Excellence Committee, Renaissance Learning Academy

HONORS & AWARDS

- Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year, Spring 2015
  College of Education, Department of Exceptional Student Education

- John E. Miklos Exceptional Scholarship Endowment, Spring 2014
  Awarded to students in the area of Exceptional Student Education or Developmental Disabilities

- Cathy Lee Buchanan Behavior Change Success Award, Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, September 2013
  Recognizes committed, caring behavior analysts who use behavior analytic procedures to improve the lives of others

- Julie Jackson Scholarship, Spring 2012
  Awarded to students in the area of Exceptional Student Education or Developmental Disabilities

- William T. Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education for Palm Beach County School District nominee, 2007 – 2008
  Nominated by colleagues for outstanding work in the special education field throughout the school year

- Sid Rifkind Excellence in Education - Teacher of the Year, 2007 – 2008
  Teacher of the Year as nominated by colleagues