

Curriculum Vitae

Arturo Garcia, M.A., BCBA, LBA
Applied Behavior Analysis Program
Department of Child and Family Studies
College of Behavioral & Community Sciences
University of South Florida
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida Major: Applied Behavior Analysis Advisor: Kimberly Crosland, Ph.D., BCBA-D	2021 – Present
M.A.	Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida Major: Applied Behavior Analysis and Clinical Sciences Advisor: Kara L. Wunderlich, Ph.D., BCBA-D	2016 – 2020
B.S.	University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida Major: Psychology	2011 – 2013
A.A.	Valencia College, Orlando, Florida Major: Psychology	2009 – 2011

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS/CREDENTIALS

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), #1-20-43132	2020 – Present
Licensed Behavior Analyst, NE, #0265	2024 – Present
Online Instructor Certification	2022
Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate	2012 – 2022
Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)	2019 – 2021
Registered Behavior Technician	2018 – 2019
Child Welfare Case Manager (CWCM)	2013 – 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Undergraduate:

Instructor	
• Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Planning in ABA	Spring 2022
• Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Planning in ABA	Summer 2022
Graduate Teaching Assistant / Co-Instructor	
• Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Planning in ABA	Fall 2021

Graduate:

Instructor	
• Ethics in ABA	Spring 2024
• ABA in Complex Community Environments	Fall 2023
• Independent Research Study	Fall 2023
• Directed Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences II	Spring 2023
• Independent Research Study	Spring 2023
• Directed Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences I	Fall 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Experimental Analysis of Behavior I Fall 2023
- Single Case Experimental Design Fall 2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Assessment and treatment strategies for human trafficking.
 Improving the quality of life of children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected.
 Preventing placement disruption and runaway behavior of youth in foster care.
 Prevent/reduce recidivism within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
 Assessment and treatment of problem behaviors maintained by automatic reinforcement.

PUBLICATIONS

- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., Reyes, C., Del Vecchio, M. & Pannone, C. (2024). Prevention and intervention strategies for the sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children who run away from foster care: A scoping review. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 33(6), 736-764. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2024.2363821>
- Garcia, A.**, Wunderlich, K. L., Pelfrey, C., & Sheppard, C. M. (2023). Experimental analysis of voice volume for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Behavioral Interventions*. 39(1), e1984. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bin.1984>

Manuscripts In Preparation

- Cernosek, K., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** Evaluating the use of behavior skills training and tactile prompts to increase positive staff interactions in residential care.
- Crosland, K., **Garcia, A.**, & Fuller, A. Embracing qualitative research for developing effective behavior analytic assessments and interventions within child welfare and human trafficking.
- Garcia, A.**, & Crosland, K. Propensity to victimization: Form and function of commonly used lures.
- Grossman, Z., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** Music as an instructional modality to increase attending behavior of elementary students.
- Hernandez-Bautista, M., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** Evaluating the use of text message prompts to increase staff behavior-specific praise in adult residential care.
- Scarff, M. N., Crosland, K. A., & **Garcia, A.** Functional analysis and treatment of bruxism in children with autism spectrum disorder.

Research In Progress

- Crosland, K., **Garcia, A.**, & Fuller, A. Training case managers to use the FAIR and create function-based interventions to address runaway behavior.
- Del Vecchio, M., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** A systematic literature review of trauma-informed behavioral approaches and interventions.
- Garcia, A.**, Del Vecchio, M., Wagers, S., & Crosland, K. Fighting Human Trafficking Housing: Program evaluation.
- Pannone, C., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** Increasing behavior-specific praise use and variability with secondary education teachers using behavioral skills training, tactile prompts, and

multiple exemplars.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- Garcia, A.**, & Crosland, K. (2025, November). Form and function of lures: How traffickers exploit vulnerabilities of runaway foster care youth. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. To be presented at the 12th International Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Conference.
- Fuller, A., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** (2025, November). Addressing runaway behavior: Evaluating virtual training to teach case managers to use the FAIR and create individualized interventions. [Symposium] *Co-Author*. To be presented at the 12th International ABAI Conference.
- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., & Del Vecchio, M. (2025, May). A behavior analytic approach towards evaluating a human trafficking housing program. [Symposium]. *Chair & Presenting Author*. To be presented at the 51st Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Del Vecchio, M., **Garcia, A.**, & Crosland, K. (2025, May). Success markers for human trafficking survivors: A retrospective evaluation of a housing program. [Symposium]. *Chair & Co-Author*. To be presented at the 51st Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Cernosek, K., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** (2025, May). Using behavioral skills training and tactile prompts to increase positive staff interactions in residential care. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. To be presented at the 51st Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Fuller, A., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** (2025, May). Decreasing runaway behavior in foster care: Virtual training and consultation of caseworkers. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. To be presented at the 51st Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Hernandez-Bautista, M., Crosland, K., & **Garcia, A.** (2025, May). The evaluation text message prompts to increase staff behavior-specific praise in adult residential care. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. To be presented at the 51st Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., & Del Vecchio, M. (2024, November). Evaluating the effectiveness of a housing program for survivors of human trafficking through a behavior analytic lens. [Panel]. *Chair & Presenting Author*. 79th American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting.
- Del Vecchio, M., **Garcia, A.**, Wagers, S., Crosland, K., Cernosek, K., & Cenatus, M. (2024, November). Success markers among survivors of human trafficking: A housing program evaluation. [Panel]. *Chair & Co-Author*. 79th ASC Annual Meeting.
- Cernosek, K., Del Vecchio, M., **Garcia, A.**, Cenatus, M., Wagers, S., & Crosland, K. (2024, November). Considerations for success: How factors of case management influence outcomes for human trafficking survivors. [Panel]. *Chair & Co-Author*. 79th ASC Annual Meeting.
- Cenatus, M., **Garcia, A.**, Del Vecchio, M., Cernosek, K., Wagers, S., Crosland, K., & Rogenski, C. (2024, November). SMART goals: The need for a systematic model to promote success for human trafficking survivors. [Panel]. *Chair & Co-Author*. 79th ASC Annual Meeting.
- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., & Del Vecchio, M. (2024, September). Understanding human trafficking through a behavior analytic lens: Evaluating the effectiveness of a housing

- program. [Multi-Paper Presentation]. *Chair & Presenting Author*. 44th Annual Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) Conference.
- Del Vecchio, M., Crosland, K., **Garcia, A.**, & Wagers, S. (2024, September). Considerations for success among human trafficking survivors: A housing program evaluation. [Multi-Paper Presentation]. *Chair & Co-Author*. 44th Annual FABA Conference.
- Cenatus, M., Del Vecchio, M., Crosland, K., **Garcia, A.**, Wagers, S., & Rogenski, C. (2024, September). Using SMART goals to support human trafficking survivors: A systematic approach to success. [Multi-Paper Presentation]. *Chair & Co-Author*. 44th Annual FABA Conference.
- Garcia, A.**, Robles, J., Crosland, K., & Fuller, A. (2024, September). Evaluation of a treatment package to increase food variety for children with autism spectrum disorder with food selectivity. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 44th Annual FABA Conference.
- Rogenski, C., & **Garcia, A.** (2024, July). *Preliminary analysis of a housing program for survivors of human trafficking*. [Poster]. 2024 Summer Research Symposium, Office of High-Impact Practices and Undergraduate Research, Tampa, FL.
- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., Pannone, C., & Babb, A. (2024, May). Scoping review of commonly used lures in human trafficking. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 50th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Del Vecchio, M., **Garcia, A.**, Wagers, S., Cernosek, K., Crosland, K., & Cenatus, M. (2024, May). Success markers among survivors of human trafficking: A preliminary housing program evaluation. [Poster]. *Co-Author*. 50th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Fuller, A., Crosland, K., **Garcia, A.**, & Ullrich, E. (2024, May). Virtual training for caseworkers to the use of Functional Assessment Interview for Runaways (FAIR) to decrease runaway behavior in foster care. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. 50th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Grossman, Z., Crosland, K., Del Vecchio, M., & **Garcia, A.** (2024, May). Increasing attending behavior of elementary students using music during instruction. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. 50th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Garcia, A.**, & Crosland, K. (2024, March). Propensity to victimization: Form and function of commonly used lures. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) 61st Annual Meeting.
- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., Reyes, C., Del Vecchio, M., & Pannone, C. (2023, November). Prevention and intervention strategies for the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and future directions. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 78th ASC Annual Meeting.
- Garcia, A.**, Crosland, K., Del Vecchio, M., Reyes, C., & Pannone, C. (2023, September). Intersection of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children in foster care. [Symposium]. *Author*. 43rd Annual FABA Conference.
- Garcia, A.**, & Crosland, K. (2023, September). Propensity to victimization: Form and function of commonly used lures. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 43rd Annual FABA Conference.
- Grossman, Z., Crosland, K., Del Vecchio, M., & **Garcia, A.** (2023, September). Music as an instructional modality to increase attending behavior of elementary students. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. 43rd Annual FABA Conference.
- Fuller, A., Crosland, K., **Garcia, A.**, & Estes, R. (2023, May). Addressing runaway behavior: Evaluating virtual training to teach case managers to use the FAIR and create individualized interventions. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. 43rd Annual FABA Conference.

- Garcia, A.** & Crosland, K. (2023, May). Review of prevention and intervention strategies for juvenile sex trafficking, and future directions. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 49th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Fuller, A., Crosland, K., Estes, R., & **Garcia, A.** (2023, May). Evaluating virtual training and consultation to teach case managers to use the FAIR and create interventions to address runaway behavior. [Symposium]. *Co-Author*. 49th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Garcia, A.** & Crosland, K. (2023, March). Behavioral strategies for prevention and intervention in human trafficking. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. ACJS 60th Annual Meeting.
- Garcia, A.** & Crosland, K. (2022, September). Review of prevention and intervention strategies for juvenile sex trafficking, and future directions. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 42nd Annual FABIA Conference.
- Garcia, A.**, Stipes, P., & Crosland, K. (2022, May). Using Brain Breaks ® to increase on-task behavior in classroom setting. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 48th Annual ABAI Meeting.
- Garcia, A.**, & Wunderlich, K. L. (2020, May). An experimental analysis of voice volume for children with autism spectrum disorder. [Symposium]. *Presenting Author*. 46th Annual ABAI Virtual Meeting.

Invited Presentations & Workshops

- Huizar, T. (Host). (2019 – Present). Why Kids Run: The Foster Care to Trafficking Pipeline with **Arturo Garcia** (Season 6, Episode 18) [Audio podcast episode]. In *One in Ten Podcast*. National Children’s Alliance (NCA). <https://oneintencast.org/episodes/why-kids-run-the-foster-care-to-trafficking-pipeline/>
- Garcia, A.**, & Del Vecchio, M. (2024, February). *Fighting human trafficking housing program evaluation*. Invited lecture in graduate seminar. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.
- Garcia, A.** (2024, January). *A closer look at exploitation: Understanding human trafficking through behavior analysis*. Invited speaker at Pints of Science Lecture Series. Tampa, FL.
- Reiman, B. (Host). (2020 – Present). Addressing Human Trafficking with Behavior Analysis with **Arturo Garcia** (Episode 135) [Audio podcast episode]. In *The Behaviour Speak Podcast*. Podbean. <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-r9f4h-1555f7b>
- Garcia, A.** (2023, March). *Interdisciplinary Clinical Practices: Behavior Analysis in Residential Programs and Foster Care Group Homes*. Invited distance lecture in a graduate seminar. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.
- Garcia, A.** (2022, November). Graduate student discussion panel on the use of punishment in an undergraduate course, *Ethics, Supervision, and Management in ABA*. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.
- Garcia, A.** (2022, March). *Interdisciplinary Clinical Practices: Behavior Analysis in Residential Programs and Foster Care Group Homes*. Invited lecture in an undergraduate course. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.
- Garcia, A.** (2021, July). *Interdisciplinary Clinical Practices: Behavior Analysis in Residential Programs and Foster Care Group Homes*. Invited distance lecture in a graduate seminar. Rollins College. Winter Park, FL.
- Garcia, A.** (2020, July). *Behavior analysis in Juvenile Detention Centers and Residential Programs*. Invited distance lecture in graduate seminar. Rollins College. Winter Park, FL.

Garcia, A. (2019, August). *ABA tools for your classroom: Good-Behavior Game*. Invited workshop at Hume House Child Development & Student Research Center for Rollins College. Winter Park, FL.

Garcia, A. (2016, December). *What is ABA? Behavior analysis for children within the Child Welfare System*. Invited workshop at the Osceola County Courthouse for the Guardian ad Litem Program. Kissimmee, FL.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Society of Criminology	2023 – Present
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	2022 – Present
Association of Behavior Analysis International	2019 – Present
Association of Professional Behavior Analysts	2016 – 2022
Florida Association for Behavior Analysis	2017 – Present
Latino Association for Behavior Analysis	2023 – Present

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) Scholarship Awarded: \$2,000.00	2023 – 2024
National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) Scholarship Awarded: \$4,000.00	2022 – 2023
National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) Scholarship Awarded: \$2,000.00	2021 – 2022
University of South Florida, College of Behavioral & Community Sciences 2023 Student Employee of the Year Award	2023

GRANT SUBMITTED (*FUNDED*)

Graduate Student Research Collaboration Award

Title: Fighting Human Trafficking Housing Program Evaluation

Role on Grant: Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)

Others on Grant: Marissa Del Vecchio (Co-PI), Shelly Wagers (Faculty Advisor)

Funding Agency: University of South Florida, Internal Grant Program, St. Petersburg Campus

Amount Awarded: \$22,000.00

Project Dates: Aug. 2023 – Jul. 2025

GRANT SUBMITTED (*UNFUNDED*)

NIJ FY24 Graduate Research Fellowship

Title: FAIR-TiP: Assessment tool for identifying runaway victims of commercial sexual exploitation

Role on Grant: Principal Investigator (PI)

Others on Grant: Kimberly Crosland (Dissertation Committee Chair)

Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Amount of Requested Funding: \$120,000.00

Date Submitted: April 2024

NIJ FY23 Graduate Research Fellowship

Title: FAIR-TiP: Assessment tool for identifying runaway victims of commercial sexual exploitation

Role on Grant: Principal Investigator (PI)

Others on Grant: Kimberly Crosland (Dissertation Committee Chair)

Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Amount of Requested Funding: \$166,500.00

Date Submitted: May 2023

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Step Ahead ABA, NE

Licensed Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

2024 – Present

St. Pete ABA, Saint Petersburg, FL

Lead Oversight Analyst (BCBA)

2024 – Present

Oversee training and implementation of treatment with direct service staff in group home settings. Conduct ongoing proficiency evaluation and develop performance-specific staff training protocols.

Amazing Gains Behavior Therapy Services, LLC, Orlando, FL

Lead Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Student Analyst Coordinator

2020 – 2022

Develop Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) to teach appropriate behaviors and reduce maladaptive behaviors. Overseeing training, developing, and implementing teaching protocols, and supervising student analysts.

Adapt & Transform Behavior, LLC, Saint Petersburg, FL

Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)

2019 – 2020

Develop individualized Behavior Analysis Service Plans (BASP) to target specific behavioral excesses and deficits for youth in secure residential treatment facilities. Develop and analyze facility-wide data on staff performance.

Behavior Blossoms, LLC, Longwood, FL

Clinical Assistant (BCaBA)

2019 – 2020

Provided direct 1:1 applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy, clinical help with RBT training and supervision, and parent/caregiver training. Provided clinical assistance with data, data collection sheets, behavior interventions, skills assessments, and BIP design.

Clinical Technician (RBT)

2018 – 2019

Assisted with developing and implementing behavior programming. Collected data on problem

behaviors and skill acquisition for children and adolescents.

Opportunity, Community, Ability (OCA), Orlando, FL

Behavior Assistant

2017 – 2018

Provided direct ABA therapy, completed documentation required for each client, and collected data for target behaviors.

Guardian ad Litem Program, Osceola County, FL

Child Advocacy Manager

2014 – 2017

Personally, or oversee the work of volunteers as they attended court hearings, depositions, case plan conferences, dependency mediations, staffing, and meetings with the Department of Children and Families, community-based care lead agencies, and other state, local, and private social service agencies.

The Centers, Inc. (Kids Central, Inc.), Citrus County, FL

Family Care Manager/Trainee,

2013 – 2014

Worked to maintain a safe and nourishing environment for children and families involved with the Dependency Court who have been victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Completed assessments with member/caregiver/provider to obtain information regarding client status, support system, and need for services for care plan development.

SERVICE

University Service and Leadership Positions

University of South Florida

Search Committee

Elected Student Representative, Department of Criminology

2023

Reviewer

Community Applications of Behavior Analysis (CABA) Conference

2022, 2023,
2024

Graduate Student Research Symposium

2023

Undergraduate Student Poster Symposium

2023, 2024

Applied Behavior Analysis Program

Masters Students Research Mentor

2022 – Present

Beta Chi – Bulls Organization for Behavior Analysis, Student Organization

President

(2023 – 2024)

Founding Executive Member & Vice President

(2022 – 2023)

Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Risk to Resilience Research Lab

Graduate Student Research Assistant

2021 - Present

Community Involvement

Pasco County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), Pasco County, FL

Collaboration on Youth Runaway Interventions. Assisted with training workshop.

FAIR model for decreasing runaway behavior and stabilizing youth. (2024, Mar)

United Way of Pasco County (UWPC), Pasco County, FL

2023 – Present

Program evaluation of *Fighting Human Trafficking Transitional Housing Program*, which

services victims of human trafficking.

Reports used by the program to request and secure funding from the following grants:

FY 2024-2025 Local Funding Initiative Request

Funding Agency: Florida Senate

Received: \$765,716.00 state funds

OVC FY 2024 - Services for Victims of Human Trafficking

Funding Agency: Office for Victims of Crime

Requested: \$950,000.00

Status: Unfunded

Pesäpuu ry, Child Protection Development Organization, Tampere Finland

Collaborative research/practice on runaway prevention. Assisted with training workshop.

Functional assessment and intervention for youth in foster care who run away. (2024, Jan)

Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY), National Program 2022 – Present

Collaboration and pilot of runaway interventions. Assisted with training workshops and ongoing consultation.

Implementing the FAIR model to decrease runaway behavior of youth in child welfare.

(2024, Nov)

FAIR model and interventions to decrease runaway behavior of youth in foster care.

(2023, Apr)

Guardian ad Litem, Osceola County, FL

2012 – 2022

Volunteer Child Advocate

Court-appointed to objectively and solely advocate for the best interest of children who are involved in dependency court proceedings, which may have been the victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Identify resources and services for the child as needed, compile relevant facts, interview witnesses, give testimonials, make recommendations regarding custody issues, and ensure all parties comply with court orders.

Professional Service

Invited Reviewer

Journal Behavior and Social Issues 2025

Health Services Insights 2024

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Child & Family Behavior Therapy 2023

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis 2023

Journal of Educators Online 2023

Reviewer / Discussant

Association for Behavior Analysis International, Philadelphia, PA. 2024

Poster Session Chair & Discussant

Association for Behavior Analysis International, Denver, CO. 2023

Poster Session Chair & Discussant

Blogs, Media Interviews, & Coverage

Invited interviewee. Colloquium sponsored by the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI). *College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, University of South*

Florida (2025).

“CBCC student employees recognized for outstanding performance.” *Child and Family Studies, College News* (2023, May). <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/news/2023/spring-2023-seoty-awards.aspx>

“ABA doctoral student presents research on human trafficking interventions.” *Child and Family Studies, College News* (2023, April). <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/cfs/academics/aba/news/garcia-human-trafficking.aspx>

“ABA doctoral student receives Josie Torralba Romero Scholarship.” *Child and Family Studies, College News* (2021, November). <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/news/2021/arturo-garcia-scholarship.aspx>