



School Threat Assessment Certificate Program

BTAM 102

School Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Research and Applications

Winter 2028, Instructor: John Van Dreal

Course Description:

This course deepens students' understanding of the research base and applied practices that guide effective BTAM in educational settings. Emphasis is placed on critically evaluating empirical literature, translating research into practice, and refining decision-making skills in complex, real-world scenarios. Students will explore contemporary studies on targeted school violence, BTAM models, and intervention outcomes. Students will also engage with program implementation challenges, including team dynamics, policy development, and system-level integration within schools and districts. Through case analyses and applications, students will practice conducting comprehensive threat assessments, developing management plans, and evaluating intervention effectiveness. The course emphasizes the use of data to inform prevention strategies and safe school climates.

Over the course of the quarter, students will:

- 1) Critically analyze and synthesize research related to school threat assessment and targeted violence prevention
- 2) Apply threat assessment models to complex cases
- 3) Evaluate the effectiveness and limitations of intervention and management strategies
- 4) Integrate research findings into practical decision-making and policy development
- 5) Assess the role of bias, culture, and equity in school BTAM practices
- 6) Design and implement comprehensive threat management plans
- 7) Use data and outcomes to inform program evaluation and improvement