



School Threat Assessment Certificate Program

BTAM 103

School Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Leadership Skills and Best Practices

Spring 2028, Instructor: Courtenay McCarthy

Course Description:

As the culminating course in the School Threat Assessment Certificate Program sequence, this course prepares students to lead, sustain, and continuously improve BTAM efforts within educational systems. Building on foundational concepts and applied research, students will develop the leadership competencies necessary to guide multidisciplinary teams, shape policy, and institutionalize best practices across schools and districts. The course focuses on leadership skills, including team facilitation, conflict resolution, ethical decision-making, and strategic communication with diverse stakeholders such as students, families, educators, law enforcement, and community partners. Students will examine best practice frameworks for program implementation, fidelity, and scalability, as well as methods for training personnel and fostering a culture of safety, trust, and prevention. Emphasis is placed on aligning BTAM practices with the latest research, legal requirements, district policies, and equity-centered approaches.

Over the course of the quarter, students will:

- 1) Learn leadership skills to guide and sustain school BTAM teams
- 2) Develop and implement policies and protocols aligned with best practices and legal standards
- 3) Facilitate effective collaboration among multidisciplinary stakeholders
- 4) Design training and professional development programs for school BTAM teams
- 5) Evaluate program effectiveness and ensure fidelity to evidence-based models
- 6) Lead crisis response and post-incident recovery efforts
- 7) Promote equitable, culturally responsive, and ethically grounded practices in school safety initiatives