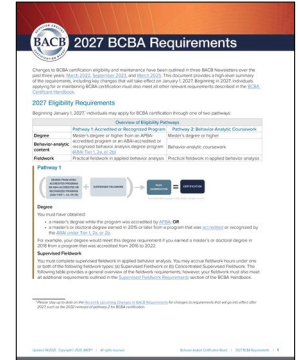
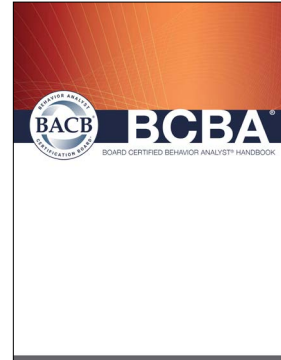




# Guidance for Meeting the BCBA Requirements During the 2027 Transition

If you are unsure whether you will apply for BCBA certification before or after **January 1, 2027**—the date when new eligibility requirements go into effect—we recommend planning ahead to ensure that you are prepared to meet **both** the current and upcoming requirements. This document is provided as a resource that you can use with your supervisor, advisor, or program coordinator for planning purposes.

Review the [current and new requirements](#) carefully, particularly if you are unsure whether you will apply before or after January 1, 2027. As a reminder, if you do not apply and meet the current requirements **before January 1, 2027**, you must meet the new requirements that take effect on that date.



## Eligibility Pathways to BCBA Certification

Beginning January 1, 2027, there will only be two pathways to BCBA certification:

- **Pathway 1:** Degree from Association of Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA) Accredited Program or Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accredited or Recognized Program
- **Pathway 2:** Behavior-Analytic Coursework

If you want to apply under pathway 3 or 4, you must do so—and meet all requirements—before January 1, 2027.

## Degree (Pathways 1 and 2)

There are no changes to the degree requirements for pathway 1.

Degrees for pathway 2 may not be earned in less than one calendar year, which is defined as three consecutive primary semesters (e.g., Fall, Spring, Summer), four consecutive primary quarters (e.g., Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer), or 12 consecutive months under another model.

## Coursework (Pathway 2)

Coursework for pathway 2 may not be earned in less than one calendar year, which is defined as three consecutive primary semesters (e.g., Fall, Spring, Summer), four consecutive primary quarters (e.g., Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer), or 12 consecutive months under another model.

Additionally, the pathway 2 coursework requirements will change in several key ways under the 2027 coursework requirements (e.g., freestanding course requirements, revised content descriptions, content hour allocations). The following table compares the 2022 and 2027 coursework requirements for pathway 2 applicants.

Conversion Table: 2022 Requirements to 2027 Requirements		
2022 Requirements		2027 Requirements
<b>Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts and Principles</b> (90 hours; 45 hours* taught in 1 freestanding course**)	→	<b>Basic Principles of Behavior</b> (45 hours, 1 freestanding course)
		<b>Theory &amp; Philosophy in Behavior Analysis</b> (45 hours, 1 freestanding course)
<b>Measurement, Data Display, and Interpretation; Experimental Design</b> (45 hours, 1 freestanding course)	→	<b>Research Methods in Behavior Analysis</b> (45 hours, 1 freestanding course)
<b>Behavior Assessment</b> (45 hours)	→	<b>Behavior Assessment &amp; Intervention</b> (90 hours, 2 freestanding courses)
<b>Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Interventions</b> (60 hours)		
<b>Personnel Supervision and Management</b> (30 hours)	→	<b>Organizational Behavior Management</b> (45 hours, 1 freestanding course)
<b>BACB Ethics Code and Code-Enforcement System; Professionalism</b> (45 hours, 1 or more freestanding courses)	→	<b>Ethics in Behavior Analysis</b> (45 hours, 1 freestanding course)
<b>TOTAL: 315 hours</b>	→	<b>TOTAL: 315 hours</b>

\* For the purpose of establishing instructional requirements that can be applied globally, 1 semester credit hour will represent 15 hours of classroom instruction, and 1 quarter credit hour will represent 10 hours of classroom instruction. This conversion is based on [US Federal Rule](#).

\*\* Freestanding course refers to a course in which the required content constitutes the majority of that course's content.

If you completed some or all of your coursework under the 2022 requirements and plan to apply **on or after January 1, 2027**, review the following content areas to determine whether your coursework meets the 2027 requirements:

- **Basic Principles of Behavior** must be completed as a standalone course beginning in 2027. If you have not taken a standalone Basic Principles course, you will need to do so.
- **Theory & Philosophy in Behavior Analysis** must be completed as a standalone course beginning in 2027. If you have not taken a standalone Theory & Philosophy course, you will need to do so.
- **Behavior Assessment & Intervention** content must now be covered in two freestanding courses. If your previous coursework combined these topics with other content areas (e.g., supervision or philosophical underpinnings), you must complete 90 content hours in these areas across two freestanding courses.
- **Organizational Behavior Management (OBM)**—previously called Personnel Supervision and Management—now requires 45 content hours (increased from 30) in a freestanding course. If you have not completed a freestanding OBM/Supervision course with 45 content hours, you will need to do so.
- **Ethics** must now be completed as **one** standalone course and can no longer be broken up across multiple courses. If you have not completed one freestanding Ethics course with 45 content hours, you will need to do so.

We recommend meeting with your program advisor to review your coursework and confirm the number of content hours covered in each course.

## Supervised Fieldwork (Pathways 1 and 2)

All supervised fieldwork must meet the requirements in place at the time you submit your certification application. **If you are accruing supervised fieldwork and are unsure whether you will apply before or after January 1, 2027**, we strongly recommend planning to meet both sets of requirements to ensure that your hours will be accepted. This includes:

- Meeting all components under both sets of requirements (see the table below)
- Completing documentation to meet both sets of requirements
- Maintaining separate documentation systems to demonstrate compliance in the event of an audit (e.g., duration of observations, percentage of supervision, etc.)
- Ensuring that all qualifying hours are accrued within five years

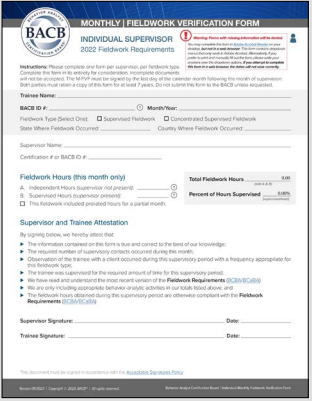
Depending on when you apply, you will need to submit the forms that correspond with the requirements in place at the time of your application.

If you plan carefully, it is possible to meet both the 2022 and 2027 fieldwork requirements at the same time. The following table compares the two sets of requirements, with differences shown in bold and red.

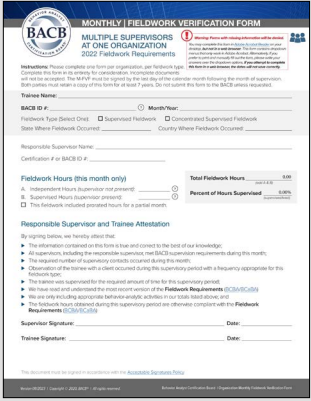
2022 BCBA Fieldwork Requirements	2027 BCBA Fieldwork Requirements
<b>Supervised:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,000 hours</li> <li>Supervision: 5%</li> <li>20–130 hours per month</li> <li>Observations with a client: One per month</li> </ul>	<b>Supervised:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,000 hours</li> <li>Supervision: 5%</li> <li>20–<b>160</b> hours per month</li> <li>Observations with a client: <b>60 minutes</b> per month</li> </ul>
<b>Concentrated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,500 hours</li> <li>Supervision: 10%</li> <li>20–130 hours per month</li> <li>Observations with a client: One per month</li> </ul>	<b>Concentrated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,500 hours</li> <li>Supervision: <b>7.5%</b></li> <li>20–<b>160</b> hours per month</li> <li>Observations with a client: <b>90 minutes</b> per month</li> </ul>

### Monthly Fieldwork Verification Form (M-FVF) Guidance:


If you meet both sets of requirements and are unsure whether you will apply before or after January 1, 2027, we recommend completing both the 2022 and 2027 M-FVFs each month with your supervisor. Doing so will ensure that you are prepared for both application options.



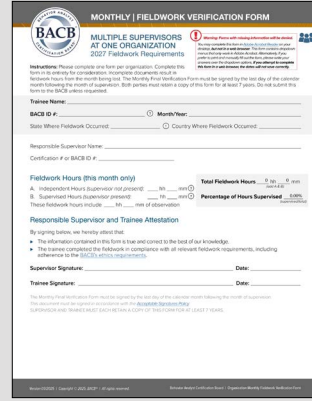
2022 Individual M-FVF



2022 Organization M-FVF



2027 Individual M-FVF



2027 Organization M-FVF

### Considerations for Completing the M-FVF:

- Changes in supervision requirements for concentrated fieldwork**
  - Under the 2027 requirements for BCBA certification, concentrated fieldwork requires 7.5% supervision. If you accrue hours under these requirements, you cannot count them as concentrated fieldwork under the 2022 requirements, which require 10% supervision.
  - However, if you accrue concentrated fieldwork hours under the 2022 requirements, you may use them to meet the 2027 concentrated fieldwork requirements, since they meet or exceed the 7.5% supervision threshold.
- Changes to the monthly maximum accrual of hours**
  - The 2027 requirements allow for a maximum of 160 hours per month. If you are accruing hours under the 2022 requirements, you will remain within this limit if you later apply under the 2027 requirements.
  - However, if you are accruing 160 hours per month under the 2027 requirements and later decide to apply under the 2022 requirements, you will need to adjust your submitted hours to 130 or fewer per month to meet the 2022 requirements.

## • Changes to observation requirements

- The 2027 requirements shift from contact-focused to duration-focused tracking. As a result, observations completed under the 2022 requirements may or may not meet the 2027 standards.
- To ensure flexibility, your documentation system should track both the number of client observations (contacts) and the duration (in minutes) of each contact per month.

## • M-FVFs must match the requirements in effect at the time you apply

- If you apply under the 2022 requirements, you must maintain documentation using the 2022 M-FVFs. If you apply under the 2027 requirements, you must use the 2027 M-FVFs.
- The easiest way to ensure compliance is to complete and retain both sets of forms while completing fieldwork.
- Although M-FVFs are not submitted with the application, both you and your supervisor must retain all fieldwork documentation, including M-FVFs, for at least seven years and provide it to the BACB upon request.

## Final Fieldwork Verification Form (F-FVF) Guidance:

If you meet both sets of requirements and are unsure whether you will apply before or after January 1, 2027, we recommend completing both forms (i.e., the 2022 F-FVF and the 2027 F-FVF) with your supervisor to ensure you are prepared for both application options.

The image displays four screenshots of the Final Fieldwork Verification Form (F-FVF) for 2022 and 2027, showing individual and organization versions. The forms are organized into two columns. The left column shows the 2022 versions, and the right column shows the 2027 versions. Each version includes sections for trainee information, supervisor information, fieldwork hours, and supervisor/trainee attestation. The 2027 versions include additional sections for fieldwork hours and supervisor/trainee attestation.

2022 Individual F-FVF      2022 Organization F-FVF      2027 Individual F-FVF      2027 Organization F-FVF

## BCBA Examination

As of January 1, 2025, the BCBA examination has been based on the [BCBA Test Content Outline \(6th ed.\)](#). Currently, there are no upcoming changes to the BCBA examination or the Test Content Outline (TCO).

Moving forward, updates to the BCBA examination and the TCO will occur independently of changes to certification requirements. This approach allows for revisions to examination content more frequently, if needed, in response to developments in the profession.