



2027 BCBA Requirements

Changes to BCBA certification eligibility and maintenance have been outlined in three BACB Newsletters over the past three years: [March 2022](#), [September 2023](#), and [March 2025](#). This document provides a high-level summary of the requirements, including key changes that will take effect on January 1, 2027. Beginning in 2027, individuals applying for or maintaining BCBA certification must also meet all other relevant requirements described in the [BCBA Certificant Handbook](#).

2027 Eligibility Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2027,* individuals may apply for BCBA certification through one of two pathways:

Overview of Eligibility Pathways		
	Pathway 1: Accredited or Recognized Program	Pathway 2: Behavior-Analytic Coursework
Degree	Master's degree or higher from an APBA-accredited program or an ABAI-accredited or recognized behavior analysis degree program (ABAI Tier 1, 2a, or 2b)	Master's degree or higher
Behavior-analytic content		Behavior-analytic coursework
Fieldwork	Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis	Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis

Pathway 1



Degree

You must have obtained:

- a master's degree while the program was accredited by [APBA](#); **OR**
- a master's or doctoral degree earned in 2015 or later from a program that was [accredited](#) or recognized by the [ABAI under Tier 1, 2a, or 2b](#).

For example, your degree would meet this degree requirement if you earned a master's or doctoral degree in 2018 from a program that was accredited from 2016 to 2022.

Supervised Fieldwork

You must complete supervised fieldwork in applied behavior analysis. You may accrue fieldwork hours under one or both of the following fieldwork types: (a) Supervised Fieldwork or (b) Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork. The following table provides a general overview of the fieldwork requirements; however, your fieldwork must also meet all additional requirements outlined in the [Supervised Fieldwork Requirements](#) section of the BCBA Handbook.

* Please stay up to date on the [Recent & Upcoming Changes to BACB Requirements](#) for changes to requirements that will go into effect after 2027, such as the 2032 removal of pathway 2 for BCBA certification.

Overview of Fieldwork Requirements		
	Supervised Fieldwork	Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork
Fieldwork hours required to qualify	2,000	1,500
Supervisor qualifications	Supervisors must meet one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be an active BCBA with no current disciplinary sanctions, certified for at least one year, and meeting the ongoing supervision CEU requirement; OR • be an active BCBA with no current disciplinary sanctions, certified for less than one year, and receiving monthly consultation from a qualified consulting supervisor. 	
Supervision hours per supervisory period	5% of hours	7.5% of hours
Fieldwork hours per supervisory period	Minimum of 20 hours—maximum of 160 hours	
Observations of trainee with client per supervisory period	60 min (cumulative)	90 min (cumulative)
Individual supervision hours per supervisory period	At least 50% of supervised hours must be individual (i.e., group supervision may not exceed 50%).	
Unrestricted activities	At least 60% of total supervised fieldwork hours must be spent engaged in unrestricted activities.	

Those applying after January 1, 2027, will need to complete the 2027 Monthly and Final Fieldwork forms:

Individual Supervisor Forms

- [2027 Monthly Fieldwork Verification Form: Individual Supervisor](#)
- [2027 Final Fieldwork Verification Form: Individual Supervisor](#)

Organization Forms

- [2027 Monthly Fieldwork Verification Form: Multiple Supervisors at One Organization](#)
- [2027 Final Fieldwork Verification Form: Multiple Supervisors at One Organization](#)

Examination

You must pass the BCBA examination based on the [BCBA Test Content Outline \(6th ed.\)](#), which went into effect on January 1, 2025.

Pathway 2



Degree

You must have a master's degree or higher from a qualifying institution in any field. The degree may have been earned at any time. Degrees 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, do not meet this requirement.

Behavior-Analytic Coursework

You must complete behavior-analytic coursework that meets the following requirements:

- The coursework was completed in a program with a qualified Pathway 2 Program Contact registered with the BACB.
- The coursework was completed at the master’s or doctoral level at the qualifying institution where you were enrolled.
- The coursework was completed within 10 years of the year the application was submitted (e.g., to apply in 2025, only coursework completed in 2015 or later will be accepted).
- You received academic credit for the coursework.
- The coursework reflects that you received a passing grade (“C” or higher in a graded course or “pass” in a pass/fail system) in each course.
- The entirety of the coursework may not be completed 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.
- The coursework covers all the required content areas and meets the minimum number of instructional hours specified in the following table:

Content Areas and Descriptions	Instructional Hours
Basic Principles of Behavior Course content includes, but is not limited to, the basic concepts and principles of operant and respondent conditioning.	45 hours (within 1 freestanding course)
Theory and Philosophy in Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, the underlying theoretical and philosophical foundations of behavior analysis (i.e., behaviorism).	45 hours (within 1 freestanding course)
Research Methods in Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, measurement, data display and interpretation, single-case designs, intervention and program evaluation, and research ethics.	45 hours (within 1 freestanding course)
Behavior Assessment and Intervention Course content includes, but is not limited to, the selection and implementation of behavior assessment and intervention techniques and approaches from applied behavior analysis. Additionally, the course should cover the identification and integration of client-specific cultural, contextual, and personal variables throughout the assessment process and in the selection of goals and interventions.	90 hours (within 2 freestanding courses)
Organizational Behavior Management Course content includes, but is not limited to, performance analysis and management, supervision, staff training, behavioral systems analysis, organizational culture, and leadership. Additionally, the course should cover the identification and integration of client-specific cultural, contextual, and personal variables throughout the assessment process and in the selection of goals and interventions.	45 hours (within 1 freestanding course)
Ethics in Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, ethical principles, the BACB’s ethics codes and requirements, the BACB’s code-enforcement mechanisms, and professionalism.	45 hours (within 1 freestanding course)
Total	315 hours

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2027 BCBA Maintenance Requirements

To maintain your BCBA certification, you must obtain ongoing continuing education (see the following section); adhere to the BACB's ethics requirements and self-reporting requirements; and submit a recertification application every two years before your recertification date. All other maintenance requirements are outlined in the [BCBA Handbook](#).

Continuing Education Requirements

To maintain your BCBA certification, you are required to obtain 32 continuing education units (CEUs) within each 2-year recertification cycle, including 4 CEUs in ethics and 4 CEUs in supervision (for supervisors). As of March 2025, the definition of Ethics CEU was expanded and clarified as follows:

Ethics continuing education is defined as (a) events related to the BACB's [ethics requirements](#) and/or (b) events related to cultural/contextual responsiveness. The content must relate to behavior-analytic practice or applied research and be directly linked to the behavior-analytic literature and/or established practice. To qualify as Ethics continuing education, most of the event must focus on ethics or cultural/contextual responsiveness. Continuing education events that only briefly reference the BACB's ethics codes and primarily cover unrelated content should not be offered as Ethics continuing education.