



# Recent Changes to ACE Provider Requirements

(Released August 2025)

Continuing education for BCBAs and BCaBAs, as well as professional development for RBTs, is a valuable way to encourage certificants to expand and refine their behavior-analytic skills while staying current with evolving research and practice developments. As the applied behavior analysis profession continues to grow and mature, so does the importance of high-quality continuing education and professional development. As a result, the BACB is increasing certain requirements for Authorized Continuing Education (ACE) Providers and will be conducting periodic reviews to help support quality and ensure compliance with BACB rules. These improvements aim to foster greater consistency, reliability, and excellence in ACE events, ultimately raising their overall quality and value.

This document highlights significant changes to ACE requirements so that ACE Providers can prepare accordingly.

## Significant Changes to ACE Requirements

In addition to a number of minor requirements updates and clarifications (e.g., more details regarding event format and monitoring participation at ACE events) in the new [ACE Provider Handbook: Effective July 1, 2026](#), the following table describes significant changes to ACE requirements:

| ACE Requirement Change and Rationale  | Implementation Details  | Effective Date     |
|---|---|--------------------|
| <p><b>New ACE Coordinators must be actively certified and in good standing as BCBAs for at least 5 years.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> ACE Coordinators have significant responsibilities that impact numerous certificants and their certifications. This new requirement ensures that BCBAs have at least a half decade of practical experience before taking on these new, important responsibilities.</p>   | <p>Current ACE Coordinators can remain in their positions, even if they have not been certified for 5 years, as long as they continue to maintain their ACE Provider status.</p> <p>If their ACE Provider status expires or an ACE Coordinator changes, the new ACE Coordinator must meet the updated requirements when reapplying to be an ACE Provider or submitting an ACE Coordinator Change application.</p>   | <p>Immediately</p> |
| <p><b>New Organization ACE Providers must be incorporated, registered, or otherwise recognized as legal entities.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> ACE Provider status grants the ability to engage in economic activity with BACB certificants. Requiring corporate status for ACE Organization Providers will help protect all parties, especially during conflicts, and facilitate transparency of ownership and accountability.</p>   | <p>Organizations must be recognized as legal entities to apply to become Organization ACE Providers.</p>  | <p>Immediately</p> |
| <p><b>A member of the organization’s leadership team must complete an attestation as part of the Organization ACE Provider Initial or Renewal application.</b></p> <p><b>ACE Coordinators for Organization ACE Providers must be employed by the organization or have a contractual relationship with the organization.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> These changes help protect the organization and the ACE Coordinator, ensuring there is a documented relationship between them and that the organization has authorized the ACE Provider application. This change also allows the BACB to include organization leadership in communications with the ACE Coordinator, if necessary.</p> | <p>See the new <a href="#">ACE Initial Organization Application</a> and the new <a href="#">ACE Renewal Organization Application</a> for more details.</p> <p>All new Initial and Renewal applications, as well as ACE Coordinator Change applications, will require the ACE Coordinator and Organization Representative to attest that this relationship is in place.</p> <p>Current ACE Providers will not need to meet this requirement until they submit their yearly Renewal application or an ACE Coordinator Change application.</p> | <p>Immediately</p> |

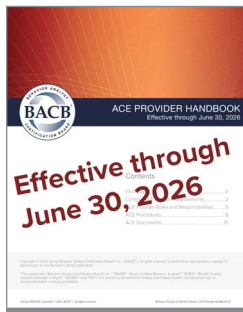
| ACE Requirement Change and Rationale  | Implementation Details   | Effective Date         |
|---|--|------------------------|
| <p><b>Added guidance on providing professional development (PD) for RBTs.</b></p>   | <p>Guidelines for ACE PD events are included in the <a href="#">RBT Professional Development for ACE Providers</a> document and the <a href="#">ACE Provider Handbook: Effective July 1, 2026</a>.</p> | <p>January 1, 2026</p> |
| <p><b>Requirements for ACE Instructor qualifications and expertise have been updated.</b></p> <p>An ACE Instructor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hold an active BCBA certification; OR</li> <li>• have a doctorate in behavior analysis; OR</li> <li>• have a doctorate and meet other requirements, such as doctoral coursework, mentorship, publications, or postdoctoral experience.</li> </ul> <p>An ACE Instructor must also demonstrate expertise in the topic. Evidence of expertise must include one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a track record of published peer-reviewed research or books on the subject</li> <li>• at least 5 years of practical experience with the subject (e.g., direct service delivery, personal engagement with the subject)</li> <li>• at least 3 years of experience teaching, providing training, or mentoring on the subject</li> <li>• a combination of the expertise categories described above (e.g., 4 years of practical experience and 1 year of teaching)</li> </ul> <p><b>Rationale:</b> These changes reflect the first increases to ACE Instructor qualifications and expertise requirements since the inception of the ACE program. These updates aim to increase the quality and rigor of CE events. The expanded qualifications for CE Instructors provide more clarity on who is qualified to be an instructor. The expertise requirements will promote greater continuity between CE events, rather than leaving the determination of expertise solely up to each ACE Coordinator.</p> | <p>All new ACE events as of July 1, 2026, will need to meet these requirements.</p>  | <p>July 1, 2026</p>    |
| <p><b>All Organization ACE Providers must be incorporated, registered, or otherwise recognized as legal entities.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> ACE Provider status grants the ability to engage in economic activity with BACB certificants. Requiring corporate status for ACE Organization Providers will help protect all parties, especially during conflicts, and facilitate transparency of ownership and accountability.</p>   | <p>Existing Organization ACE Providers will need to be recognized as legal entities as of their first renewal after July 1, 2026.</p>  | <p>July 1, 2026</p>    |
| <p><b>Clarified that co-presenters may only present a portion of the ACE event.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Co-presenters are not qualified as ACE instructors; therefore, they may not solely present an ACE event. They may present a portion of an ACE event along with and under the direct oversight of a qualified ACE Instructor who is present at the event.</p>   | <p>All new ACE events as of July 1, 2026, will need to meet these requirements.</p>  | <p>July 1, 2026</p>    |

| ACE Requirement Change and Rationale  | Implementation Details  | Effective Date      |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <p><b>Clarified that reading an article and conducting a knowledge check may not count as an ACE event.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> These kinds of ACE events, which were never identified as an acceptable CE type in the ACE Provider Handbook, do not meet the duration requirements for ACE events and raise questions about profiting from another author’s intellectual property. However, certificants can participate in a journal club to earn CEUs or PDUs for keeping up with current literature. See the <a href="#">ACE Provider Handbook: Effective July 1, 2026</a> for more details.</p> | <p>All new ACE events as of July 1, 2026, will need to meet these requirements.</p> | <p>July 1, 2026</p> |

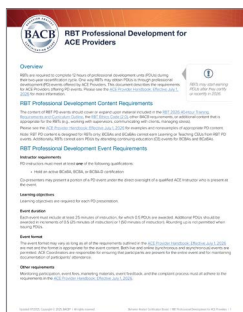
In addition to the changes above, the ACE Provider Directory is now called the [ACE Provider Verification Registry](#). This change allows BACB certificants to confirm an ACE Provider’s status with the BACB.

## Full Updated Requirements

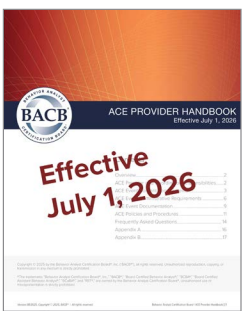
For more information about these and other changes that will go into effect on July 1, 2026, please review the following resources:



**Current ACE Provider Handbook: Effective through June 30, 2026:** The changes that go into effect **immediately** have been incorporated into the current ACE Provider Handbook.



**RBT Professional Development for ACE Providers: Effective January 1, 2026:** Includes requirements for ACE Providers developing new professional development events for RBTs.



**ACE Provider Handbook: Effective July 1, 2026:** The changes that go into effect on July 1, 2026, are located in the updated ACE Provider Handbook. In addition to the changes described above, this updated version of the ACE Provider Handbook has undergone extensive revisions to include further elaborations, clarifications, and other minor requirement updates.

## ACE Provider Next Steps

ACE Providers should carefully review the [ACE Provider Handbook: Effective July 1, 2026](#) to familiarize themselves with all of the updates. They should compare the new ACE requirements with their existing ACE Provider policies and procedures and make updates as needed to ensure that the new requirements can be met as of July 1, 2026.