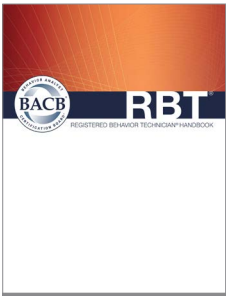




Guidance for Meeting RBT Requirements During the 2026 Transition

If you are unsure whether you will apply for RBT certification before or after **January 1, 2026**—when the new RBT requirements go into effect—or you are a current RBT seeking guidance on how the new recertification requirements will affect you, this document is a valuable resource to help you plan during the transition period.

Review the current and new requirements carefully, particularly if you are unsure whether you will apply before or after January 1, 2026. As a reminder, if you do not apply and meet the current requirements before January 1, 2026, you must meet the new requirements that take effect on that date.



Eligibility Requirements

Age, Education, Criminal Background, and Abuse Registry Check

Must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school-level education or equivalent, and undergo a criminal background check and an abuse registry check reviewed by an attestor.

Transition information:

There are no changes to these requirements; RBT applicants must continue to meet the same criteria as before.

Training and Competency Assessment Requirements

Updated 40-hour Training

- Aligned with the new [RBT 2026 40-Hour Training Requirements and Curriculum Outline](#)
- The training certificate must state:
 - This training program is designed to meet the 2026 training eligibility requirement for RBT certification.*
 - The training is offered independent of the BACB.*
- Your trainers must be active BCBAs or BCaBAs who have completed an [8-hour supervision training](#). They may also have assistants who hold an RBT certification or higher.

Updated RBT Initial Competency Assessment

- Includes slight changes to content and assessment options
- Requires Assistant Assessors to hold an RBT certification or higher

Transition information:

Application Timing	40-Hour Training Requirement	Required Training Certificate Approval Statement	Competency Assessment Requirement
Before January 1, 2026	Must meet current training requirements	<i>This training program is based on the RBT Task List (2nd ed.) and is designed to meet the 40-hour training requirement for RBT certification. The program is offered independent of the BACB.</i>	Complete the RBT Initial Competency Assessment after 40-hour training
On or After January 1, 2026	Must meet 2026 training requirements	<i>This training program is designed to meet the 2026 training eligibility requirement for RBT certification. The training is offered independent of the BACB.</i>	Complete the updated RBT Initial Competency Assessment* after 40-hour training that meets 2026 requirements

* The updated RBT Initial Competency Assessment will be available soon. Check the BACB website for updates.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ What if I had an application approved prior to January 1, 2026, but I did not schedule my examination or did not pass before January 1, 2026? Do I need to complete a new training?
 - If your application was approved before January 1, 2026, that approval lasts for a 12-month period. You may take the RBT examination up to 8 times within the 12 months following your initial examination approval. You will not need to meet the new requirements because your application was approved before they went into effect.
 - If your application approval expired before January 1, 2026, you will need to complete the new training and the most up-to-date version of the RBT Initial Competency Assessment before reapplying.
- ▶ What if I was certified prior to January 1, 2026, and I let my certification lapse? Do I need to complete a new training to reapply?
 - If your certification lapses on or after January 1, 2026, and you wish to reapply, you will need to complete the new training and then the most up-to-date version of the RBT Initial Competency Assessment before reapplying.
- ▶ What if I had an application approved prior to January 1, 2026, but it expired before that date? Will I have to complete a new training?
 - If the training you previously completed **did not include** the updated approval statement and your application approval expired before January 1, 2026, you will need to complete a new 40-hour training and the most up-to-date version of the RBT Initial Competency Assessment after the training.
 - If the training you previously completed **did include** the updated approval statement, you will not need to complete a new 40-hour training. However, you will still need to complete the most up-to-date version of the RBT Initial Competency Assessment.
- ▶ What if I completed a training that has the new approval statement on the certificate (i.e., the training meets the 2026 requirements), but I want to apply before 2026?
 - If your training certificate only includes the new approval statement, you must wait until January 1, 2026, to apply. If you want to apply before then, the certificate must also include the current approval statement.
- ▶ If I completed the training under the previous requirements, is there a “bridge” course, or will I need to complete the full training again?
 - You will need to complete the full training again.
- ▶ If I complete the new training, will I need to complete a new RBT Initial Competency Assessment?
 - Yes, the RBT Initial Competency Assessment has also been updated for 2026 and must be completed after the 40-hour training.

Maintenance Requirements: Applies to RBTs Recertifying in 2028 and After

Supervision

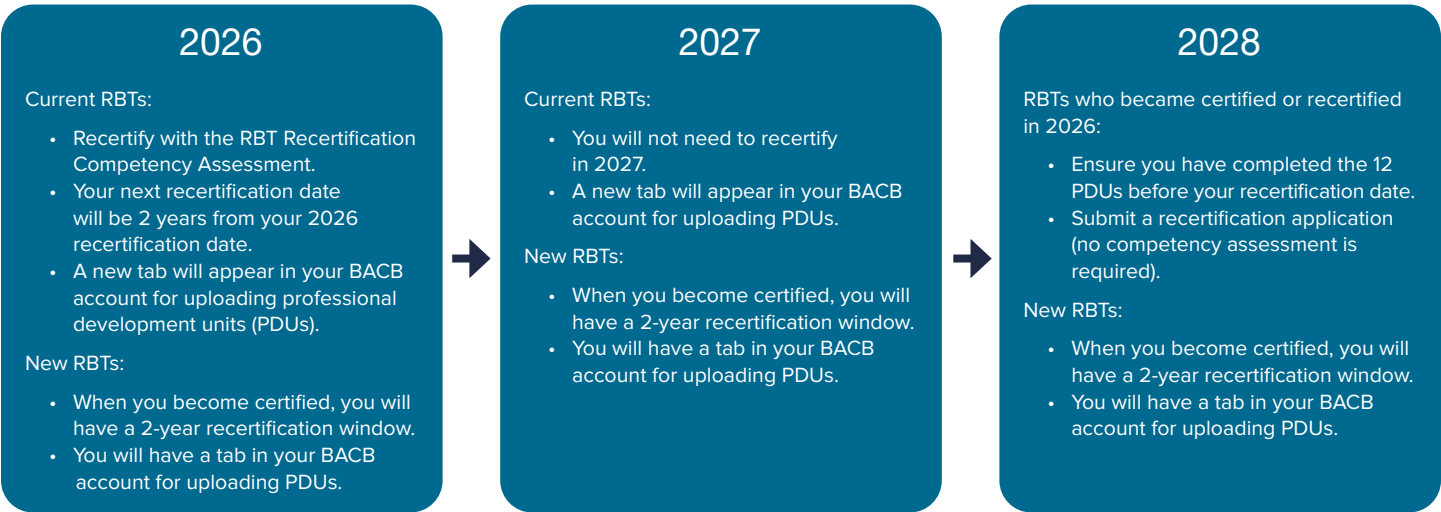
Must be supervised for a minimum of 5% of the hours spent providing behavior-analytic services in a calendar month, including two face-to-face contacts, at least one of which must be an individual meeting.

Transition information:

There are no changes to these requirements; RBT applicants must continue to receive supervision from a qualified supervisor.

Recertification Updates

See the following infographic for more information about how to certify or recertify in each upcoming year.



Professional Development Options

Professional development units (PDUs) can be earned in three ways. See the following for more information.



Transition information:

- Be prepared to complete the [RBT Recertification Competency Assessment](#) through your recertification in 2026.
- Start thinking about areas where you would like to pursue professional development (PD) and talk with your supervisor to develop a plan. Consider identifying topics of interest, potential PD opportunities, and discussing how to ensure completion of 12 PDUs during your new 2-year cycle.

Return from Voluntary Inactive Status

- RBTs returning from voluntary inactive status (VIS) must complete a Reentry Competency Assessment.
 - This assessment is identical to the current RBT Recertification Competency Assessment.

Transition information:

- RBTs who apply for VIS **before their 2026 recertification** will pause their 1-year cycle. When they return from VIS, their 1-year cycle will resume. When it is time to recertify, they will be required to meet current (pre-2026) requirements, including completion of the RBT Recertification Competency Assessment. After that recertification, they will move to a 2-year cycle and follow updated requirements for their next recertification.
- RBTs who apply for VIS **after their 2026 recertification** will pause their 2-year cycle. When they return from VIS, their 2-year cycle will resume. When it is time to recertify, they must meet all 2026 recertification requirements, including completion of 12 PDUs.