



## Keeping Up with the Evolution in Our Field

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# We're Growing So Fast!

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Last year included a number of milestones for the BACB. With nearly 7,000 certificants, the BACB has outgrown its current certification management services. Though grateful to our contracted provider for those services over the past few years, the BACB felt it was time to offer an in-house level of customer service. This decision sparked a number of changes.

As of January 1, 2009, all BACB certificant services are being performed in-house. This means that when you contact the BACB, your request goes directly to BACB staff. As always, we strongly encourage you to contact us via email at [info@bacb.com](mailto:info@bacb.com) so that you will have a written record of the information we provide. However, we now have a dedicated phone number, which we're happy to share. It is **850-765-0905**. This line will be staffed from 1:00p.m-4:00p.m. Eastern, Monday through Thursday, for answering applicant and certificant questions. If we are unable to answer, or if you call at other times, please leave a message and we will respond as quickly as possible. We are aware that, in the past, responses were not always provided as quickly as they should have been. Our goal over the next few weeks is to substantially decrease those response times to ensure that you have the information you need quickly.

Despite the changes we've made, one thing that will remain is the friendly voice on the other end of the line. Burke Hamilton, our Staff Assistant, comes to us from our former contracted provider, where he has worked on BACB matters for nearly 2 years.

We know that many of you looked at our online certificant portal during its earliest stages. We are pleased to report that the portal is

now fully ready for certificants to use. We encourage you to visit <http://portal.bacb.com> to sign up, login and explore your personal profile. You may make changes to your contact information, let us know more about you, renew, recertify and even keep track of your continuing education. We would also like to invite all certificants due to renew in March to do so using the portal.

We would like to extend our thanks to those of you who assisted in the testing and launching of the online system. Although there were a few glitches that required fixing; overall the launch was a huge milestone for the BACB.

On another note, we know that there were a few issues related to our new database system and to transferring the BACB website to a new server. Perhaps of greatest concern was that some newly certified individuals were not listed in the online Certificant Registry in a timely manner. We encourage you to check your listing at [www.BACB.com](http://www.BACB.com) and let us know if you find any errors. With so many certificants, it is a great help when you take the time to point out any problems that you find.

Finally, we want to thank you for your patience and input during all of these changes. We know there will likely be a few more glitches before the new systems are problem free. We hope your certification experience will be painless, but should you encounter an issue with the online certificant portal or online registry, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.



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# Learning Through Appeal One Person Can Make a Difference

Recently, the BACB received a complimentary letter from an individual who successfully availed herself of the BACB appeal process. As a result of her personal appeal, the BACB Board of Directors unanimously voted to modify the degree requirement for BCBA's. Specifically, the BACB previously required all BCBA's to have a bachelors and masters degree. However, some graduate programs in accredited universities award masters degrees to certain individuals who do not have an undergraduate degree. Thus, some individuals with masters degrees could have been denied certification eligibility because they did not meet the bachelors requirement.

As a result of the appeal, the Board of Directors has revised the bachelors degree requirement so that BCBA applicants with a masters degree who take all of the required coursework from an approved course sequence (or sequences) may qualify without the bachelors degree.

We expect this change will help make the certification process more accessible to qualified professionals. We would like to extend our appreciation to the individual who pursued this appeal. Sometimes it just takes one person to make a real difference.

# Keeping Up with the Evolution of our Field

## **Recognition of Our Doctoral Level BCBA's**

For a number of years, certificants, employers and consumers have expressed a desire for a doctoral level recognition. This was perhaps most evident in our 2006 survey of certificants, where just over half of the respondents indicated that the BACB should offer a doctoral level certification.

This coming year, the BACB will begin a process called a Job Analysis update, which will ensure that the BACB examinations are up-to-date with the current state of the field. In addition to updating the certifications that are currently offered, a Job Analysis Update presents an ideal opportunity to expand the types of credentials we offer. In anticipation of this expansion, the BACB began accepting applications for a doctoral-level credential on December 15, 2008. This recognition is available to certain doctoral level BCBA's, if they meet requirements that were outlined in the following resolution, approved by the BACB Board of Directors:

**1.** To maintain the BCBA as a Master's level credential;

**2.** To recognize certain Doctoral level BCBA's by permitting use of the credential "BCBA-D" and/or "Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral," for those BCBA certificants who:

**A.** Apply to the BACB prior to June 1, 2009;

**B.** Pay the doctoral fee, when assessed (currently anticipated to be between \$25.00 and \$50.00 - no fee is due at application, fees are not due until the individual's next annual renewal or recertification point);

**C.** Demonstrate they are actively certified as a BCBA AND have earned a doctorate degree conferred from an accredited university or program in applied behavior analysis, other human services, education field, or other field approved by the BACB and strongly related to applied behavior analysis; AND

**D.** Demonstrate they: (i). used graduate-level university coursework to qualify for the BCBA; or (ii) have taught courses in behavior



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analysis in a university program with a BACB approved course sequence full-time for at least two years; AND

3. Sign a declaration attesting that they qualified for the BCBA under 2D(i) or 2D(ii), above.

Even though it was made available only about a month ago, the BACB has already received over 400 online applications (electronic declarations are acceptable as signed declarations). We are working to confirm this overwhelming number of applications as quickly as possible. We have received predominantly supportive feedback about this change.

The BACB will begin conducting the Job Analysis update in early 2009 and, following June 1, 2009, may implement additional standards for the BCBA-D credential.

Please note that, the doctoral credential recognition is not available to all BCBA with doctoral degrees. The "BCBA-D" credential may not be used by BCBA who qualified under an option that did not include graduate level university coursework or teaching in an approved course sequence as identified in 2 (e) of the resolution. Of course, these individuals may still represent their BCBA certification and their degree as Ph.D., or other distinction awarded, so long as they do not use the "BCBA-D" credential.

Please keep in mind that we expect this recognition will likely evolve over time, just as the BCBA and BCaBA credentials have evolved. The Job Analysis update process will include considerable input from many behavior analysts. The Board of Directors will consider those recommendations along with your comments during its 2009 Annual Meeting. Additional changes or requirements may be put into place for this recognition, as deemed necessary by

the Board of Directors. Please visit the [Maintain Certification](#) page of [www.BACB.com](http://www.BACB.com) for more information and to apply for the BCBA-D recognition.

### **ABA-Tech™ Level Practitioners**

The BACB has been listening to you! The recent recognition of doctoral level candidates with the BCBA-D™ credential is just the beginning of our efforts to respond to the field's needs. As mentioned above, during the Job Analysis update for the existing credentials we will seek subject matter input from BACB certificants on the BCBA-D credential. We will also seek similar input on the possibility of an ABA-Tech™ level recognition for individuals who implement behavior plans. We expect that the requirements of the ABA-Tech recognition will reflect the education and training necessary for implementation of behavior plans.

The BACB has been working closely with the Department of Defense in developing a blueprint for ABA-Tech level recognition. Dr. Shook, CEO, personally laid the groundwork for coordination with the Department of Defense in assessing the needs for an ABA-Tech level recognition. Originally, the BACB considered developing the ABA-Tech pursuant to a joint effort of the BACB and the U.S. Department of Defense. In September of 2008, however, the BACB decided to pursue this endeavor independent of the Department of Defense and to make the recognition open to all applicants, not just those affiliated with the Department of Defense.

It is clear that 2009 promises to be an exciting time for the field. Watch your newsletters and e-mail alerts from the BACB for more information about ABA-Tech recognition standards.

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## Notice to Approved Continuing Education Providers

Recently, there have been a few changes to the requirements for providers. Please review the revised [Requirements and Guidelines document](#) for up-to-date information on what is required of you as an ACE provider. In particular, please note that the update includes a new requirement that you must "Ensure that procedures are in place and adhered to that disclose any affiliation(s) with companies, products and/or services that may be featured during a Type 2 CE

event. These disclosures must be made to participants prior to their registration for the event."

Also, be on the lookout for information later this year regarding the BACB's online certificant portal. We have been working on functions that will allow ACE providers to upload CEU information to certificant online profiles, potentially doing away with those pesky paper certificates. We will let you know when these functions become available.

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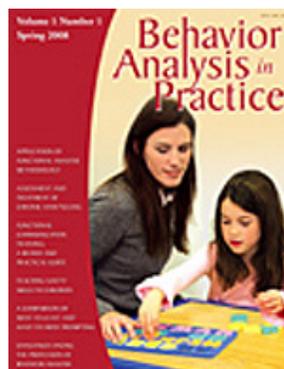
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**Behavior Analysis in Practice**, is a new journal published by the Association for Behavior Analysis. BAP is a peer-reviewed translational publication designed to provide science-based, best-practices information relevant to service delivery in behavior analysis. The target audience includes front-line service workers and their supervisors, scientist-practitioners, and school personnel. Please see the following page for the Table of Contents of the most recent issue of **Behavior Analysis in Practice**.

# Behavior Analysis *in* Practice

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Cover: Behavioral Consultant Austin Jackson, Ph.D. and Marilyn Rahming, Ph.D., principal for Pineview Elementary School in Leon County Schools, FL.  
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