



Guidance for Those Applying for BCBA Certification During the 2022 Transition

If you are unsure whether you will apply for BCBA certification before or after January 1, 2022, when the new eligibility requirements go into effect, we recommend planning ahead to ensure that you meet **both** the current and new requirements. This document is provided as a resource you can use with your supervisor, advisor, and VCS Coordinator, among others, for planning purposes.

Review the [current and new requirements](#) carefully, and remember that if you have not met the current requirements and applied before January 1, 2022, you must meet the new requirements that go into effect as of 2022.

Specific Guidance for Those Who Are Unsure

The following sections provide targeted considerations for those who are unsure whether they will apply under the current or new requirements:

Degree

- ▶ [Applicants who have a graduate degree that is **not** in psychology, education, or behavior analysis](#)
- ▶ [Applicants who have a graduate degree from an ABAI-accredited master's or doctoral program](#)

Coursework

- ▶ [Applicants who are enrolled in some or all 4th edition courses and plan to apply **on or after** January 1, 2022](#)
- ▶ [Applicants who are enrolled in some 2022 requirements courses in a VCS and plan to apply **before** January 1, 2022](#)
- ▶ [Applicants who are enrolled in a **full** VCS that meets the 2022 requirements and plan to apply **before** January 1, 2022](#)

Experience and Fieldwork

- ▶ [Trainees who are accruing experience/fieldwork hours and are unsure whether they will apply before or after 2022](#)

Examination

- ▶ [Candidates whose BCBA applications were approved before January 1, 2022](#)



We must receive an approvable application (i.e., application submitted, fee paid, all necessary documents received) before January 1, 2022, for it to be considered under the current BCBA eligibility requirements.

Degree

The BCBA degree requirements will change minimally, but there are two differences worth noting:

- ▶ **Applicants who have a graduate degree that is *not* in psychology, education, or behavior analysis:** As of January 1, 2022, a graduate degree from any field of study will be accepted. However, you must meet all of the other eligibility requirements in effect at that time, including the 2022 coursework and fieldwork requirements.
- ▶ **Applicants who have a graduate degree from an ABAI-accredited master’s or doctoral program:** Under this new pathway, if you have a graduate degree from an ABAI-accredited program, you do not need to meet the 2022 coursework requirements. However, if you apply before 2022, you must demonstrate that you meet the 4th edition coursework requirements. If you plan to follow the 2022 Pathway 1 option but might apply early, meet with your VCS Coordinator to ensure that your coursework will meet the 4th edition requirements.

Not sure if your degree qualifies under the current requirements? You can request a [preliminary degree evaluation](#) before submitting a BCBA Certification Application.

Coursework

The BCBA coursework requirements will change in several ways (e.g., freestanding requirements, number of content hours, content hour categories). The following guidance and conversion tables may help during this transition:

- ▶ **Applicants who are enrolled in some or all 4th edition courses and plan to apply on or after January 1, 2022:** Most of your coursework content hours can be applied toward the 2022 requirements (see the following table).

Next steps:

1. With your advisor or VCS Coordinator, identify the content hours for the courses that you have completed.
2. Use the following table to convert those hours to those in the 2022 requirements content areas.
3. Compare those hours to the 2022 coursework requirements.



Why was this change made?

Due to increased coursework and fieldwork requirements that more closely reflect the academic requirements of other reputable master’s programs, and for the added benefit of certifying individuals with diverse training backgrounds and connections to other professional communities, the previous field-of-study restriction has been removed (as of January 1, 2022).



On September 16, 2021, the BACB introduced an option for current BCBA-certified VCS Coordinators to review coursework and attest that all coursework requirements have been met. Speak with your VCS Coordinator to see if this option is right for you. If not, the following information can help you determine how your courses will be considered under different sets of requirements.

Conversion Table: Enrolled in 4th Edition Hours and Applying AFTER January 1, 2022		
4th Edition Content Area		2022 Requirements Content Area
Ethical and Professional Conduct (45 hrs; <i>one or more freestanding courses, i.e., the entire course was devoted to ethics and professional conduct</i>)	➔	BACB Ethics Code and Code Enforcement Systems; Professionalism (45 hrs; <i>one or more freestanding courses</i>)
Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (45 hrs)	➔	Concepts and Principles (45 hrs; <i>one freestanding course</i>)
	➔	Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts and Principles (45 hrs; <i>if the course is not freestanding or has already met the freestanding requirement</i>)

Measurement (25 hrs); Experimental Design (20 hrs)	→	Measurement, Data Display, and Interpretation; Experimental Design (45 hrs; <i>one freestanding course</i>)
		If your course was not freestanding, it will not count under the 2022 requirements.
Identification of the Problem and Assessment (30 hrs)	→	Behavior Assessment (45 hrs)
Fundamental Elements of Behavior Change and Specific Behavior Change Procedures (45 hrs); Intervention and Behavior Change Considerations (10 hrs); & Behavior Change Systems (10 hrs)	→	Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Intervention (60 hrs)
Implementation, Management, & Supervision (10 hrs)	→	Personnel Supervision and Management (30 hrs)
Discretionary ABA (30 hrs)		No hours awarded.
TOTAL: 270 hrs		TOTAL: 315 hrs

- **Applicants who are enrolled in some 2022 requirements courses in a VCS and plan to apply before January 1, 2022:** Your coursework content hours can be applied to 4th edition content hours (see the following table).

Next steps:

1. With your advisor or VCS Coordinator, identify the content hours for the courses that you have completed.
2. Use the following table to convert those hours to those in the 4th edition content areas.
3. Compare those hours to the 4th edition coursework requirements.

Conversion Table: Enrolled in 2022 Requirements Hours and Applying BEFORE January 1, 2022		
4th Edition Content Area		2022 Requirements Content Area
Ethical and Professional Conduct (45 hrs)	←	BACB Ethics Code and Code Enforcement Systems; Professionalism (45 hrs)
Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (45 hrs)	←	Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts and Principles (90 hrs)
Measurement (25 hrs); Experimental Design (20 hrs)	←	Measurement, Data Display, and Interpretation; Experimental Design (45 hrs)
Identification of the Problem and Assessment (30 hrs)	←	Behavior Assessment (45 hrs)
Fundamental Elements of Behavior Change and Specific Behavior Change Procedures (45 hrs); Intervention and Behavior Change Considerations (10 hrs); Behavior Change Systems (10 hrs); Implementation, Management, and Supervision (10 hrs)	←	Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Interventions (60 hrs); Personnel Supervision and Management (30 hrs)
Discretionary ABA (30 hrs)*		
TOTAL: 270 hrs		TOTAL: 315 hrs

*Excess hours under any of the content areas will be used toward the discretionary area.

- ▶ **Applicants who are enrolled in a full VCS that meets the 2022 requirements and plan to apply before January 1, 2022:** You should meet both the 4th edition and 2022 requirements. However, it is still worth confirming with your VCS instructor that you took a full sequence based on the dates that you completed the courses. For instance, sometimes a course has the same names and numbers under both requirements, but the content hours change on a certain date.



How do I determine my courses' content areas and content hours?

- If you have completed courses in a VCS, meet with your VCS Coordinator to review which content hours are on record for the course with ABAI and, if needed, use the conversion tables to determine how many hours you have under the relevant requirements. Make sure that you are looking at the course's name, number, and the dates when the content hours were taught because when courses change, the content hours might be different and might not meet certain requirements.
- If you have completed behavior-analytic courses that are not in a VCS, meet with your instructor and chair to determine whether they will sign a [4th edition](#) or [2022](#) Nonverified Course Content Attestation.

Not sure your coursework qualifies? You can request a [preliminary coursework evaluation](#) before submitting a BCBA Certification Application. We will only evaluate coursework through a preliminary coursework evaluation or certification application.

Experience and Fieldwork

All experience and fieldwork must meet the requirements in place at the time of submitting a certification application.

- ▶ **Trainees who are accruing experience/fieldwork hours and are unsure whether they will apply before or after 2022:** We strongly recommend that you meet **both** sets of requirements to ensure that your hours will count. This includes:
 - meeting all experience and fieldwork requirements (see the following table)
 - completing documentation under both systems (e.g., completing a Monthly **Experience** Verification Form and a Monthly **Fieldwork** Verification Form)
 - maintaining documentation systems for both so that, in the event of an audit, you can demonstrate that you are meeting the relevant requirements (e.g., number of observations, number of contacts)
 - ensuring that all of your hours that meet the current requirements are accrued within a 5-year time frame

Note: Depending on when you apply, submit the forms that correspond with the requirements you are applying under.



If you completed your experience hours under the current experience requirements (i.e., not the fieldwork requirements), you might not be able to count those hours beginning in 2022. This might be the case **even if** you accrue more hours to meet the overall hour requirements because of differences in the requirements (e.g., number of contacts).

If your experience meets the fieldwork requirements, but you did **not** complete Monthly Fieldwork Verification Forms (M-FVFs), please maintain documentation to support that you met the fieldwork requirements in the event of an audit. Your supervisor may sign a Final Fieldwork Verification Form (F-FVF) if they can agree to all of the attestations on the form (e.g., that all of the hours met the fieldwork requirements). However, make sure you use M-FVFs from that point on, if applicable.

Requirements to Meet Both Experience and Fieldwork Requirements

	Supervised Independent Fieldwork (Exp.) OR Practicum (Exp.)/Supervised Fieldwork (Field.)	Intensive Practicum (Exp.)/ Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork (Field.)
Experience/Fieldwork Hours Required to Qualify	2000	1500
Experience/Fieldwork Hours per Supervisory Period	min of 20 hrs–max of 130 hrs	
Supervisory Period	1 calendar month	
Minimum Number of Supervisor-Trainee Contacts per Supervisory Period	4	8
Observations of Trainee with Client per Supervisory Period	2	4
Supervision Hours per Supervisory Period	5%	10%
Minimum % of Unrestricted Hours Across Total Supervision	At least 60% of total hours must be unrestricted.	
Individual Supervision Hours per Supervisory Period	At least 50% of supervised hours must be individual (i.e., group supervision may not exceed 50%).	
Course Grade in Verified Experience Course(s)	For Practicum experience, a passing grade in all Verified Experience Courses	Passing grade in all Verified Experience Courses

Not sure if you are meeting both the current experience and fieldwork requirements? You can review your documentation system, Monthly and Final Experience and Fieldwork Verification Forms, and this page with your supervisor to ensure that all of the requirements have been met.



New BCBA's who are supervising trainees:

Beginning January 1, 2022, if you provide supervision to BCBA and BCaBA trainees who are accruing fieldwork hours, you must meet with a consulting supervisor each month in which you provide supervision for the remainder of your first year as a BCBA. For example, if you became certified on June 1, 2021, you would need a consulting supervisor for each month in which you provide supervision to trainees from January 1, 2022, to May 31, 2022.

Please note that this requirement does not apply to the following:

- BCBA's providing supervision to trainees **before** January 1, 2022;
- BCBA's who have been certified as BCBA's for **more than** one year;
- BCBA's in their first year who are **not** providing supervision to trainees accruing fieldwork hours; OR
- BCBA's providing ongoing supervision to **only** RBT's or BCaBA's.

The details of this requirement can be found in the [Consulting Supervisor Requirements for New BCBA's Supervising Fieldwork](#) document.

Examination

- **Candidates whose BCBA applications were approved before January 1, 2022:** Your two-year examination authorization will continue into the introduction of examinations under the [BCBA Task List \(5th ed.\)](#) on January 1, 2022. Therefore, if you do not pass the certification examination before January 1, 2022, and have remaining attempts, you will be required to take the examination under the 5th edition task list.

Comparison Table: 4th and 5th Edition Task Lists		
4th Edition Task List		5th Edition Task List
Basic Behavior-Analytic Skills D. Measurement E. Experimental Design F. Behavior-Change Considerations G. Fundamental Elements of Behavior-Change H. Specific Behavior-Change Procedures I. Behavior-Change Systems	→	Foundations A. Philosophical Underpinnings B. Concepts and Principles C. Measurement, Data Display, and Interpretation D. Experimental Design
Client-Centered Responsibilities G. Identification of the Problem H. Measurement I. Assessment J. Intervention K. Implementation, Management, and Supervision	→	Applications E. Ethics F. Behavior Assessment G. Behavior-Change Procedures H. Selecting and Implementing Interventions I. Personnel Supervision and Management
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 150		TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 175

The following table provides the years in which the examination transitions from the 4th edition task list to the 5th edition task list based on the initial year of your authorization date.

Year Initial Application Was Approved	Year Exam Authorization Will Expire	Years in Authorization Under the 4th Edition Task List	Years in Authorization Under the 5th Edition Task List
2019	2021	2019–2021	N/A
2020	2022	2020–2021	2022
2021	2023	2021	2022–2023
2022	2024	N/A	2022–2024