



Guidance for Those Applying for BCaBA Certification during the 2022 Transition

If you are unsure whether you will apply for BCaBA 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 the new requirements. As such, this document is provided as a resource you can use with your supervisor, advisor, VCS Coordinator, etc. for planning purposes.

Review the [current and new requirements](#) carefully, particularly if you are unsure whether you will apply before or after January 1, 2022. As a reminder, if you have not applied and met the current requirements before January 1, 2022, you will need to 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 be applying under the current or new requirements:

Degree

[Applicants who completed a degree outside the United States](#)

[Applicants who are completing a bachelor's degree from an ABAI-accredited bachelor's program](#)

Coursework

[Applicants who are enrolled in some or all 4th edition courses and plan to apply on or after January 1, 2022 \(i.e., when the 5th edition task list will be in effect\)](#)

[Applicants who are enrolled in some 5th edition courses at a VCS and plan to apply before January 1, 2022 \(i.e., when the 4th edition task list is in effect\)](#)

[Applicants who are enrolled in a FULL 5th edition sequence at a VCS](#)

Experience and Fieldwork

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

Examination

[Applicants who are authorized to sit for the examination on January 1, 2022, or later](#)

Degree

While the BCaBA degree requirements have minimal changes, there are two differences worth noting:

Applicants who completed a degree outside the United States – under the current requirements, if your degree is not *equivalent* to a bachelor’s degree from the US, your degree would not meet the BCaBA degree requirement. Your degree may qualify starting in 2022 if it would qualify you for a graduate program in your country. If your degree does not qualify under the current requirements, you will need to wait until 2022 AND meet all of the other eligibility requirements in effect at that time.

Applicants who are completing a bachelor’s degree from an ABAI-accredited bachelor’s program – under this new pathway, you do not need to meet the 5th edition coursework requirements if you have completed a degree at an ABAI-accredited program. However, if you apply prior to 2022, you will need to 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 your degree qualifies under the current requirements? You can request a [preliminary degree evaluation](#) prior to submitting a BCaBA Certification Application. Note: The BACB will start conducting degree equivalency evaluations for the new eligibility requirement as of January 1, 2021.

Coursework

The coursework requirements will change in several ways under the 5th edition coursework requirements (e.g., freestanding requirements, number of content hours, content hour categories). Below is guidance regarding the transition in coursework requirements:

Applicants who are enrolled in some or all 4th edition courses and plan to apply on or after January 1, 2022 (i.e., when the 5th Edition Task List will be in effect) – *most* of your course content hours can be applied toward the 5th edition requirements (see the table below).

Next steps: (1) With your advisor or VCS Coordinator, identify the content hours for the courses that you have completed, (2) use the table below to convert the hours to 5th edition content hours, and (3) compare those hours to the 5th edition coursework requirements.

| Conversion Table: Enrolled in 4th Edition Hours and Applying AFTER January 1, 2022 | | |
|--|---|--|
| 4th Edition Content Area | | 5th Edition Content Area |
| Ethical and Professional Conduct (15 hrs) | → | BACB Compliance Code and Disciplinary Systems; Professionalism (30 hrs; 15 hrs in a freestanding course) |
| Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (45 hrs) | → | Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts and Principles (45 hrs) |
| Measurement (10 hrs); Experimental Design (5 hrs) | → | Measurement, Data Display and Interpretation; Experimental Design (30 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 (5 hrs); & Behavior Change Systems (5 hrs) | → | Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Intervention (60 hrs) |
| Implementation, Management & Supervision (5 hrs) | → | Personnel Supervision and Management (15 hrs) |
| Discretionary (15 hrs) | | No hours awarded. |
| TOTAL: 180 hrs | | TOTAL: 225 hrs |

Applicants who are enrolled in some 5th edition courses at a VCS and plan to apply before January 1, 2022 (i.e., when the 4th Edition Task List is in effect) – your coursework content hours can be applied to 4th edition content hours (see the table below).

Next steps: (1) With your advisor or VCS Coordinator, identify the content hours for the courses that you have completed, (2) use the table below to see how they will convert to 4th edition content hours, and (3) compare those hours to the 4th edition coursework requirements.

| Conversion Table: Enrolled in 5th Edition Hours and Applying BEFORE January 1, 2022 | | |
|---|---|--|
| 4th Edition Content Area | | 5th Edition Content Area |
| Ethical and Professional Conduct (15 hrs) | ← | BACB Compliance Code and Disciplinary Systems; Professionalism (30 hrs) |
| Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis (45 hrs) | ← | Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts and Principles (45 hrs) |
| Measurement (10 hrs); Experimental Design (5 hrs) | ← | Measurement, Data Display and Interpretation; Experimental Design (30 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 (5 hrs); Behavior Change Systems (5 hrs); Implementation, Management, and Supervision (5 hrs) | ← | Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Interventions (60 hrs) Personnel Supervision and Management (15 hrs) |
| Discretionary (15 hrs)* | | |
| TOTAL: 180 hrs | | TOTAL: 225 hrs |

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

Applicants who are enrolled in a FULL 5th edition sequence at a VCS – you should meet both the 4th and 5th edition 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 the 4th and 5th editions, but the content hours change on a certain date.



How do I determine what and how many content hours my courses have?

- 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 above 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 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 [Course Content Attestation](#) form. Note: We will begin reviewing non-verified courses under the 5th edition beginning January 1, 2021.

Not sure your coursework qualifies? You can request a [preliminary coursework evaluation](#) prior to submitting a BCaBA Certification Application. Note: The BACB will start evaluating coursework for the 5th edition requirements as of January 1, 2021. 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 or are wanting to use some of the hours toward the BCaBA requirements – we strongly recommend meeting **both** requirements to ensure your hours will count. This includes:

- meeting all requirements under both sets of requirements (see the table below)
- 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 the hours meeting the requirements in place at the time are accrued within 5 years

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 starting 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 *does* meet the fieldwork requirements, but you did not complete Monthly Fieldwork Verification Forms (M-FVFs), 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 the attestations on the form (e.g., that all of the hours met the fieldwork requirements). However, make sure you are signing the M-FVF going forward, 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 | 1300 | 1000 |
| 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 50% 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 fieldwork and current experience requirements? You can review your unique documentation system, your monthly and final verification forms, and this page with your supervisor to ensure all the requirements have been met.

Examination

Applicants who are authorized to sit for the examination on January 1, 2022, or later – your two-year examination authorization will continue into the 5th edition standards on January 1, 2022. Therefore, if you do not pass the certification examination before January 1, 2022, and have remaining attempts left, 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 A. Measurement B. Experimental Design C. Behavior-Change Considerations D. Fundamental Elements of Behavior-Change E. Specific Behavior-Change Procedures F. 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 (Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysis) F. Behavior Assessment G. Behavior-Change Procedures H. Selecting and Implementing Interventions I. Personnel Supervision and Management |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 130 | | TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 150 |

The table below provides the years where 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 and 2021 | 2022 |
| 2021 | 2023 | 2021 | 2022 and 2023 |
| 2022 | 2024 | N/A | 2022–2024 |