

BACB Newsletter



NOTICE: The information contained in BACB Newsletters may be outdated and should be independently verified via our website.

Note: In July 2022, the BACB announced that the implementation of next round's BCBA and BCaBA certification requirements would be pushed from 2026 to 2027. This newsletter has been updated accordingly. The BCBA 2032 Eligibility Pathway section has also been updated for clarity.

Content:

- ▶ Introducing the 2027 BCBA and BCaBA Certification Requirements 1
- ▶ BCBA Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements 2
- ▶ BCaBA Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements 7
- ▶ Recent and Upcoming Changes to BACB Requirements 11

Introducing the 2027 BCBA and BCaBA Certification Requirements

The BACB® periodically reviews eligibility and maintenance requirements for its certification programs to ensure that they reflect changes in professional practice and the current state of the applied behavior analysis (ABA) profession. These periodic reviews involve committees of [subject matter experts](#) (SMEs) who serve as the guiding force behind recommendations for new and revised requirements. Since the 2000s, the various types of BCBA® and BCaBA® certification requirements (e.g., fieldwork, degree, coursework) have been reviewed and revised independent of one another. For example, the current BCBA and BCaBA coursework requirements were reviewed by a committee of SMEs in 2016, while the fieldwork requirements were reviewed in a separate meeting by a different committee of SMEs in 2017. This approach made sense during a time when the profession was rapidly changing and certification requirements were in need of substantial iteration. Essentially, the requirements were further from their steady states than they are now. Beginning with the SME meeting activities described in this newsletter, BCBA and BCaBA certification requirements are now evaluated for possible revision in a more holistic manner, with all the requirements being considered together. This approach is more efficient, permits more comprehensive considerations of potential changes for each certification program, and results in a single implementation date for all changes.

In the past, new BCBA and BCaBA examinations were implemented concurrently with revised certification requirements. Although this approach worked well in an earlier era, this linkage of examination and certification requirements resulted in lengthy intervals between new examinations because universities needed sufficient time to develop and implement the new requirements. Moving forward, BCBA and BCaBA examinations and their respective Test Content Outlines (TCOs) will be updated and implemented independent of changes to certification requirements. This will enable examination content to be revised more frequently in response to changes in the profession. In addition, reviews of certification requirements can now be conducted at intervals that make sense for the profession. In summary, the new BCBA and BCaBA examinations (introduced in our [February 2022 Newsletter](#)) will become available in 2025, but the requirement changes described in this newsletter will not take effect until 2027.

WWW.BACB.COM

© 2022 Behavior Analyst Certification Board®, Inc. (BACB®). All rights reserved.

The BACB recognizes that it may seem too soon to consider new BCBA and BCaBA certification requirements, given that the last set of changes was implemented on January 1, 2022. However, these changes require sufficient notice so that universities, among others, can sufficiently prepare before they go into effect. The remainder of this newsletter details recent requirement reviews for the BCBA and BCaBA certification programs and the resulting changes.

BCBA Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements

As stated earlier, the BACB uses SME committees to guide its requirement reviews. In August 2021, a committee of 9 SMEs participated in a 2-day hybrid meeting to evaluate the current BCBA certification requirements. The chosen SMEs represented a variety of professional and training backgrounds, professional roles (e.g., practitioner, faculty member), geographic locations, genders, races/ethnicities, and career stages. In addition, a 10th SME was included as a liaison from the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) during the evaluation of coursework requirements. All SMEs were certified at the BCBA or BCBA-D level.

At the meeting’s outset, the committee was presented with data illustrating the growth of and US demand for BACB certificants, a description of the BACB’s requirement review process, and a summary of key historical changes to BCBA requirements. During the meeting, the current BCBA requirements were presented one at a time for committee review and discussion. Data from internal BACB systems, recent surveys, and comparable professions were provided to inform the discussion. Ultimately, each requirement was carefully discussed and either revised or left intact. A consensus approach was used to determine revisions to the requirements.

In November 2021, the BACB Board of Directors reviewed and approved the committee’s recommendations, which are described in the following sections. Except where otherwise noted, all changes will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

Eligibility Pathways. There are currently 4 BCBA eligibility pathways, each of which requires an academic degree; behavior-analytic coursework, teaching, or practice-based experience; and supervised fieldwork: Pathway 1 (ABAI-Accredited Degree), Pathway 2 (Behavior-Analytic Coursework), Pathway 3 (Faculty Teaching and Research), and Pathway 4 (Postdoctoral Experience).

The committee reviewed all of the eligibility pathways and their requirements and recommended no major changes to the most commonly used Pathways: 1 and 2. Both of these require an acceptable graduate degree and substantial behavior-analytic coursework. In accordance with the [Tiered Model of Education](#) recently implemented by ABAI, Pathway 1 will be expanded to include other recognized behavior analysis graduate degree programs in the new system. This change has also been made to the current BCBA Pathway 1.

After reviewing data on the number of approvable applications the BACB annually receives under Pathways 3 and 4 (approximately 10 approvable applications between both pathways per year in the last 5 years), the committee discussed whether the BACB should continue to offer these pathways. These pathways were established decades ago when professionals needed a variety of options to qualify for certification due to a lack of training infrastructure. The low volume of applications received under these pathways and the likelihood that fewer applicants will use these pathways in the future led to the consensus that these pathways will be discontinued. Therefore, beginning in 2027, all new BCBA must have had a formal, didactic education in behavior analysis.

2027 BCBA Eligibility Pathways

| | Pathway 1: ABAI-Accredited or ABAI-Recognized Degree Program | Pathway 2: Behavior-Analytic Coursework |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Degree | Master’s degree or higher from an ABAI-accredited or ABAI-recognized degree program (ABAI Tier 1, 2a, or 2b) | Master’s degree or higher in any discipline from a qualifying educational institution |
| Behavior-analytic content | | Behavior-analytic coursework |
| Fieldwork | Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis | Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis |

2032 Eligibility Pathway. The committee discussed the idea of eventually eliminating Pathway 2 (Behavior-Analytic Coursework), meaning that all BCBA applicants would qualify by earning a master’s degree in behavior analysis, which is the conventional pathway in most major professions. Because BCBA certification requirements are reviewed approximately every 5 years and universities may need time to develop their program(s) to meet ABAI accreditation standards, more notice than is customarily provided is necessary. The committee agreed that now is the time for this announcement so that the profession can effectively prepare for and achieve what will perhaps be the terminal educational requirement for BCBA certification: a comprehensive, integrated, program-based education in behavior analysis as defined by ABAI accreditation. We should note that ABAI accreditation is available to university training programs regardless of program name (e.g., a special education could apply for ABAI accreditation).

2032 BCBA Eligibility Pathway

| | Pathway 1: ABAI-Accredited Degree Program |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Degree | Master’s degree or higher from an ABAI-accredited degree program (ABAI Tier 1) |
| Behavior-analytic content | |
| Fieldwork | Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis |

Coursework. The committee reviewed the current BCBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements, along with coursework feedback provided directly to BACB personnel and through the BACB website in recent years. After an in-depth examination of the coursework requirements, the committee agreed that the overall number of instructional hours (315) remains sufficient and does not need to increase. However, the committee recommended that each of the content areas be taught within freestanding courses to give students more concentrated doses of the course material. This continues a trend in freestanding course requirements that began over a decade ago. The committee elected to retain the amount of instruction in the ethics, research methods, philosophical underpinnings, and concepts and principles content areas but recommended title changes and the inclusion of content-area descriptions to enhance clarity. The committee felt that there was a need for greater flexibility in the behavior assessment and intervention content areas since they can be effectively taught in various course configurations. After discussion, the committee recommended combining the Behavior Assessment, Behavior-Change Procedures, and Selecting and Implementing Interventions content areas into a single Behavior Assessment and Intervention content area with a 90-hour instructional requirement. The committee also determined that the Personnel Supervision and Management content area needed expansion given the increasing managerial responsibilities assigned to early-career BCBAs. They recommended an increase from 30 to 45 instructional hours in this content area, along with a title change (to Organizational Behavior Management) that conveys a broader array of topics, including behavioral systems analysis and leadership. Finally, the committee discussed whether DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) content should be added to the coursework requirements and, if so, whether it should be added as its own content area or incorporated into one or more of the other content areas. The committee’s consensus was that DEI content should be integrated throughout the curriculum rather than concentrated in a single course.

The following table summarizes the 2027 BCBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements and introduces title and content-area descriptions that have been revised for clarity:

2027 BCBA Pathway 2 Coursework Requirements

| Content Areas and Descriptions | Instructional Hours |
|--|---|
| Basic Principles of Behavior Course content includes, but is not limited to, the basic concepts and principles of operant and respondent conditioning. | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| Theory & Philosophy in Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, the underlying theoretical and philosophical foundations of behavior analysis (i.e., behaviorism). | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| Research Methods in Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, measurement, data display and interpretation, single-case designs, intervention and program evaluation, and research ethics. | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| Behavior Assessment & Intervention* Course content includes, but is not limited to, the selection and implementation of behavior assessment and intervention techniques and approaches from applied behavior analysis. | 90 hours (within 2 freestanding courses) |
| Organizational Behavior Management* Course content includes, but is not limited to, performance analysis and management, supervision, staff training, behavioral systems analysis, organizational culture, and leadership. | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| Ethics in Behavior Analysis* Course content includes, but is not limited to, ethical principles, the BACB's ethics codes and requirements, the BACB's code-enforcement mechanisms, and professionalism. | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| TOTAL | 315 hours |

**Issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion must be integrated into the course.*

Coursework Expiration. The committee discussed whether to place an expiration date on coursework submitted toward BCBA certification. The BACB currently accepts coursework completed at any time. Although most coursework submissions are from recent years, coursework from as early as the 1980s is occasionally submitted. Coursework expiration dates are used in comparable professions to ensure that instructional content reflects the contemporary era, which is especially important for rapidly changing professions like ABA, and because documentation of required coursework (e.g., syllabi) is often more readily available in recent courses. The committee recommended a rolling 10-year limit on coursework submitted toward BCBA certification **beginning in 2024**.

Supervised Fieldwork. The committee reviewed the current supervised fieldwork requirements, internal BACB data, and the experiential requirements of comparable professions. After extensive discussion, the committee agreed that the current fieldwork types (i.e., Supervised Fieldwork, Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork) and total hours (i.e., 2,000 hours, 1,500 hours) are still appropriate and do not need revision. However, the committee recommended that 4 elements of the current supervised fieldwork requirements change. All other supervised fieldwork requirements (e.g., consulting supervisor requirements for first-year BCBA's who supervise) will remain the same. The 4 changes that the committee recommended are as follows:

- The maximum number of fieldwork hours that can be accrued within the calendar month (supervisory period) will be increased from 130 to 160 to better match full-time employment.
- The number of contacts with supervisor per supervisory period requirement will be eliminated, as it is duplicative of the supervision per supervisory period requirement but is expressed using a frequency metric (# of contacts) rather than a percentage metric (% of hours supervised).

- The observations with client per supervisory period requirement will be expressed using a duration metric rather than a frequency metric to ensure that a specified amount of client observation occurs: 60 cumulative minutes for Supervised Fieldwork and 90 cumulative minutes for Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork during the supervisory period. This also provides the supervisor with more flexibility to conduct, for instance, 1 60-minute observation or 4 15-minute observations.
- The percentage of Supervised Fieldwork hours that must be supervised will remain at 5%, but the percentage of Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork will be adjusted to 7.5% to match the difference in the overall number of fieldwork hours under each option. In other words, with the new adjustment, Supervised Fieldwork will require one-third more fieldwork hours than Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork and a supervision percentage amount one-third less than Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork.

The following table summarizes the 2027 BCBA supervised fieldwork requirements:

2027 BCBA Supervised Fieldwork Requirements

| Requirement | Supervised Fieldwork | Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Fieldwork hours required | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Supervisory period | 1 calendar month | |
| Fieldwork hours per supervisory period | min of 20 hours–max of 160 hours | |
| Observations with client per supervisory period | 60 min (cumulative) | 90 min (cumulative) |
| Supervision per supervisory period | 5% of hours | 7.5% of hours |
| Individual supervision hours per supervisory period | At least 50% of supervised hours must be individual (i.e., group supervision may not exceed 50%). | |
| Unrestricted activities | At least 60% of total supervised fieldwork hours must be spent engaged in unrestricted activities. | |

Continuing Education. There are 3 types of continuing education available to BCBA's: Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship. After reviewing internal data on which types BCBA's use to meet their continuing education requirements and on the amount of continuing education required by comparable professions, the committee concluded that the overall number of hours (32) and types of continuing education are acceptable and will not change. The committee agreed to retain 4 CEUs in ethics per cycle but recommended that the required number of supervision CEUs (for those who supervise) should be increased from 3 to 4 per cycle, especially since data from the BACB's Ethics Department indicate that supervision-related ethics violations remain one of the most common violation categories. The committee also discussed whether DEI content should be incorporated into the continuing education requirements and, if so, whether it should have its own category or be incorporated into a broader ethics category. The committee's consensus was that there should be a new DEI category and that 2 CEUs would be an appropriate requirement.

BCBA's recertifying on or after January 1, 2027, must meet these requirements (i.e., complete continuing education in accordance with these requirements).

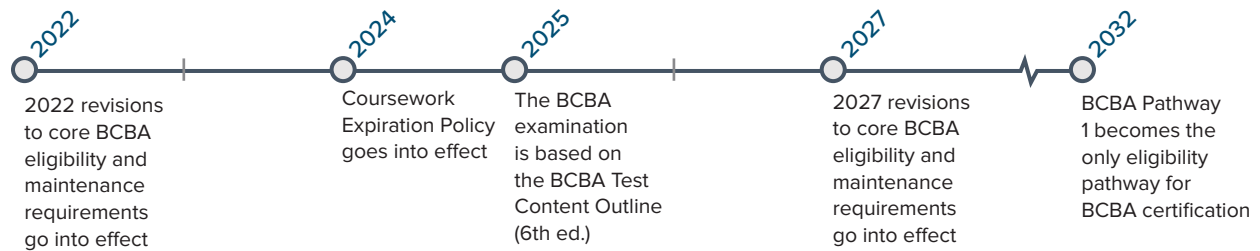
2027 BCBA Continuing Education Requirements

CEUs per 2-year cycle: 32

- Ethics: 4
- Supervision (if applicable): 4
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: 2

Implementation. With the exception of the new Coursework Expiration Policy (beginning in 2024), all of the aforementioned requirements will go into effect on January 1, 2027. This means that BCBA applicants and recertifying BCBAs applying on or after January 1, 2027, must meet these requirements. Until then, we encourage university instructors, certificants, applicants, and trainees to become familiar with the new certification and recertification requirements and make any needed adjustments to their practices.

Timeline of Upcoming Changes to BCBA Requirements



BCaBA Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements

In August 2021, a committee of 8 SMEs participated in a 2-day hybrid meeting to evaluate the current BCaBA certification requirements. The chosen SMEs represented a variety of professional and training backgrounds, professional roles (e.g., practitioner, faculty member), geographic locations, genders, races/ethnicities, and career stages. In addition, a 9th SME was included as a liaison from the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) during the evaluation of coursework requirements. All SMEs were certified at the BCaBA, BCBA, or BCBA-D level.

At the meeting's outset, the committee was presented with data illustrating the growth of the ABA profession and the BACB, a description of the BACB's requirement review process, and a summary of key historical changes to BCaBA requirements. During the meeting, the current BCaBA requirements were presented one at a time for committee review and discussion. Data from internal BACB systems, recent surveys, and comparable professions were provided to inform the discussion. Ultimately, each requirement was carefully discussed and either revised or left intact. A consensus approach was used to identify revisions to the requirements.

In December 2021, the BACB Board of Directors reviewed and approved the committee's recommendations, which are described in the following section. Except where otherwise noted, all changes will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

Eligibility Pathways. There are currently 2 BCaBA eligibility pathways, each of which requires an academic degree, behavior-analytic coursework, and supervised fieldwork. These eligibility pathways will remain unchanged in 2027.

2027 (and current) BCaBA Eligibility Pathways

| | Pathway 1: ABAI-Accredited Degree | Pathway 2: Behavior-Analytic Coursework |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Degree | Degree from ABAI-accredited bachelor's program | Undergraduate degree |
| Behavior-analytic content | | Behavior-analytic coursework |
| Fieldwork | Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis | Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis |

Coursework. The committee reviewed the current BCaBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements, coursework feedback provided to BACB personnel and submitted through the BACB website in recent years, and survey data about the work circumstances of BCaBAs. After an in-depth examination of the coursework requirements, the committee recommended that each of the content areas be taught within freestanding courses to give students more concentrated doses of the course material. This continues a trend in freestanding course requirements that began over a decade ago. The committee elected to retain the amount of instruction (45 hours) in philosophical underpinnings and concepts and principles. All other content areas were changed in at least one way. The committee recommended modest increases in instructional hours in the ethics (from 30 to 45 hours) and research methods (from 30 to 45 hours) content areas. Given the increasing managerial roles of many BCaBAs, the committee recommended a 30-hour increase in the Personnel Supervision and Management content area (from 15 to 45 hours) and a title change (to Organizational Behavior Management) that conveys a broader array of topics. The committee felt that there was a need for greater flexibility in the behavior assessment and intervention content areas since they can be effectively taught in various course configurations. After discussion, the committee recommended combining the Behavior Assessment, Behavior-Change Procedures, and Selecting and Implementing Interventions content areas into a single Behavior Assessment and Intervention content area with a 90-hour instructional requirement. Finally, the committee discussed whether DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) content should be added to the coursework requirements and, if so, whether it should be added as its own content area or incorporated into one or more of the other content areas. The committee's consensus was that DEI content should be integrated throughout the curriculum rather than concentrated in a single course. Collectively, these changes resulted in an increase in overall instructional hours from 225 to 270.

The following table summarizes the 2027 BCaBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements and introduces title and content-area descriptions that have been revised for clarity:

2027 BCaBA Pathway 2 Coursework Requirements

| Content Areas and Descriptions | Instructional Hours |
|--|---|
| <p>Foundations of Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, the basic concepts and principles of operant and respondent conditioning, and the underlying theoretical and philosophical foundations of behavior analysis (i.e., behaviorism).</p> | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| <p>Methods of Behavior Analysis Course content includes, but is not limited to, measurement, data display and interpretation, single-case designs, and intervention and program evaluation.</p> | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| <p>Behavior Assessment & Intervention* Course content includes, but is not limited to, the selection and implementation of behavior assessment and intervention techniques and approaches from applied behavior analysis.</p> | 90 hours (within 2 freestanding courses) |
| <p>Organizational Behavior Management* Course content includes, but is not limited to, performance analysis and management, supervision, staff training, behavioral systems analysis, organizational culture, and leadership.</p> | 45 hours (within 1 freestanding course) |
| <p>Ethics in Behavior Analysis* Course content includes, but is not limited to, ethical principles, the BACB's ethics codes and requirements, the BACB's code-enforcement mechanisms, and professionalism.</p> | 45 hours (at least 15 hours must be taught within a freestanding course) |
| TOTAL | 270 hours |

**Issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion must be integrated into the course.*

Coursework Expiration. The committee discussed whether to place an expiration date on coursework submitted toward BCaBA certification. The BACB currently accepts coursework completed at any time. Although most coursework submissions are from recent years, coursework from as early as the 1980s is occasionally submitted. Coursework expiration dates are used in comparable professions to ensure that instructional content reflects the contemporary era, which is especially important for rapidly changing professions like ABA, and because documentation of required coursework (e.g., syllabi) is often more readily available in recent courses. The committee recommended a rolling 10-year limit on coursework submitted toward BCaBA certification **beginning in 2024**.

Supervised Fieldwork. The committee reviewed the current supervised fieldwork requirements, internal BACB data, and the experiential requirements of comparable professions. After extensive discussion, the committee agreed that the current fieldwork types (i.e., Supervised Fieldwork, Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork) are still appropriate and do not need revision. However, the committee recommended that 4 elements of the supervised fieldwork requirements change. All other supervised fieldwork requirements will remain the same. The 4 changes that the committee recommended are as follows:

- The maximum number of fieldwork hours that can be accrued within the calendar month (supervisory period) will be increased from 130 to 160 to better match full-time employment.
- The number of contacts with supervisor per supervisory period requirement will be eliminated, as it is duplicative of the supervision per supervisory period requirement but is expressed using a frequency metric (# of contacts) rather than a percentage metric (% of hours supervised).

- The observations with client per supervisory period requirement will be expressed using a duration metric rather than a frequency metric to ensure that a specified amount of client observation occurs: 60 cumulative minutes for Supervised Fieldwork and 90 cumulative minutes for Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork during the supervisory period. This also provides the supervisor with more flexibility to conduct, for instance, 1 60-minute observation or 4 15-minute observations.
- The number of hours required under the Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork option will be reduced from 1,000 to 800 after extensive discussion regarding the environments in which the Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork option has been used. The committee determined that it was appropriate to reduce these hours given the sufficient amount of supervision in this category.

The following table summarizes the 2027 BCaBA supervised fieldwork requirements:

2027 BCaBA Supervised Fieldwork Requirements

| Requirement | Supervised Fieldwork | Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Fieldwork hours required | 1,300 | 800 |
| Supervisory period | 1 calendar month | |
| Fieldwork hours per supervisory period | min of 20 hours–max of 160 hours | |
| Observations with client per supervisory period | 60 min (cumulative) | 90 min (cumulative) |
| Supervision per supervisory period | 5% of hours | 10% of hours |
| Individual supervision hours per supervisory period | At least 50% of supervised hours must be individual (i.e., group supervision may not exceed 50%). | |
| Unrestricted activities | At least 40% of total supervised fieldwork hours must be spent engaged in unrestricted activities. | |

Continuing Education. There are 3 types of continuing education available to BCaBAs: Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship. After reviewing internal data on which types BCaBAs use to meet their continuing education requirements and on the amount of continuing education required by comparable professions, the committee concluded that the overall number of hours (20) and types of continuing education are acceptable and will not change. The committee recommended keeping the number of supervision CEUs for BCaBAs who supervise RBTs® at 3 CEUs per cycle. The committee discussed whether DEI content should be incorporated into the continuing education requirements and, if so, whether it should have its own category or be incorporated into a broader ethics category. The committee’s consensus was that there should be a new DEI category and that 2 CEUs would be an appropriate requirement. Finally, the committee recommended reducing the number of ethics CEUs from 4 to 3 per cycle to permit adding the new DEI requirement without consuming too many of the 20 CEUs per cycle with category requirements.

BCaBAs recertifying on or after January 1, 2027, must meet these requirements (i.e., complete continuing education in accordance with these requirements).

2027 BCaBA Continuing Education Requirements

CEUs per 2-year cycle: 20

- Ethics: 3
- Supervision (if applicable): 3
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: 2

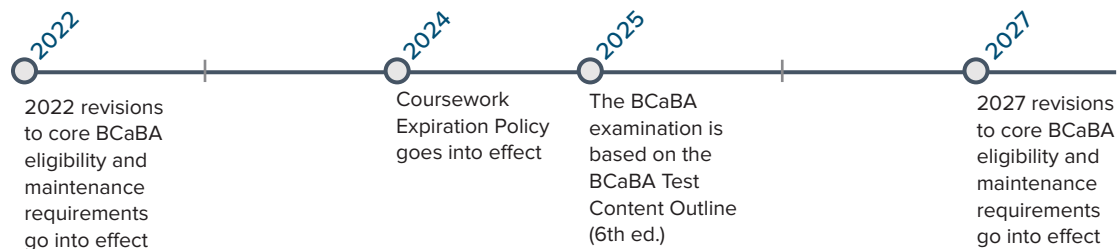
Ongoing Supervision. Under the current requirements, BCaBAs in their first 1,000 hours of post-certification practice must be supervised for at least 5% of their behavior-analytic service hours per month. After 1,000 hours, they must be supervised for at least 2% of their hours. After carefully reviewing the current ongoing supervision requirements, 2 changes resulted from committee recommendations. First, beginning in 2027, BCaBAs must be supervised for 5% of their behavior-analytic service hours per month indefinitely—not just in their first 1,000 hours of post-certification practice. The second change is related to the limitation on the amount of ongoing supervision that can occur in a group format. The committee felt that it would be valuable for BCaBAs to observe multiple exemplars of supervision and case consultation and build supportive relationships with colleagues during supervision meetings. Ultimately, the committee decided to eliminate the restriction on group supervision activities to support the development of collaboration through BCaBA supervision. However, they decided to limit the number of BCaBA supervisees in group-supervision meetings to no more than 10. All other current ongoing supervision requirements remain unchanged.

2027 Ongoing Supervision Requirement Changes

| Requirement | Changes to Requirement in 2027 |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Amount, Contacts, and Observations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% of behavior-analytic service hours must be supervised |
| Individual vs. Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions on the amount of group supervision No more than 10 BCaBAs per group meeting |

Implementation. With the exception of the new Coursework Expiration Policy (beginning in 2024), all of the aforementioned requirements will go into effect on January 1, 2027. This means that BCaBA applicants and recertifying BCaBAs applying on or after January 1, 2027, must meet these requirements. Until then, we encourage university instructors, certificants, applicants, and trainees to become familiar with the new certification requirements and make any needed adjustments to their practices.

Timeline of Upcoming Changes to BCaBA Requirements



Recent and Upcoming Changes to BACB Requirements

The following table summarizes important changes to certification requirements that have been announced in BACB newsletters.

| Effective Date | Area | Change | Newsletter(s) |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| January 1, 2022 | BCBA and BCaBA Requirements | Revisions to certification requirements, including degree, coursework, fieldwork, ethics, and examinations | January 2017 October 2017 October 2018 December 2020 |
| | RBT Ethics Requirements | Revisions to RBT ethics requirements | July 2021 |
| January 1, 2024 | BCBA and BCaBA Coursework Expiration Policy | A rolling 10-year expiration date will be placed on coursework submitted as part of a BCBA or BCaBA certification application | March 2022 |
| January 1, 2025 | BCBA Examination | The BCBA examination will be based on the BCBA Test Content Outline (6th ed.) | February 2022 |
| | BCaBA Examination | The BCaBA examination will be based on the BCaBA Test Content Outline (6th ed.) | February 2022 |
| January 1, 2027 | BCBA Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements | Revisions to core certification requirements, including eligibility pathways, coursework, supervised fieldwork, and continuing education | March 2022 |
| | BCaBA Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements | Revisions to core certification requirements, including degree, coursework, supervised fieldwork, continuing education, and ongoing supervision | March 2022 |
| January 1, 2032 | BCBA Eligibility Pathways | Pathway 1, which requires a degree from an accredited university training program, will be the only eligibility pathway for BCBA certification | March 2022 |