



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 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 have a graduate degree that is not in psychology, education, or behavior analysis](#)

[Applicants who are completing 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 \(i.e., when the 5th edition task list will be in effect\)](#)

[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 BCBA degree requirements have minimal changes, 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 will need to meet all of the 2022 requirements, including the 5th edition coursework requirements and all of the fieldwork requirements.

Applicants who are completing a graduate degree from an ABAI-accredited master’s or doctoral 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 BCBA Certification Application.

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 (45 hrs; <i>One or more freestanding courses</i> , i.e., the entire course was devoted to ethics and professional conduct)	→	BACB Compliance Code and Disciplinary 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 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 5th edition
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 (30 hrs)		No hours awarded.
TOTAL: 270 hrs		TOTAL: 315 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 (45 hrs)	←	BACB Compliance Code and Disciplinary 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 (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 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 BCBA 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 – 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	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 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: 150		TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS: 175

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