



BACB Newsletter

December, 2012

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New Supervision Curriculum Available

As we announced in our September 2012 [newsletter](#), the BACB will be instituting new requirements for BCBAs and instructors in approved course sequences who supervise the applied experience of those pursuing certification, as well as BCBAs who supervise the ongoing practice of BCaBAs. The most significant of the new requirements will be the completion of a post-certification, competency-based, training program on supervision. This training needs to be completed no later than December 31, 2014.

The basis of the newly required supervision training will be the *BACB Supervisor Training Curriculum Outline*, which is now available on our [website](#). The curriculum outline includes the following content:

- The Purpose of Supervision
- Important Features of Supervision
- Behavioral Skills Training
- Delivering Performance Feedback
- Evaluating the Effects of Supervision
- Ongoing Professional Development

All Type 2 ACE Providers who hold the BCBA credential are eligible to offer supervision training based on the curriculum outline. The cumulative duration of training **must be at least 8 hours** (but may be offered in units as brief as 1 hour) and include opportunities for trainees to demonstrate **verbal or practical competence** of the curricular areas above. Training may be conducted in person or online. Training providers must provide a link to the [BACB Supervisor Training Curriculum Outline](#) and include the following text in all online and print materials for their training program:

“This training program is based on the BACB Supervisor Training Curriculum Outline but is offered independent of the BACB.”

ACE providers may offer Type 2 continuing education hours for supervision training to attendees who are already BACB certified, as long as the event fully meets the requirements for Type 2 continuing education.



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Revised BACB Model Act for Licensure/Regulation Now Available

We are pleased to announce the availability of a newly revised version of the [BACB Model Act for Licensing/Regulating Behavior Analysts](#). This act replaces the earlier version that appeared on the BACB website. The model act is provided as a resource template to use by those who plan to introduce legislation that would license or otherwise regulate behavior analysts in a state or region. As with the prior versions, the model act's qualifications are based on the BACB's credentials. Such an approach remains beneficial because it removes from regulatory bodies the burden of developing legally defensible standards and examinations, it ensures that qualifications remain consistent with increasingly rigorous BACB standards, and it facilitates practitioner mobility between regions by helping keep regulatory requirements similar.

Several notable revisions were made to the model act. The act has been rewritten to include commentary and justification interspersed with sample legislative language. This added commentary functions as a sort of tutorial to the model act. The section on exemptions to licensure/regulation has been expanded to clearly exempt (a) licensed psychologists with education, training, and experience in behavior analysis; (b) properly supervised students being trained in behavior analysis; and (c) behavior analysts who practice with nonhuman or nonpatient clients (e.g., applied animal behaviorists, practitioners of organizational behavior management). In addition, a section on temporary licenses has been included to address time-limited services provided by behavior analysts from another state or region.

There are currently 9 US states that license or certify behavior analysts and the majority of these base their qualifications on the BACB's credentials. We hope our newly revised model act will prove useful to behavior analysts who are considering working with legislators to introduce legislation that would regulate the practice of behavior analysis.

Journal Clubs: Contacting the Research Literature for Continuing Education

In our May 2012 newsletter, we reminded you of the need to stay in contact with the research literature in behavior analysis and recommended two scientific journals, *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* and *Behavior Analysis in Practice*. Some certificants have been surprised to learn that there are continuing education (CE) opportunities available based upon contact with research literature. For example, several [approved continuing education providers](#) already offer CE for events that consist of reading an article or book and completing an online test over the material. These kinds of activities, when offered by an approved provider in compliance with the [requirements for approved CE](#), are acceptable for Type 2 approved continuing education for BACB certificants.

Although online CE activities can be quite convenient, there is another form of CE activity involving the research literature that we'd like to bring to your attention -- Journal Clubs. Similar to a book club, a Journal Club (sometimes called a Journal Reading Group) is a group of people who meet regularly to discuss current behavior-analytic research. These kinds of experiences have been experimentally demonstrated to enhance professional knowledge (see [Parsons & Reid, 2011](#)).

Not many CE providers hold these types of events, but we know that a few of them do. The basic model is a regularly scheduled meeting where the participants discuss a specific research article. The article is identified in advance and all of the participants read it prior to the meeting. The discussion is focused around a set of objectives or study questions related to the article. At the end of an hour-long discussion, the participants come away with one hour of CE and, more importantly, further understanding of the literature.



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Journal Clubs have the potential to provide CE opportunities that have a number of positive characteristics, including:

- **Local:** Meetings can be held at locations close to where certificants live and work.
- **Flexible:** Groups can schedule meetings at times that are convenient for the members. Certificants who might not be able to spend a week at a large conference can probably carve out an hour a month for a Journal Club.
- **Low-Cost:** The cost to become and maintain approval as an ACE provider is quite modest -- \$200 for an organization to apply initially, followed by an annual renewal fee of \$100 (individual providers pay half these amounts). If the group meets at members' homes or in public spaces, and the provider emails CE documentation, costs can be kept low.
- **Networking:** Meetings could provide a venue for engaging with behavior analysts you might not have an opportunity to get to know during your regular employment.
- **Variety:** Through their choice of articles, group members can learn about new or unfamiliar aspects of behavior analysis or expand their current repertoires.
- **Active Participation:** Discussion can encourage active engagement with the material, rather than just listening to a presentation. Groups could even encourage participation prior to the scheduled meeting (e.g., each member submits a discussion question) and afterward (e.g., continued discussion via a Facebook page).

So why aren't more behavior analysts starting Journal Clubs? We think many people don't know it's possible to gain CE through this type of activity. We also think that many certificants believe that they must be experts or affiliated with a large organization in order to become an approved CE provider. We would encourage you to review the BACB's [requirements for approved CE](#). You might be surprised to find that you or someone near you meets the requirements to become a provider. If so, consider starting a Journal Club in your area.

REMINDER

Don't forget to submit [nominations](#) for the BACB Board of Directors. Nominations will be accepted until December 21, 2012

New Application for Coursework Evaluation

We would like to make you aware of a new application process related to the eligibility requirements for BACB certification. This new process is specific to individuals whose coursework was not obtained from an [approved course sequence](#). As you may know, everyone who applies under the Coursework/Experience option (the most common path to eligibility) must demonstrate that their coursework meets the minimum hours for each Content Area specified in the requirements. For coursework not obtained from an approved sequence, we must review the content of each course against our requirements in order to determine whether all of the required content has been covered.

In the past, we have only performed evaluations of non-approved coursework within the context of an application for certification. This meant that individuals who wanted feedback on how their past coursework might count toward certification had to submit an application to become certified, even if they weren't yet ready to take the exam. Over the years, many applicants have indicated that they would like a more efficient method to find out how much, if any, of their coursework might be acceptable.

As a result, we now offer a stand-alone application for coursework evaluation. There is an application for evaluation toward [BCBA-level requirements](#), as well as one for [BCaBA-level requirements](#). Individuals who submit this application, along with their coursework documentation and a fee of \$100, will receive a review of their coursework, information about how their coursework can be accepted and, if necessary, specific feedback about the additional course hours they would need in order to meet the coursework requirements. The applications include information



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about both the 3rd Edition coursework requirements currently in effect, as well as the 4th Edition coursework requirements that will go into effect in 2015, so that applicants can determine where they stand relative to either set of requirements.

Please note that the coursework evaluation is not necessary for individuals whose coursework is from one or more approved course sequences. For approved courses, the exact breakdown of hours per content area has already been established as a part of the course sequence approval process. Students need only obtain the Course Content Verification Form from their university in order to determine how approved courses apply toward the requirements.

We hope that this new evaluation process will be a simpler and more efficient way to obtain feedback about coursework not completed in an approved course sequence.

Use of the BACB's Certificant Registry

All BACB certificants are listed in the BACB Certificant Registry, but may opt out of receiving email through the Registry. Most of our certificants, however, do not opt out of this service. We recognize that the Registry is a valuable resource to consumers seeking to locate BACB certificants. Unfortunately, we also recognize that there are abusers of the BACB's Registry Use Policy.

Not all email contacts through the Registry are authorized by the BACB. The Registry Use Policy currently states the following:

Use of this Registry is subject to agreement and compliance with these Terms of Use. This Registry is available as a resource for consumers, employers and licensing authorities to verify certification status. THIS REGISTRY AND E-MAIL CONTACTS FROM THIS REGISTRY MAY NOT BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL OR HARASSING PURPOSES. Restricted uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sales of products
- Information about products

- Information about educational or professional programs
- Vulgar or harassing e-mails
- Solicitation for employment
- Creation of a mailing/e-mailing database

We have developed the email campaign program for purposes such as these.

Violators should be reported to bacblegal@bacb.com. Remedies available to the BACB may include all available legal remedies, fees (including court costs and attorney's fees) and damages. The BACB will take necessary steps to ensure compliance with these Terms of Use, but does not guarantee or warrant certificants from e-mails in violation of these Terms of Use.

We would like to thank the 99% of you who comply with the BACB's Certificant Registry Use Policy. Unfortunately, despite this clear and concise policy, numerous violators have forced to implement an email blocking system and to develop procedures to address abuses of the Registry Use Policy.

Fortunately, technology now affords us the opportunity to identify and address those abuses. The BACB will address offenders of the Policy by first blocking their IP and email addresses from use of the BACB Registry email contact option. Should abuses persist (e.g., efforts to circumvent the block or disguise user identity), the BACB will refer the matter to our legal counsel. Our legal counsel has been authorized to take any and all necessary action to remedy violations of the BACB's Registry Use Policy. Among the remedies available to the BACB, we will research company ownership and governing board contact information to assess whether any of the organization's leaders hold BACB certification. If they are BACB certified, the BACB may take appropriate action under ground #2 of the Professional Disciplinary and Ethical Standards, prohibiting "any violation of a BACB rule or procedure."

To reiterate, we thank the many of you who comply with our Registry Use rules. For the few of you determined to abuse those rules, consider this article a warning.



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BACB's Certification Programs are Reaccredited

We are delighted to announce that our BCBA and BCaBA programs have been reaccredited (through August 2017) by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) in Washington, DC. The NCCA is the accreditation body of the [Institute for Credentialing Excellence](#). Our continued accreditation by NCCA helps demonstrate to government agencies, legislators, consumers, insurance companies, and other stakeholders that the BACB has met the rigorous standards established by the credentialing industry.

Congratulations Lorri Unumb!

The BACB congratulates Lorri Unumb, our colleague and 2008 winner of the Michael Hemingway Behavior Analysis award, for winning the [NASCAR Foundation's Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award](#). Ms. Unumb is Autism Speaks' vice-president of governmental affairs and has been instrumental in the passage of dozens of laws that have resulted in insurance companies paying for applied behavior analysis treatment for autism and covering services provided by BACB certificants.

Hemingway Award Nominations

The BACB is currently accepting [nominations](#) for the Michael Hemingway Behavior Analysis award. This award honors an individual distinguished for their efforts to champion behavior analysis. Nominations will be accepted until January 16, 2013.

BACB Administers First Translated Examinations

Beginning in May 2012, the BACB began offering its first examinations in non-English languages. The BCBA examination is now available in both English and Spanish, and the BCaBA examination is now available in English, Spanish, and Traditional Chinese. To date, 7 individuals have taken the newly translated examinations. The BACB will begin working on a translation of the examinations into Hebrew in 2013 and additional translations will follow.

The average translation process takes 1 to 2 years to complete. We will provide advance notice of the availability of newly translated examinations in the *BACB Newsletter*.

BACB Releases Practice Guidelines

Earlier this fall, the BACB issued new practice guidelines: [Health Plan Coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder](#). The guidelines were developed to provide guidance to health plans, consumers, and providers so that individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder are more likely to receive applied behavior analysis treatment consistent with the best available scientific evidence and expert clinical opinion. This project was prompted by the recent passage of autism-insurance legislation in multiple states, which has left numerous insurers with a need to develop an infrastructure for defining and funding ABA treatment. Given the multiple unique features of ABA treatment in this area, the BACB wanted to ensure that insurers were provided with the best information possible for this task. So far, the guidelines have been well received by numerous stakeholders.

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