

# BACB Newsletter



**NOTICE:** The information contained in BACB Newsletters may be outdated and should be independently verified via our website.

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## BACB Podcast Now Available for Streaming



The BACB now offers the *Inside the BACB* podcast as an additional means of sharing information about the organization and its activities. The *BACB Newsletter* will continue to provide formal announcements about requirements changes and other critical content for applicants and certificants, and [BACB.com](http://BACB.com) remains the official source for BACB requirements. Don't miss an episode of *Inside the BACB*; [subscribe today](#).

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## RBT Announcements

### New Limit on Examination Attempts

The RBT examination is currently administered continuously and on-demand. RBT candidates have a one-year authorization period in which to pass the examination and are required to wait seven days between examination attempts. In accordance with best practices for certification programs, the BACB reviewed RBT examination data to identify the appropriate number of examination attempts permitted during the one-year authorization period. Based on these data, the BACB Board of Directors voted to implement a limitation of eight examination attempts within the one-year authorization period for RBTs, effective November 1, 2020. Additional information on how this change will impact RBT candidates who already have active authorization periods at that time will be available in 2020.

RBT Examination Elements	Status
One-year examination authorization period	Current
Immediate receipt of results	Current
Seven days between examination attempts	Current
Eight examination attempts permitted in a one-year period	New as of November 1, 2020

### Publication of RBT Examination Pass Rates for 40-hour Training Programs

The BACB provides university pass-rate information for the BCBA and BCaBA certification programs as a resource to the profession. Beginning in 2021, the BACB will publish a similar resource for the RBT certification program, which will include the examination pass rates for individuals and organizations who offer the RBT 40-hour training.

# Ethics Violations and Code-Enforcement Activities: 2018 Update

In 2018, the BACB published a summary of ethics violations and other enforcement activities resulting from Notices of Alleged Violation (Notices) submitted during the first two years in which the [Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts](#) (Code) was in effect. The document, [A Summary of Ethics Violations and Code-Enforcement Activities: 2016-2017](#), is available on the BACB website as a resource to assist those who supervise and train aspiring behavior analysts.

In January 2019, the BACB Ethics Department revised its data collection methods to improve the data that may be reported in such summaries. However, because our 2018 data were collected under the system that generated the 2016-2017 report, and since so many of the data categories and operational definitions have changed, they cannot be included in future analyses. For this reason, we are publishing our analysis of the 2018 data in this issue of the *BACB Newsletter*. Future summaries from the BACB Ethics Department will be published in a white-paper format.

The data below are based on actionable Code violations (i.e., violations with sufficient evidence for the cases to proceed to the Disciplinary System) that occurred in 2018. Specifically, we have included data on the overall number of Notices submitted, displayed by the types of notifiers and the violations reported. The BACB received hundreds of Notices in 2018. The data presented below are based on the Notices that were accepted **and** resolved (n = 43) through the BACB's Disciplinary System in 2018.

## Notifier Type

Table 1 depicts the number of Notices by each type of notifier. The most common type of notifier was a supervisor or employer (n = 12, 27.9%).

**Table 1. Number of Notices by Notifier Type**

Notifier	# Accepted Notices
Supervisor or Employer	12
Other*	10
BACB**	8
Supervisee or Employee	7
Client	6
Self-report	0
Colleague	0
Third-party Organization	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

\* The "other" category includes paraprofessionals, previous employers, previous employees, managers of other organizations, and civil litigation.

\*\* The BACB typically files a Notice when a potential violation is identified through licensure board notification, routine BACB audits, when publicly available evidence is reported to the BACB, among other reasons.

## Ethics Violations

Table 2 depicts the most frequent ethics violations, by category, in 2018. The categories are the same as those in the 2016-2017 report. It should be noted that a single Notice may have contained allegations of multiple code violations. The three most common code categories with substantiated violations were: professionalism and integrity (elements 1.04, 1.05, 7.01, & 7.02), non-sexual multiple or exploitative relationship (elements 1.06 & 1.07), and failure to report or respond to the BACB as required (10.02).

**Table 2. Most Frequent Ethics Violations**

Violation Category	Relevant Code Elements	# of Total Substantiated Violations
Professionalism and Integrity	1.04 Integrity 1.05 Professional and Scientific Relationships 7.01 Promoting an Ethical Culture 7.02 Ethical Violations by Others and Risk of Harm	18
Non-sexual Multiple or Exploitative Relationship	1.06 Multiple Relationships and Conflicts of Interest 1.07 Exploitative Relationships	10
Failure to Report or Respond to the BACB as Required	10.02 Timely Responding, Reporting, and Updating of Information Provided to the BACB	8
Improper or Inadequate Supervision or Delegation	5.0 Behavior Analysts as Supervisors 10.05 Compliance with BACB Supervision and Coursework Standards	7
Responsibility to the Client	2.0 Behavior Analysts' Responsibility to Clients 2.02 Responsibility 2.05 Rights and Prerogatives of Clients	3
Inaccurate and Dishonest Information in Attaining or Maintaining a BACB Certification or Status	10.01 Truthful and Accurate Information Provided to the BACB 10.04 Examination Honesty and Irregularities 10.05 Compliance with BACB Supervision and Coursework Standards	3
Failure to Maintain Adequate or Accurate Records	2.07 Maintaining Records 2.10 Documenting Professional Work and Research 2.11 Records and Data 2.13 Accuracy in Billing Reports	2
Failure to Obtain Informed Consent	2.12 Contracts, Fees, and Financial Arrangements 3.03 Behavior-Analytic Assessment Consent 3.04 Explaining Assessment Results 3.05 Consent-Client Records 4.02 Involving Clients in Planning and Consent 4.04 Approving Behavior-Change Programs 4.05 Describing Behavior-Change Program Objectives 9.03 Informed Consent	2
Insufficient Service Continuity	2.15 Interrupting or Discontinuing Services 4.11 Discontinuing Behavior-Change Programs and Behavior-Analytic Services	2

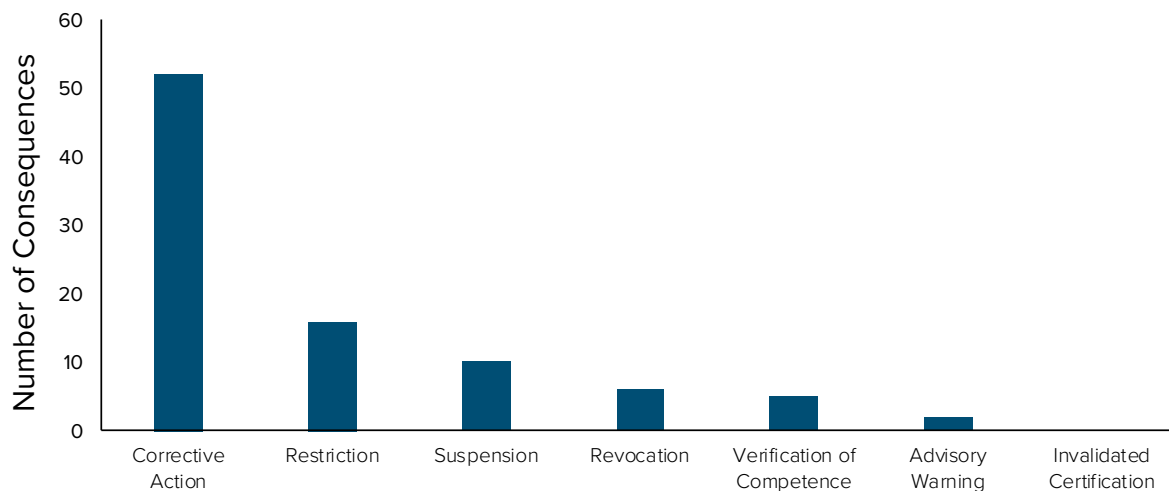
Violation Category	Relevant Code Elements	# of Total Substantiated Violations
Use of Nonevidence-based or Behavior-analytic Assessments or Interventions	1.01 Reliance on Scientific Knowledge 2.09 Treatment/Intervention Efficacy 4.01 Conceptual Consistency 6.01 Affirming Principles	1
Inability to Practice Due to Safety Concerns	10.02 Timely Responding, Reporting, and Updating of Information Provided to the BACB	1
All Other Reasons		11
<b>Total</b>		<b>68</b>

Note: Each accepted Notice could include multiple reasons for action such that the total number of reasons reported exceeds the total number of accepted Notices.

## Disciplinary Review Consequences

Figure 1 depicts the total number of consequences, by category, for the 43 Notices processed through the Disciplinary System. The most common consequence issued was corrective action (n = 52, 62%) and the most severe consequence was revocation of certification (n = 6, 7%). Multiple consequences may have been applied to a single Notice.

Figure 1. Number of consequences issued in 2018 through the Disciplinary System.



# Reminder: Upcoming Changes to Continuing Education Requirements

As of January 1, 2020, BCBA's and BCaBA's may earn continuing education units (CEUs) through three types of activity, as illustrated in the table below. There will be no restrictions or limitations on the number of CEUs earned through each activity type. In addition, CEUs may be earned in increments of 0.5 (i.e., 25 minutes) and the content may address any aspect of behavior analysis: practice, science, methodology, theory, or the profession itself.

Type	Continuing Education By:
Learning	Attending events offered by Authorized Continuing Education (ACE) providers.
	Completing didactic behavior-analytic graduate (BCBA) or undergraduate (BCaBA) courses at a qualifying institution with a passing grade ("C" or better for graded courses). <i>Note:</i> Coursework used to obtain certification will not qualify.
	Participating in certain BACB certification activities.
Teaching	Teaching ACE events.
	Teaching university courses in behavior analysis at a qualifying institution.
Scholarship	Publishing an article on behavior analysis in a peer-reviewed journal.
	Writing a review or decision letter for an article on behavior analysis submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

*Note:* Additional details on these CEU types are available on the BCBA and BCaBA webpages at [BACB.com](http://BACB.com).

## Transition Information

Please carefully review the changes described below to determine how they might impact your certification cycle:

- **Type 3, Non-Authorized Events:** You must enter Type 3 CEUs into your BACB account *before* January 1, 2020. Effective January 1, 2020, you will no longer be able to enter Type 3 CEUs, although previously entered data will still be available in your account.
- **Type 6, Passing the Certification Exam:** If you applied for Type 6 on or before November 1, 2019, you must pass the certification examination *before* January 1, 2020 for it to count as continuing education. On January 1, 2020, passing the certification examination will no longer be an option for continuing education. Please be advised: **If you take the certification examination for continuing education and do not pass, you will no longer be certified by the BACB.**
- **Type Restrictions:** Restrictions on CEU type will be eliminated as of January 1, 2020; this will be retroactively applied to CEUs previously earned by certificants.
- **New Types:** The table (right) provides a crosswalk of former and new CEU types. All former CEU types will automatically be reclassified to the new types on January 1, 2020. Any CEU entries that occur after January 1, 2020 must meet the new requirements and may be entered using the new CEU types (e.g., Type 2 CEUs will be entered as "Learning" CEUs).
- Beginning January 1, 2020, all CEUs entered into BACB accounts must be accompanied by an uploaded document supporting each entry.

Former CEU Types	New CEU Types
Type 1, 2, 3, and 5	Learning
Type 4	Teaching
Type 7	Scholarship

# Recent and Upcoming Changes to BACB Requirements

The table below summarizes important requirements changes announced in the *BACB Newsletter*.

Effective Date	Area	Change	Newsletter
November 1, 2019	RBT Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements	Changes to several RBT eligibility and maintenance requirements.	<a href="#">December 2018</a>
	RBT Supervisor Requirements	Changes to requirements for those who supervise RBTs.	<a href="#">December 2018</a>
	Supervisor Training Curriculum	A new version of the supervisor training curriculum took effect.	<a href="#">December 2018</a>
	RBT Examination	The RBT examination will be based on the <a href="#">RBT Task List (2nd ed.)</a> .	<a href="#">December 2018</a>
January 1, 2020	BCBA and BCaBA CEU Requirements	Changes to the CEU requirements for BCBA and BCaBA certifications.	<a href="#">November 2018</a>
November 1, 2020	RBT Examination	Candidates will have a maximum of eight examination attempts during a one-year authorization period.	<a href="#">November 2019</a>
January 1, 2022	BCBA and BCaBA Eligibility Requirements	Changes to the coursework requirements for BCBA (Pathway 2) and BCaBA certifications.	<a href="#">January 2017</a>
	BCBA and BCaBA Examinations	BCBA and BCaBA examinations will be based on the <a href="#">BCBA Task List (5th ed.)</a> and the <a href="#">BCaBA Task List (5th ed.)</a> .	<a href="#">January 2017</a>
	BCBA and BCaBA Experience and Supervision Requirements	Changes to the “Structure and Amount of Supervised Fieldwork,” “Terminology Revisions,” “BCBA & BCaBA Fieldwork & Supervision Requirements,” “Appropriate Clients,” and “Activities.”	<a href="#">October 2017</a>
	BCBA and BCaBA Degree Requirements	Changes to the degree requirements for BCBA and BCaBA certifications.	<a href="#">October 2018</a>
	BCBA and BCaBA Maintenance Requirements	Changes to CEU requirements for BCBA and BCaBA certifications.	<a href="#">November 2018</a>