

BOARD CERTIFIED ASSISTANT BEHAVIOR ANALYST (BCaBA) CERTIFICATION

WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

The [Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.](#) (BACB).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

To certify different levels of behavior analysts and protect consumers of behavior analysis services by establishing, promoting, and disseminating professional standards of practice.

WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

The [BCaBA](#) is an entry-level certification for bachelor's degree holders who are interested in behavior analysis and mental health, as well as health care systems, social service systems, and state regulatory agencies.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

Having a bachelor's degree in behavior analysis or a related profession with specific course requirements in content areas such as ethical and professional contact, concepts and principles of behavior analysis, identification of the problem and assessment, and fundamental elements of behavior change and specific behavior-change procedures. In addition, a supervised clinical experience in applied behavior analysis must be completed before an individual is eligible to take the certification exam.

WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The BCaBA exam consists of 140 multiple-choice questions and costs \$175 for the exam, but also requires an additional \$125 for the exam administration (charged by an outside testing vendor). The BACB also offers an optional preliminary coursework evaluation for \$100 to determine whether the applicant's coursework meets the BCaBA requirements.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

International.

IS THIS CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

Yes, BCaBA is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) against the *NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*.

HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

It is valid for two years.

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IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?

Yes, the certification holder can recertify by paying a \$140 recertification fee, completing 20 continuing education units (CEUs) within a two-year cycle, adhering to the Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts, and self-reporting information that provides the BACB with updates to contact information or information that needs to be reported to the BACB ethics department.

CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?

Yes, the BCaBA certification can be revoked for a violation of the Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts. Violations can include falsifying reports and fraudulent behavior.

IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?

Thirty-three states have implemented licensure for behavior analysts. States began passing licensure laws in 2009 and the number of laws continue to expand.

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER BACB CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?

The BACB's Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) high school level certification may be earned prior to becoming a BCaBA, and the BCaBA certification may be earned prior to becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), which is a graduate-level certification.

WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Health care systems, social service systems, and mental health systems.

ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?

Because it is tied to licensure in many states, companies or organizations in health care and social service systems require it. Additionally, the BCaBA is considered a high risk certification needing a high degree of rigor to maintain confidence from the employers. In fact, the BCaBA must meet certain ongoing supervision requirements.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Individuals who hold the BCaBA certification may work in a variety of settings, such as clinical, private, educational, administrative, and organizational business management.

DOES THE BACB OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?

No, but the BACB does refer certification seekers to other professional membership societies or colleges and universities for preparation materials.