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**Supervised Experience**

**Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)**
June 2006

**Categories of Supervised Experience:**

There are three categories of experience: Supervised Independent Fieldwork, Practicum, and Intensive Practicum. Applicants may accrue experience in only one category at a time. Practicum and Intensive Practicum may be accrued only in a BACB approved university experience program (see your university contact for these requirements). University contacts interested in obtaining BACB approval of an experience program, or other interested parties, may [click here](http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=100256) to view full requirements for all experience categories available to universities with approved experience programs.

**Amount of Supervised Experience Required:**

Supervised Independent Fieldwork: Applicants must complete 1500 hours of Supervised Independent Fieldwork in behavior analysis. The distribution of Supervised Independent Fieldwork hours must be at least 10 hours per week, but not more than 30 hours per week, for a minimum of 3 weeks per month.

**Amount of Supervision Required:**

Supervised Independent Fieldwork: Applicants must be supervised at least once every 2 weeks for 5% of the total hours they spend in Supervised Independent Fieldwork. Total supervision must be at least 75 hours. A supervisory period is two weeks.

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|  | **Supervised IndependentFieldwork** |
| Total hours required | 1500 |
| Supervised hours:% of total hours | 5% |
| Total number of supervised hours | 75 |
| Frequency of supervisor contacts | 1 every 2 weeks |

**Onset of Experience:**

Applicants may not start accumulating experience until they have begun the coursework required to meet the BACB coursework requirements.

**Appropriate Applicant Activities:**

The applicant’s primary focus should be on learning new behavior analytic skills related to the BACB Third Edition Task List. Activities must adhere to the dimensions of applied behavior analysis identified by Baer, Wolf, and Risley (1968) in the article *Some Current Dimensions of Applied Behavior Analysis* published in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. Applicants are encouraged to have experiences in multiple sites and with multiple supervisors.

Appropriate experience activities include:

1. Conducting assessment activities related to the need for behavioral interventions,
2. Designing, implementing, and monitoring behavior analysis programs for clients,
3. Overseeing the implementation of behavior analysis programs by others,
4. Other activities normally performed by a behavior analyst that are directly related to behavior analysis such as attending planning meetings regarding the behavior analysis program, researching the literature related to the program, talking to individuals about the program; plus any additional activities related to oversight of behavioral programming such as behavior analyst supervision issues, or evaluation of behavior analysts' performance. The supervisor will determine if activities qualify.

Examples of activities that are not appropriate as experience activities include: attending meetings with little or no behavior analytic content, providing interventions that are not based in behavior analysis, doing non-behavior analytic administrative activities, or any other activities that are not directly related to behavior analysis.

**Appropriate Clients:**

Clients may be any persons for whom behavior analysis services are appropriate. However, the applicant may not be related to the client or the client’s primary caretaker. Applicants must work with multiple clients during the experience period.

**Supervisor Qualifications:**

During the experience period, the supervisor must be a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in good standing **or** be approved by the BACB as a faculty member in a BACB approved course sequence. The supervisor may not be the applicant's relative, subordinate or employee during the experience period. The supervisor will not be considered an employee of the applicant if the only compensation received by the supervisor from the applicant consists of payment for supervision.

**Contractual and Ethical Considerations:**

The supervisor and applicant should execute a contract prior to the onset of the experience that states the responsibilities of both parties, delineates the consequences should the parties not adhere to their responsibilities (including proper termination of the relationship), and includes an attestation that both parties will adhere to the BACB Guidelines for Responsible Conduct. The parties should pay particular attention to Sections 1, 2, and three of the Guidelines and consider the supervisor to be the client of the applicant except as noted above.

**Nature of Supervision:**

The supervisor must observe the applicant engaging in behavior analytic activities in the natural environment at least once every two weeks. The supervisor must provide specific feedback to applicants on their performance. During the initial half of the total experience hours, observation should concentrate on applicant-client interactions. This observation may be conducted via web-cameras, videotape, videoconferencing, or similar means in lieu of the supervisor being physically present. Supervision may be conducted in small groups of 10 or fewer participants for no more than half of the total supervised hours in each supervisory period. The remainder of the total supervision hours in each supervisory period must consist of direct one-to-one contact. Supervision hours may be counted toward the total number of experience hours required.

**Documentation of Supervision:**

Supervisors are responsible for providing documentation for each supervisory period on a [feedback form](http://www.bacb.com/index.php?page=100165#supform) provided by the BACB. The feedback form will require documentation of number of hours of experience, number of supervised hours, feedback on the applicant’s performance, the supervisor for each supervisory period, and signatures of the applicant and supervisor. The supervisor must review the completed feedback forms with the applicant and provide a copy for the applicant each supervisory period. The supervisor and the applicant are responsible for retaining their copies of the forms (in the event of a disagreement regarding experience, the BACB will need documentation from each party). The BACB reserves the right to request this documentation at any time following an individual’s application to take the certification exam. In addition, the supervisor will be required to verify the applicant’s supervision on the Experience Verification Form that is provided within the application for examination.