

Supervised Independent Fieldwork Resource Sheet Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) requires all certification applicants to have completed supervised fieldwork before sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam. These hours are not included in the UMass Global Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. Students pursuing BCBA certification have two options to complete their supervised fieldwork under the 5th Edition Task List: Supervised Fieldwork or Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork. These experiences are paid for by the supervisee unless it is offered by one's employer.

Below you'll find information about the BACB's requirement. If you have any questions about this requirement, we recommend you contact the BACB directly.

BCBA Fieldwork – Requirements and Overview

From the BACB Website: https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022-BCBA-Fieldwork-Standards_190730.pdf

Supervisees must complete 1500-2000 hours of Supervised Fieldwork in behavior analysis. This may be done as either Supervised Fieldwork or Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork.

For both types of Fieldwork, the following applies:

- A supervisory period is one month;
- Fieldwork must be a minimum of 20 hours per month and no more than 130 hours per month
- Supervision experience cannot exceed 5 years' time;
- Supervision experience must be **completed** before an application for the exam can be submitted.

Supervised Fieldwork:

- A total of 2000 fieldwork hours;
- 100 of these hours are spent with a supervisor who will lead you through a series of activities related to applied behavior analysis;
- Only the 100 hours of supervision are paid for, and supervision cannot be more than 6.5 hours per month;
- Each month there must be 4 contacts with a supervisor and 1 observation in the fieldwork environment or via webcam.
- With this method, one completes supervision in 15.3 months.

Concentrated Supervised Fieldwork:

- A total of 1500 fieldwork hours;
- 150 of these hours are spent with a supervisor who will lead you through a series of activities related to applied behavior analysis;
- Only the 150 hours of supervision are paid for, and supervision cannot be more than 13 hours per month.
- Each month there must be 6 contacts with a supervisor and 1 observation in the fieldwork environment or via webcam.
- With this method, one completes supervision more quickly (11.5 months), but one pays for more supervision hours (150).

Getting Started on Supervision

1. Begin a BACB-approved University coursework, such as UMass Global's Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis.
2. Register (set up a Gateway account) at the BACB website: www.bacb.com.
3. Find and contact a certificant who is cleared to provide supervision. The BACB website (www.bacb.com) maintains a directory based on zip code. Click on "Find/ Contact Certificants", then search for certificants in your area labeled as "C – Will supervise those pursuing certification".
4. The BACB accepts remote supervision that is conducted by video conference. This allows you to find a supervisor outside of your zip code if you know of a BCBA in your area of interest.
5. Sign a contract with a supervisor before beginning any supervision hours.

Things to Keep in Mind

- **Supervision fees vary widely**, depending on experience of the supervisor, the region of the country, and state limitations on fee structures in behavior analysis.
- Supervisees are encouraged to work in multiple ABA settings, with different populations and practicum settings if possible.
- The BACB forbids dual relationships in any supervision format. The supervisor cannot be related to, subordinate to, or employed by the supervisee (i.e. a paraprofessional who is a BCBA working for a teacher who needs supervision).
- The BACB requires a Masters degree; under the 5th Edition Task List, all Masters programs will be accepted.
- Supervision activities are categorized in two groups: restricted and non-restricted activities. Supervision should allow you to perform some duties that would be conducted by a BCBA, as a way of preparing for the tasks that will be performed as a BCBA.
- Supervisees under Supervised Fieldwork must have more than one client throughout the fieldwork experience.
- Fieldwork cannot be more than 40% of the time in direct therapeutic or implementation of behavior programs (a restricted activity). **It is essential that you are in a fieldwork environment that will allow you to observe and collect data, hold trainings, chart data and evaluate trends; design behavioral programming (unrestricted activities).**