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 practical experience before sitting for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam. Because these hours are not included in the Brandman University Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis curriculum, any students pursuing BCBA certification will need to complete Supervised Independent Fieldwork on their own.

Below you'll find information about the BACB's requirement and some options that are available to you to complete it. If you have any questions about this requirement, we recommend you contact the BACB directly.

Supervised Independent Fieldwork – Requirement and Overview

From the BACB Website: https://www.bacb.com/experience-standards-monthly-system/

Supervisees must complete 1500 hours of Supervised Independent Fieldwork in behavior analysis. 75 of these hours are spent with a supervisor who will lead you through a series of activities related to applied behavior analysis. Supervised Independent Fieldwork is paid for by the supervisee; only the 75 hours of supervision are paid for, and supervision cannot be more than 6.5 hours per month.

A supervisory period is **one month**. The minimum amount of fieldwork is 20 hours per month; the maximum is 130 hours per month. The rate of supervision hours can be accrued in proportion to the number of fieldwork hours; there must be at least 2 contacts with the supervisor each month. Either an in-person or video-recorded observation must be made in each session with the supervisor.

Supervision hours cannot exceed 5% of the total number of fieldwork hours each month (ie. 6.5 hours per month if 130 fieldwork hours are logged; 1 hour if 20 hours of fieldwork are logged.) Supervision experience cannot exceed 5 years' time. (NOTE: The last time the 4th Edition Task List Exam will be offered is in November, 2021. Students wishing to sit for the 4th edition exam need to calculate their supervision in order to finish it before applying for that last exam; the application deadline for the November 2021 exam is October 1, 2021.) Supervision experience must be **completed** before an application for the exam can be submitted.

Getting Started on Supervision
1. Begin a BACB-approved University coursework, such as Brandman University'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. 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 working for a teacher).
- The BACB requires a graduate-level degree in one of 3 fields: Behavior Analysis, Education, or Psychology. https://www.bacb.com/bcba/bcba-option-1/
- 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. Fieldwork cannot be more than 50% 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).