

From: [Higgins, Johanna](#)
To: [Janikowski, Paula Lynn](#)
Cc: [Kostewicz, Douglas E](#)
Subject: Fw: ABAI VCS: Payment Received and Renewal Processed
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 10:59:13 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-w2s01ubm.png](#)

Paula,

Please see the email below with confirmation of payment through this year for the ABA Program.

Johanna Higgins, PhD, BCBA-D (she/her)
Assistant Professor of Practice
Applied Behavior Analysis Program Coordinator
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5900 Wesley W. Posvar Hall | 230 S. Bouquet St. | Office 5141



From: Kostewicz, Douglas E <dekost@pitt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Higgins, Johanna <JHIGGINS@pitt.edu>
Subject: Fw: ABAI VCS: Payment Received and Renewal Processed

This?

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From: VCS <vcs@abainternational.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 11:30 AM
Cc: VCS <vcs@abainternational.org>
Subject: ABAI VCS: Payment Received and Renewal Processed

Dear Coordinator,

Payment for your VCS has been received. This email is to notify you that your VCS remains active and verified through December 31, 2025. As mentioned in the [ABAI-BACB Joint Announcement](#), the VCS system is sunsetting effective January 1, 2026.

After this date, any students applying for the examination via Pathway 2, will apply using the BACB's attestation system. We encourage you to direct any questions regarding the attestation system to the BACB: <https://www.bacb.com/contact-us/vcs-coordinator-support-form/>

Beginning January 1, 2032, all students applying for the BCBA exam must graduate from an accredited degree program. If you haven't already, we encourage you to learn more about ABAI's Tiered Model of Education.

If we haven't previously met with you to discuss your program's transition to ABAI-accreditation, we would love the opportunity to do so! Please indicate if you would like to arrange a meeting using the following link: <https://forms.gle/eNK3nsTZkezB5kSJ9>

Best,
ABAI Team

Important Announcement about the VCS System

Dear colleague,

We are writing to share important news about ABAI's Verified Course Sequence (VCS¹) system. As you may know, the BACB and ABAI entered into an agreement on November 21, 2017 to transfer the management of the VCS system from the BACB to ABAI. The original contract period ends on December 31, 2025. The VCS system was originally developed by the BACB to expedite the processing of BCBA and BCaBA certification applications and that has remained its core purpose. However, as a secondary function, the VCS system has also been a way to identify training programs that offer a formal curriculum in behavior analysis.

Two recent developments have led to an important decision about the VCS system. The first, announced in the fall of 2021 by the BACB, provides an option for VCS coordinators to attest to an applicant's fulfillment of coursework requirements, bypassing the typical, course-by-course review process; a process that has become cumbersome to applicants and VCS coordinators due to the large number of training programs, the large number of within-university program variations, and different eras of coursework. The new [attestation](#) model procedurally aligns with the BACB's Supervised Fieldwork Verification process and is a conventional practice in the certification industry. The new process has been successful for those who have used it and the BACB is continuing to work with university programs to identify further improvements and enhancements.

The second recent development was ABAI's new Tiered Model of Education, which provides recognition of quality academic training programs and encourages programs to achieve accreditation progressively. The Tiered Model includes four tiers based on whether the training program is housed in an institution of higher education, is degree granting, and incorporates experiential learning. Tier 1 programs are ABAI-accredited. Tiers 2a and 2b are recognized degree-granting programs from higher education institutions that are close to meeting the accreditation standards. Tiers 3a and 3b are recognized non-degree programs (e.g., certificate and post-graduate programs). Tiers 4a and 4b are recognized non-degree programs not connected to institutions of higher education and are only available for training programs outside the United States. ABAI hopes to provide recognition to sound programs in any tier and progressively encourage and assist those programs to move toward accreditation. ABAI encourages all existing VCS programs to review the Tiered Model of Education system and standards. The Tiered Model consists of a comprehensive evaluation of the program consistent with ABAI accreditation, which includes the fulfillment of nine standard areas related to public disclosure, accountability, structure, resources, and curriculum. Details of the Tiered Model of Education are available [here](#).

These two developments mean that both functions of the VCS system—expediting certification-application processing and identifying training programs—can now be accomplished in other

¹ ABAI has two VCS systems: the original version designed to convey BCBA and BCaBA coursework and a newer version designed to convey coursework in culturo-behavior science, now called the culturo-behavior science concentration. In this communication, we use "VCS system" only to refer to the BCBA and BCaBA coursework version.

ways. Thus, ABAI will not be renewing the VCS transfer agreement after its expiration on December 31, 2025, and the BACB will not reassume the system after that date. Thus, the VCS system will end on December 31, 2025. After that date, all BCBA and BCaBA certification applications (under Pathway 2) will be processed using the attestation process described above.

The timeline for upcoming changes is as follows:

1. January 1, 2025: ABAI will stop accepting new Fifth Edition BACB VCS applications.
2. July 1, 2024: ABAI will begin a modified renewal schedule and prorated rate for renewals through December 31, 2025.
3. July 1, 2025: ABAI no longer processes renewals.
4. December 31, 2025: This will be the last day for applicants to apply for BCBA or BCaBA certification (under Pathway 2) using course-by-course review via VCS records.
5. January 1, 2026: All BCBA and BCaBA applicants (under Pathway 2) will complete their certification application using the coursework attestation process.

ABAI will continue to work with programs during this transitional period to ensure their graduates remain eligible for BACB certification. Both ABAI and the BACB will continue to work closely during the upcoming transitions to further support our constituencies and the discipline.

We prepared a list of questions and answers below. Please do not hesitate to contact ABAI (VCS@abainternational.org) for any matter regarding the education programs, and the BACB through the [VCS Coordinator Support Form](#) for questions regarding certification eligibility requirements.

VCS Sunsetting Questions & Answers

Q: What will happen to programs that have a Verified Course Sequence (VCS) but are not yet or do not plan to become an ABAI accredited (Tier 1) or recognized (Tier 2) program as of January 1, 2026?

A: Programs not yet ready for recognition or accreditation may still produce eligible candidates for BCBA and BCaBA certification applications. Each university program that meets the BCBA or BCaBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements will use the attestation system to convey that their students meet said coursework requirements. We are announcing this change well in advance of January 1, 2026, so that the BACB has time to work with VCS Coordinators and other program representatives to help ensure the success of the attestation system. Then, as outlined in the [BACB's March 2022 Newsletter](#), beginning January 1, 2026, Pathway 1, which will consist of an ABAI-Accredited Degree Program (and practical fieldwork) will be the only eligibility pathway for BCBA-level certification.

Q: How will this impact students who are enrolled in my VCS program?

A: If your program meets the BCBA or BCaBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements, this change will not impact your students. Your students can still apply for BCBA or BCaBA

certification. The only difference is that those who apply on or after January 1, 2026, must have the university contact attest that they meet all coursework requirements.

Q: What will happen to ABAI-accredited degree programs that have a VCS embedded within them?

A: If your degree program is ABAI accredited, it will not be affected by this change regardless of whether it has a VCS embedded within it. When students graduate from your ABAI-accredited program, they will apply for BCBA or BCaBA certification under Pathway 1 as usual. However, if your ABAI-accredited program has a companion (non-degree or non-accredited) program that is structured to meet the BCBA or BCaBA Pathway 2 coursework requirements, students completing that coursework must have the university contact attest that they meet all coursework requirements beginning January 1, 2026.

Q: Will ABAI remove all VCS programs from the VCS Directory on January 1, 2026?

A: Yes. ABAI will maintain the directory of current, active VCSs through December 31, 2025. On January 1, 2026, ABAI will retire the VCS Directory.

Q: Do I need to keep my VCS active and updated until January 1, 2026 by renewing it?

A: If you want your students to be able to apply for BCBA or BCaBA certification under Pathway 2 using course-by-course review through December 31, 2025, you should keep your VCS(s) active and updated, renew, and maintain accurate verified course records with ABAI per usual. Beginning July 1, 2025, ABAI will no longer process course changes for VCSs, and the current VCS Database will be retired. From that point forward, the attestation system will be used for all BCBA and BCaBA Pathway 2 applications. Through December 31, 2025, VCS Coordinators should continue to email VCS@abainternational.org for support regarding the maintenance of their VCS(s).

Q: How can I update my VCS to meet the BACB's 2027 coursework requirements?

A: The VCS system remains in place for the current, Fifth Edition coursework requirements, and updates or modifications to those sequences will continue to be supported. There will not be a separate or new VCS application system for the BACB's 2027 Pathway 2 coursework requirements as the VCS system will no longer exist. We recommend programs planning to meet the BACB's 2027 requirements, with graduates eligible via Pathway 2, document their coursework details internally in preparation for the BACB's Coursework Attestation system. Programs applying for the Tiered Model will continue to work with ABAI.

Q: How should we advertise our coursework to prospective students?

A: If you maintain an active VCS through 2025, you may continue to use the language provided by ABAI as indicated in the renewal letter, "The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the following courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst®

examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.” Effective January 1, 2026, training programs offering coursework to meet the BCBA and BCaBA Pathway 2 requirements must update the language to remove reference to ABAI’s verification and instead, once enrolled in the attestation process may state “This program has been designed to meet the [*BACB Certification Type*] Pathway 2 coursework requirements. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements to qualify for [*BACB Certification Type*].” You may incorporate this revised language for communications and prospective students who may apply for certification after January 1, 2026. ABAI-accredited and recognized programs can incorporate, more specific language about their accreditation and recognition status (as indicated by ABAI).



BCBA Pathway 2 Coursework Attestation

2022 Coursework Requirements

Overview

This form may be completed by a current Pathway 2 Program Contact for students who have completed at least one course in their designated program. The purpose of this form is to attest that an applicant has met the current coursework requirements for BCBA certification under pathway 2. This form may only be used toward a certification application starting January 1, 2026.

Instructions

The Pathway 2 Program Contact will:

- Review the following:
 - the current BCBA coursework requirements (see [BCBA Pathway 2 Coursework Requirements](#))
 - the student's syllabi
 - the student's transcript
 - the [BCBA and BCaBA Pathway 2 Coursework Attestations FAQs](#) document
- Complete this form in its entirety for consideration. Incomplete documents will not be accepted.
- Confirm that the applicant has created a BACB account and provided you with their BACB ID. Please note that the BACB will not provide feedback on this attestation to the applicant until they have submitted a paid BCBA Certification Application.
- Email this form to Universityprograms@bacb.com with the subject line "Coursework Attestation: _____(BACB ID)" via the email address listed in your BACB account. Please note that only one attestation per student can be submitted in a single email. Documents will not be accepted from any email address other than from the one listed in your BACB account. This is important to ensure the authenticity of the attestation.
- Keep a copy of this completed form and the supporting documentation for at least 7 years, as the BACB may request this information during an audit.

BCBA Pathway 2 Coursework Requirements

You must complete behavior-analytic coursework that meets the following requirements:

- The coursework was graduate level (i.e., master's or doctoral) and was completed at the [qualifying institution](#) in which you were enrolled.
- You received academic credit for the coursework.
- The coursework was obtained within 10 years of the year the application was submitted (e.g., to apply in 2025, only coursework completed in 2015 or later will be applied).
- The coursework reflects that you received a passing grade ("C" or higher in a graded course or "pass" in a pass/fail system) in each course.
- The coursework covers all of the content areas and number of hours specified in this table:

2022 Coursework Content Requirements	
Content Areas	Content Hours*
BACB Ethics Code and Code-Enforcement System; Professionalism <i>Note:</i> The content must be taught in one or more freestanding courses, meaning that the BACB's ethics code, code-enforcement system, and professionalism must constitute the majority of each course's content.	45 hrs
Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts & Principles <i>Note:</i> 45 hours must be taught in one freestanding course, meaning that concepts and principles must constitute the majority of the course's content.	90 hrs
Measurement, Data Display, and Interpretation; Experimental Design <i>Note:</i> The content must be taught in one freestanding course, meaning that measurement, data display, and interpretation and experimental design must constitute the majority of the course's content.	45 hrs
Behavior Assessment	45 hrs
Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Interventions	60 hrs
Personnel Supervision and Management	30 hrs
Total	315 hrs

* For the purpose of establishing instructional requirements that can be applied globally, 1 semester credit hour will represent 15 hours of classroom instruction, and 1 quarter credit hour will represent 10 hours of classroom instruction. This conversion is based on [US Federal Rule](#).

BCBA Coursework Attestation Information

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant BACB ID (this must match the applicant’s BACB record exactly to be accepted): _____

Date of First Qualifying Behavior-Analytic Course : _____

Behavior-Analytic Courses Completed (course number and course name must match the information on the transcript)				
Institution Name	Department	Course Level (Graduate/ Undergraduate)	Course Number	Course Name

All courses completed within the same program? Yes No

We publish pass-rate data for first-time test takers who completed a single university program. If this student completed all of their coursework through a single program, please fill out the information below. If the student transferred at any point during the program, please do not complete this section.

If yes, please list:

University Name: _____ Program Name: _____

Modality: Online, On-Campus, Hybrid Previous VCS # (if applicable): _____

By signing below, I, _____ (PATHWAY 2 PROGRAM CONTACT NAME), hereby attest that:

- The information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I have read and understand the current BCBA coursework requirements.
- _____ (APPLICANT NAME) completed all of the current **BCBA** coursework requirements, including the following:
 - accrued enough hours in all of the required content areas,
 - passed each course,
 - were enrolled in each course for academic credit,
 - completed each course at an accredited university, AND
 - completed each course at the graduate level.
- I attest that the above applicant completed one or more courses in the program for which I am the designated Pathway 2 Program Contact.
- I understand that submitting falsified or inaccurate information to the BACB constitutes a violation of BACB requirements and ethics standards.
- I will retain a copy of this completed form and supporting documentation and provide it to the BACB in the event of an audit.

Pathway 2 Program Contact Name: _____

BACB ID or Certification Number: _____

Pathway 2 Program Contact Signature: _____

Date: _____