

## FAQ for STUDENTS\*

1. Currently I'm pursuing certification with the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Should I stop pursuing this and attempt to fulfill the registration requirements for College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario (CPBAO)?

This is an individual decision. That said, for most applicants, Transitional Route 1 will be the fastest route to registration. If you have already completed some of the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral (BCBA-D) requirements and will be certified by June 30, 2026, then it will likely make the most sense to continue and apply via Transitional Route 1.

However, to qualify for Transitional Route 1, you must hold active BCBA and BCBA-D certification, be in good standing with the BACB, and [submit an application to the College by 11:59pm on June 30, 2026](#). The legislation does not include any provisions for extending this deadline.

Transitional Route 1 applicants are required to complete the Jurisprudence and Ethics Course and Assessment in ABA (JECAABA), which is an online, self-directed course and multiple-choice quiz that can be repeated as needed until passed. After a complete application has been received and approved, you will be given access to the JECAABA. After successful completion of the JECAABA, you will receive a certificate authorizing autonomous practice as a Behaviour Analyst (i.e. full/independent registration). NOTE: It will be possible to complete the JECAABA after June 30, 2026, provided that an application form and fee are submitted prior to the deadline.

If you do not complete the BCBA or BCBA-D certification process and submit an application to the College by the deadline, then you must apply for registration through the Entry Level Route.

Entry Level Route applicants must complete 1500 hours of supervised practice in Ontario under the supervision of a Behaviour Analyst registrant of the College, the Ontario Examination for Professional Practice in ABA (OEPPABA, an entry-to-practice examination), and the JECAABA. The OEPPABA and JECAABA are to be completed during the 1500 hours of supervised practice.

2. Does the CPBAO post a list of "accredited" schools?

No, the CPBAO does not post a list of accredited schools, or degree programs. Students who are wanting to pursue registration with the College need to ensure that any education they pursue will meet the requirements as outlined in section G - Academic Credentials of the [Entry Level Route Registration Guidelines](#).

3. Are Ontario Master's and PhD programs going to continue to be verified course sequences and meet the BACB task lists?

Neither the College or ONTABA™ control the BACB's or the academic institution's activities. Applicants for the Entry Level Route must meet each of the academic credentials criteria listed in section G of the Registration Guidelines to qualify.

The College's understanding is that the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), which is responsible for the Verified Course Sequence (VCS) system, will stop accepting new VCS applications on January 1, 2025. Therefore, the College's Council will need to approve a replacement verification/accreditation body. The College will provide updates via its website and newsletter, [Headlines](#), as this process is developed. Anyone can subscribe to Headlines; you do not need to be a registrant.

Individuals can also contact the MA/PhD programs directly for clarification regarding verification/accreditation of their programs of study.

4. If someone is interested in becoming a Registered Behaviour Analyst (RBA), how would they go about choosing an appropriate academic pathway?

The College does not maintain a list of acceptable degree programs, and all applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The applicant must meet each of the academic credentials criteria listed in section "G - Academic Credentials" of the [Entry Level Route Registration Guidelines](#) to be eligible for registration. To ensure that a student is eligible for registration, they should carefully compare all prospective degree programs against the academic credentials criteria.

In short, the minimum academic requirements for the Entry Level Route are either: 1. A post-graduate degree, at minimum master's level, in ABA or a related field, together with a graduate-level [Verified Course Sequence](#) (VCS) in ABA, or 2. A post-graduate degree, at minimum master's level, in ABA that is at the [Tier 1 accreditation level](#) of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). For the former, the VCS can be completed at the same university or a different one than the degree. The location of the university and the mode of delivery of the degree/VCS, i.e. on-campus, online or hybrid, do not matter.

5. What are the main differences between becoming registered with the CPBAO and being certified with the BACB?

The main differences can be found in the [2024 BACB and CPBAO Comparison Chart](#)

6. What is the process to become registered if a person does not have a master's degree but is currently working in the field of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) and has other educational training?

This person may qualify for autonomous practice via [Transitional Route 2](#), which is intended for Behaviour Analysts who were practicing within the scope of practice of ABA, including independent clinical decision-making, in the 3 years prior to July 1, 2024.

Independent clinical decision-making means that the applicant was ultimately the person responsible for clients and their care, i.e. directing the course of assessment and intervention plans, monitoring/supervising others in the implementation of said plans (if applicable), and so on. Supervised work experience is not considered towards this requirement, (e.g. those in supportive/frontline roles traditionally known as BCaBA or RBT).

The full registration criteria are listed in section D - Registration Process of the [Registration Guidelines](#).

7. While pursuing registration with the CPBAO, can a student accrue supervised practice hours at the same time as gaining their education?

While acquiring supervised experience prior to beginning the formal supervised practice period is valuable, it will not count. Supervised practice hours count after all requirements of the degree (and VCS, if applicable) have been completed and the applicant receives an authorization for supervised practice from the College.

Per section "H - Authorized Supervised Practice" of the [Entry Level Route Registration Guidelines](#), the College will approve the start date for the supervised practice based upon the date that the supervisor confirms that supervision began, or the date that the last supporting document for the application was received by the College, whichever is later.

Given that there is often a delay between completing all requirements and convocation, the College will accept a transcript showing all coursework has been completed plus a conferral letter from the program's chair/director in lieu of a transcript that states that the degree has been officially conferred/awarded. The conferral letter must indicate that the applicant has been cleared to convocate. These documents must be sent by the university directly to the College, they are not accepted from applicants themselves. While waiting for the College to process the application, applicants must not use the "Behaviour Analyst (Supervised Practice)" title until the College issues a certificate authorizing supervised practice to them.

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| <p>8. For master's students currently completing their hours with the BACB, if they are not a BCBA and registered with CPBAO by June 2026, will CPBAO recognize their supervised hours up to this point if completed under the supervision of an RBA, or will they need to completely restart once registered as a supervised member?</p>   |
| <p>They will need to restart as a supervised practice registrant. See answer to question 7.</p>   |
| <p>9. Can someone currently pursuing certification with the BACB continue to accumulate hours towards their BCBA designation?</p>   |
| <p>Those who are pursuing BCBA or BCBA-D certification prior to the closure of Transitional Route 1, can begin/continue to accrue their supervised fieldwork hours as a non-registrant under supervision. However, the non-registrant must not use the Behaviour Analyst title, or otherwise hold themselves out as authorized to practice as a Behaviour Analyst.</p> <p>NOTE: In September 2023 the BACB provided an <a href="#">update</a> that as of July 1, 2026, no new applications for the BCBA/BCBA-D credential will be accepted for Ontario applicants. If you wish to receive these designations, ensure that you will be able to meet this deadline.</p> <p>To qualify for registration as a Behaviour Analyst via Transitional Route 1, you must hold active BCBA and BCBA-D certification, be in good standing with the BACB, and <a href="#">submit an application to the College by 11:59pm on June 30, 2026</a>. The legislation does not include any provisions for extending this deadline.</p> |
| <p>10. Do BCBA students currently collecting hours with the BACB, need to stop supervising technicians or other front-line staff?</p>   |
| <p>Yes they need to stop supervising other staff.</p>   |
| <p>11. How does regulation change supervision for a student in their master's, undergraduate, diploma or graduate certificate program? For example, currently students in these programs may collect data or be involved with other aspects of client programming.</p>  |
| <p>When supervising students who are completing their respective program, tasks can be allocated to them at RBA's discretion, but these tasks remain the responsibility of the RBA.</p>   |

\*This is not legal, career, or employment guidance. We encourage you to ask these questions to your lawyer, employer, and/or regulator. ONTABA™ is providing this information based on the content that is publicly available.