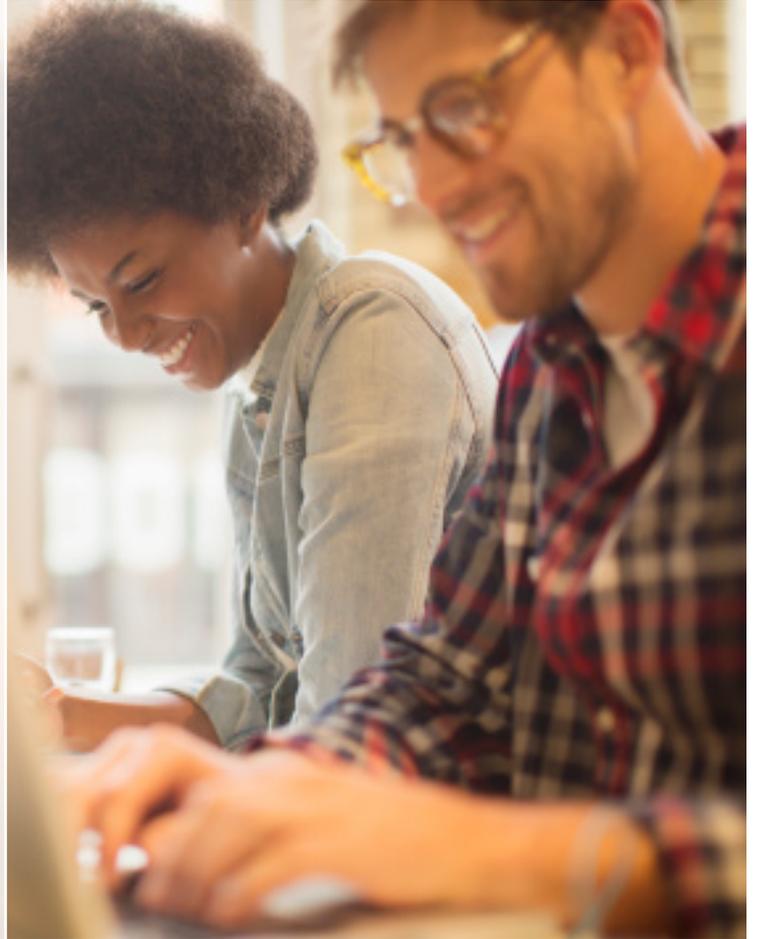


2020 - 2021

Board Certified Autism Technician®

# Candidate Handbook



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[www.behavioralcertification.org](http://www.behavioralcertification.org)

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## Introduction

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### About the Behavior Intervention Certification Council

BICC was established in 2013 to promote the highest standards of treatment for individuals with autism spectrum disorder through the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all aspects of the certification and certification renewal processes. BICC is an independent and autonomous governing body for the BCAT and BCAP certification programs.

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*The twofold purpose of BICC is to recognize individuals who are qualified to treat the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis and to enhance public protection.*

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### Mission Statement

The mission of BICC is to enhance public protection by developing and administering a certification program consistent with the needs of behavior analysts to recognize individuals who are qualified to treat the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis.

### Certification Scope

Certification as a Board Certified Autism Technician (BCAT) demonstrates autism-specific competency and a commitment to consumer safety by entry-level technicians who are qualified to treat the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder using the evidence-based principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis under the direction of a qualified health care professional (QHCP). BCAT credential holders may work in a variety of settings, including but not limited to the home, day care, school, clinic, and community, across the globe.

A QHCP is an individual who is qualified by education, training, and licensure (when applicable) who performs a professional service within his/her scope of practice and independently reports that professional service. QHCPs who are qualified to direct BCATs include Board Certified Autism Professionals (BCAP), Board Certified Behavior Analysts, licensed psychologists, or licensed and/or certified professionals with applied behavior analysis in their scope of practice acting within their competency.

### What is Certification?

Professional certification is different than a training or educational program. Training programs offer a certificate of attendance when an individual completes the coursework, but they do not generally award a credential or require ongoing recertification. The BCAT certification program was developed using a nationally recognized process to define the roles and responsibilities of

autism technicians. Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements and pass the exam are granted use of the BCAT credential.

### **Benefits of BCAT Certification**

- Demonstrates that technicians have autism-specific education, experience, and knowledge
- Increases public protection and consumer safety by requiring ongoing background checks
- Demonstrates commitment to ongoing learning and professional development
- Provides employers, caregivers, and consumers assurance that technicians have the knowledge and skills required to implement evidence-based, autism-specific treatment using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis under the supervision of a qualified health care professional
- Provides consumers, employers, and funding agencies the means to identify qualified technicians
- Increases employer, caregiver, and consumer confidence in the knowledge, skills, and abilities of technicians

## **Section 1: How to Apply for Certification**

### **Eligibility**

BICC has developed requirements for eligibility to ensure that the application process is fair and impartial for all applicants.

All candidates for certification must meet all the eligibility requirements established by the BICC in effect at the time of their application for certification. Candidates cannot earn certification without passing the certification exam. Eligibility requirements will be published in the candidate handbook and will be readily available to applicants.

A combination of both work experience and demonstrated knowledge are essential for individuals earning the BCAT credential.

## Eligibility Criteria

All candidates must meet the following criteria to earn the BCAT credential:

### 1. Education:

Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent.

### 2. Training:

Completion of a minimum of 40 hours of training across the content areas listed in the BCAT exam content outline.

### 3. Conduct:

- a. Agree to adhere to the BICC Code of Conduct
- b. Successfully complete a comprehensive, multi-layer criminal background check and agree to ongoing monitoring\*.

### 4. Exam:

Pass the BCAT examination.

### 5. Supervised Experience\*\*:

A minimum of 15 supervised practicum/fieldwork hours working directly with individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

\* In order to earn a BICC certification, candidates must complete and maintain a comprehensive, multi-layer, criminal background check and agree to ongoing monitoring. The background check will be completed after a candidate passes the certification exam but before being granted certification. All BICC certificants are monitored by ongoing background checks that alert BICC in the event that a certificant's status changes. The results of rolling background checks are monitored by BICC staff. Adverse changes to the background check status may affect certification status in accordance with the eligibility requirements and disciplinary policy.

\*\* The experience requirement may be completed *before* or *after* passing the BCAT exam. Certification is not granted until all requirements are complete.

Applicants who fail to demonstrate that they meet all of the eligibility requirements will not be granted certification.

## Supervised Experience Requirement

Board Certified Autism Technicians (BCAT) require documented, ongoing supervision by a qualified health care professional (QHCP) who possesses a license and/or certification by a national entity to practice applied behavior analysis (ABA) and who is acting within the scope and competency of his/her license or certification.

Each BCAT shall receive direction from a QHCP for no less than 5% of the service hours in which the BCAT implements treatment using the principles and procedures of ABA. Direction of the technician may be conducted via the Internet in accordance with all applicable privacy regulations and must include a minimum of two synchronous face-to-face contacts every month, with the supervisor observing the BCAT provide services to an individual with autism spectrum disorder during at least one of the two contacts. Documentation of QHCP directing the technician must be maintained by the BCAT on the BCAT Documentation of Supervision form, which requires attestation by the QHCP(s). BCATs must submit all BCAT Documentation of Supervision forms when applying for renewal of their certification.

Direction of the technician should encompass all aspects of treatment and should ensure and/or supplement knowledge in accordance with the BCAT Exam Content Outline.

See [Section 10](#) for examples of acceptable supervision activities.

The exam is delivered at vendor-affiliated test sites via computer-based administration and partner providers that complete proctor training and agree to adhere to the BICC Proctor Policy. No computer experience or typing skills are necessary to take the exam. You will receive instructions for taking the computer-based exam when you arrive at the test site. Each candidate must bring their test site confirmation email and a non-expired, government-issued ID including a photo and signature. Your first and last name must appear exactly as they do on your government-issued photo ID in order for you to take the exam. See [Section 3: Taking the Exam](#) for more information.

### BCAT Eligibility Rationale

Each eligibility requirement has been established to ensure that entry-level technicians certified by BICC have an acceptable level of knowledge and skill needed to demonstrate autism-specific competency and a commitment to consumer safety in treating the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and under the supervision of a qualified health care professional. In establishing these requirements, the BICC acknowledges that a combination of both work experience and demonstrated knowledge is essential for individuals earning the BCAT credential.

Each eligibility requirement has been selected to support the purpose of the credential:

1. **Education:** The unique tiered model that characterizes evidence-based autism treatment establishes a qualified health care professional (QHCP) who designs the treatment plan and provides ongoing case management of the treatment provided by a certificant. In the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, the frontline technician, also referred to as a therapist or paraprofessional, does not make treatment decisions but rather, implements the treatment plan designed by the QHCP. The paraprofessional collects hundreds of points of data during each session with the patient, and the QHCP reviews that data to ensure treatment integrity and progress toward the goals delineated in the treatment plan, as well as areas where progress may have plateaued. Because the technician's work is supervised and data driven, formal education is not as critical in the therapist role as sufficient training

and fieldwork. For that reason, a high school diploma or its equivalent is accepted as the minimum educational requirement.

2. **Training:** Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the process of systematically applying interventions based upon the principles of learning theory to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree and to demonstrate that the interventions employed are responsible for the improvement in behavior (Baer, Wolf & Risley, 1968; Sulzer-Azaroff & Mayer, 1991). ABA uses methods of analysis that yield convincing, reproducible, and conceptually systematic demonstrations of how to accomplish specific behavior changes (Baer & Risley, 1987). As a well-developed discipline with a defined body of knowledge and recognized practice requirements, appropriate training is essential for all providers of ABA. Training for technicians should include all topics in the BCAT Exam Content Outline. The 40-hour training requirement is based upon the BICC's determination that this time is sufficient for the technician to learn the areas defined by the content outline in support of the technician's skill and knowledge repertoire.
3. **Conduct:** Stakeholders, including health plans and parents, share the belief that individuals who provide autism treatment should not have been convicted of a felony, arrested for criminal misconduct, or lost a professional license. Because individuals served by BCAT certificants are a vulnerable population who may have limited capacity to report issues, self-reporting by certificants of disciplinary, ethical, and/or criminal matters is not sufficient to protect consumer safety. While many health plans contractually require providers to conduct background checks on their employees, such requirements are easy for a provider to ignore and difficult for health plans to enforce. Requiring a background check prior to certification and requiring that all applicants agree to adhere to an enforceable Code of Conduct works to address these concerns. The BICC online registry enables stakeholders to view the credentials of BICC certificants, which includes assurance that the credentialed individuals completed an initial background check to earn certification and that BICC monitors background checks on an ongoing basis in order that they maintain their certification in good standing. This ongoing monitoring enhances consumer safety in the field of autism treatment.
4. **Exam:** Applicants are required to pass the BCAT examination to demonstrate that their training and experience have resulted in sufficient understanding of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to provide safe and competent evidence-based autism treatment as determined by the job analysis study and represented on the Exam Content Outline.
5. **Experience:** Most stakeholders—including parents, providers, health plans, and government representatives—assume that individuals providing ABA services have experience related to autism. While the autism community often thinks that ABA is most commonly used to treat the deficits and behaviors associated with autism, ABA is a robust technology that has been shown to effectively treat substance use disorder, smoking cessation, firearm safety, brain injury, pediatric feeding disorders, phobias, attention deficit disorder, and even positively influence conservation of natural resources and increase health and exercise behaviors. As a result, individuals may have experience with ABA without studying autism or working with individuals affected by it. Therefore, individuals earning the BCAT credential are required to have autism-specific work experience prior to earning the certification. The option to

complete the experience requirement after the candidate passes the exam provides candidates, employers, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to confirm a candidate has an acceptable level of ABA knowledge prior that candidate working directly with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The 15-hour requirement is based upon the BICC's determination that this period of time allows the experienced supervisor to have adequate contact with the practical phase of the technician's training, observe the theoretical principles of the required training in practice, and provide corrective feedback as needed.

## Application Requirements

The following information must be submitted with the application and will be verified by BICC:

The following levels of verification will be conducted for each application and eligibility requirement:

### 1. Education:

BICC requires verification of all educational certificates and/or degrees. All applicants should request transcripts, copies of degrees, and/or diplomas to be submitted to BICC directly by the institution that awarded the credential. Applicants are responsible for checking the status of their application or following up with various institutions to ensure that BICC receives necessary documentation. Because each institution may have a different process, BICC strongly suggests that applicants begin the verification process as early as possible.

### 2. Training:

BCAT applicants may choose to upload a Certificate of Completion that documents 40 hours of training across the BCAT Exam Content Outline or complete a Documentation of Relevant Training Form when completing paperless eligibility documents. Once an applicant electronically completes this document, a qualified supervisor will be sent the eligibility document to verify training. An individual who is licensed and/or certified by a national entity to practice ABA and is working within the scope of that qualification must attest to the accuracy of the information reported on the Documentation of Relevant Training form.

Training meeting the BCAT requirements can be completed in-person or online and can be didactic or experiential.

### 3. Conduct:

- a. BICC Code of Conduct: To ensure that the applicant has read the Code of Conduct and agrees to adhere to its requirements, the application form will be reviewed to ascertain that the applicant has signed the Code of Conduct.

- b. **Background Check:** In order to earn a BICC certification, candidates must complete and maintain a comprehensive, multi-layer, criminal background check and agree to ongoing monitoring. The background check will be completed after a candidate passes the certification exam but before being granted certification. All BICC certificants are monitored by ongoing background checks that alert BICC in the event that a certificant's status changes. The results of rolling background checks are monitored by BICC staff. Adverse changes to the background check status may affect certification status in accordance with the eligibility requirements and disciplinary policy.

#### 4. Experience:

Applicants should submit a separate experience form signed by a qualified health care professional for applicable work experience that accrues toward the experience requirement. Each application will be reviewed to ensure the experience documented is consistent with the eligibility requirement and that the form is signed by a QHCP as required.

Applications must be submitted online, unless the applicant has a disability that requires the application to be submitted in another format.

#### Failure to Demonstrate Eligibility

Information will be verified by BICC. Applicants who fail to demonstrate that they meet all of the eligibility requirements will not be granted certification.

#### Incomplete Applications

An application will be considered incomplete if any of the requested information is missing or illegible or the appropriate fee is not included.

Candidates will be notified once via email that the application is incomplete and what must be done to complete the application. If the candidate does not respond, an email notification will be sent to inform the candidate that the application will not be processed.

Applications must be complete before they are processed and approved. Incomplete applications will not be returned, and application fees will not be refunded.

### How to Apply

To apply for BCAT certification, submit the online application at [www.behavioralcertification.org](http://www.behavioralcertification.org). Find specific deadlines online at [www.behavioralcertification.org](http://www.behavioralcertification.org).

Complete a registration profile including email address(es) for qualified supervisor(s) to verify your training/experience. Purchase a BCAT Exam and Criminal Background Check. Upon purchasing your exam fees, paperless eligibility documents are automatically generated and emailed to the account provided in your registration profile. After you complete your eligibility

documents, your training and experience documents are automatically sent to the email address(es) of the supervisor(s) information provided in your registration profile to verify your Relevant Training and Relevant Experience. After you complete and submit your application with all required documentation, it will be reviewed and verified by BICC.

Approved candidates will receive an email notification along with instructions for scheduling an examination appointment.

## Scheduling an Exam

The BCAT exam is offered year-round at computer-based testing sites across the United States and internationally. A list of test centers is available at <https://www.psonline.com/test-takers/>.

Once the application has been approved and exam fees paid, the candidate will receive email instructions from PSI to schedule the exam appointment.

Pending availability, the exam may be offered at an employer's office via web-based testing. Candidates should contact their employers to determine if on-site testing is offered that their place of employment.

## Fees

Check the BICC web site for current fees. Candidates should ask their employers about discounted rates for eligible employees.

## Cancellations, Rescheduling & Refunds

Application fees are not refundable. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that they are eligible to sit for the BICC examination prior to submitting the application to BICC.

Candidates may cancel or reschedule an examination appointment without incurring additional fees if they provide the testing company two (2) full business days prior notification.

Applicants who experience extenuating circumstances that cause them to miss or reschedule the exam can request a one-time waiver of the fee when rescheduling their exam. Submitting a waiver request does not guarantee approval; requests will be evaluated by the Executive Director. Requests must include supporting documentation (i.e. doctor's note, inclement weather report, etc.)

Examination fees cannot be refunded for cancellations received with less than two (2) full business days prior notification. No refunds of exam fees are available once a candidate has taken the exam.

## Section 2: Preparing for the Examination

### How the Exam Was Developed

The BCAT examination was developed by a diverse group of practitioners in partnership with test development experts in a manner consistent with generally accepted psychometric principles and best practices for certification examination development using the process described below.



### Studying for the Exams

As a certification organization, BICC's role is in developing and administering the certification examination to determine the qualifications of candidates for certification. BICC does not require, provide, or endorse any specific study guides, review products, and/or training courses.

### BCAT Examination Content Outline

The BCAT exam is composed of 175 multiple choice items, which includes 25 unscored, pretest items used for statistical analysis that do not count towards the candidate's score. Candidates have 3 hours to complete the exam.

Topics covered by the exam are listed below, followed by a detailed content outline.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (10-12%)  
Principles of ABA (18-22%)  
Treatment: Skill Acquisition (28-34%)  
Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (24-30%)  
Behavioral Data Collection (5-7%)  
Ethical/Legal Considerations (4-6%)

#### A. Autism Spectrum Disorder (10-12%)

1. Knowledge of deficits in social-emotional reciprocity
2. Knowledge of deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction
3. Knowledge of deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships
4. Knowledge of stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech
5. Knowledge of insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior
6. Knowledge of highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus
7. Knowledge of hyper or hyporeactivity to sensory input or unusual interests in sensory aspects of environment
8. Knowledge of levels of severity across social communication and restricted, repetitive behaviors
9. Knowledge of research regarding treatment intensity
10. Knowledge of early intensive behavioral intervention research
11. Knowledge of foundational autism research
12. Distinguishing between evidence-based interventions vs. nonevidence-based interventions

#### B. Principles of ABA (18-22%)

13. Positive reinforcement
14. Negative reinforcement
15. Positive punishment
16. Negative punishment
17. Reinforcer
18. Punisher
19. Conditioned reinforcer
20. Unconditioned reinforcer
21. Extinction
22. Deprivation
23. Satiation
24. Contingency
25. Motivating operation
26. Antecedent
27. Behavior
28. Consequence

29. 3-term contingency
30. Stimulus
31. Discriminative stimulus
32. Stimulus control
33. Response
34. Discrete trial

### C. Treatment: Skill Acquisition (28-34%)

35. Discrimination training
36. Discrete trial training
37. Natural environment training
38. Fluency-based training
39. Generalization
40. Maintenance
41. Caregiver training
42. Premack principle
43. Preference assessment
44. Prompt
45. Errorless learning
46. Most-to-least prompting
47. Least-to-most prompting
48. Prompt fading
49. Time delay prompt
50. Chaining
51. Shaping
52. Pacing
53. Alternative and augmentative communication
54. Functional approaches to teaching language skills
55. Mand training
56. Tact training
57. Training echoic behavior
58. Training intraverbal behavior
59. Teaching joint attention
60. Teaching play skills
61. Teaching motor skills
62. Teaching adaptive and safety skills
63. Teaching social skills
64. Teaching cognition skills
65. Teaching executive function skills

- 66. Teaching academic skills
- 67. Visual supports
- 68. Curriculum modification

#### D. Treatment: Reduction of Problem Behavior (24-30%)

- 69. Behavior intervention plan
- 70. Target behavior
- 71. Operational definition
- 72. Functional behavior assessment
- 73. Escape function
- 74. Attention function
- 75. Access to tangible function
- 76. Automatic function
- 77. Antecedent interventions
- 78. Functional communication training
- 79. Token economy
- 80. High-p request sequence / behavioral momentum
- 81. Noncontingent reinforcement
- 82. Replacement behavior
- 83. Escape extinction
- 84. Attention extinction
- 85. Access to tangible extinction
- 86. Extinction burst
- 87. Continuous reinforcement
- 88. Intermittent reinforcement
- 89. Differential reinforcement of alternative behavior
- 90. Differential reinforcement of incompatible behavior
- 91. Differential reinforcement of other behavior
- 92. Response blocking
- 93. Redirection
- 94. Overcorrection
- 95. Response cost
- 96. Time-out from reinforcement
- 97. Spontaneous recovery

#### E. Behavioral Data Collection (5-7%)

- 98. Measurement dimensions (e.g., rate, duration, percentage)
- 99. Measurement procedures (e.g., event recording, timing, time sampling)
- 100. Skill acquisition data

- 101. Problem behavior data
- 102. Graphing
- 103. Interobserver agreement (IOA)

#### F. Ethical/Legal Considerations (4-6%)

- 104. Safety (including OSHA)
- 105. Responding to emergencies
- 106. Confidentiality (including HIPAA)
- 107. Recognition of client abuse
- 108. Reporting client abuse
- 109. Dual relationships

## Section 3: Taking the Exam

### What to Expect on Exam Day

Candidates are eligible to take the BCAT exam after their application has been approved by BICC.

To provide a fair and consistent environment for all candidates, the exams are delivered using standardized procedures that follow strict security protocols. Candidates are required to follow all exam site rules at all times. Failure to follow these rules may result in termination of a candidate's testing session, invalidation of the candidate's exam score, and/or disciplinary action.

During any portion of the exam, candidates may make note of any exam items they feel may be unclear. This feedback will be submitted to BICC and will be reviewed by BICC as part of the overall examination review and quality assurance process. Candidates will not receive direct feedback regarding specific item decisions.

### Taking the Exam

#### Identification

Candidates are required to present a valid, un-expired, government-issued photo identification to gain admission to the examination site.

Acceptable identification examples include driver's license, passport, citizenship card, age of majority card, and military ID card). The name on the ID must match the applicant name on the exam application and the photo on the ID must validate the applicant's identity.

#### Exam Locations

A list of vendor exam sites is available online: <https://www.psionline.com/test-takers/>.

Pending availability, BICC exams may be scheduled on-site at employer locations. Candidates should contact their employer to determine if on-site testing is offered at their place of employment.

### Exam Site Rules

The following rules will be enforced on exam day:

- Candidates must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the exam. Late arrivals may not be accommodated. Fees are not refunded for missed exam appointments.
- Candidates must present acceptable identification. The name on the exam application and the name on the ID must match. Please see the “Identification” section above.
- No study materials, documents, or notes of any sort are to be taken into the examination area. No materials may be removed from the examination area.
- Candidates will be observed at all times during testing and should be aware that security procedures are in place and will be enforced.
- Candidates may not bring any electronic devices, notes, or reading material into the examination area. Cell phones, backpacks, purses, and other personal items are not permitted. Candidates are encouraged to leave these items at home when possible. Items brought to the test center will be placed in a secure area that is not accessible to candidates during the examination session.
- No questions concerning the content of the examination may be asked in the examination area before, during, or after the exam. Proctors are not qualified nor are they permitted to answer any questions about the content of the examination. Proctors may answer questions about processes (e.g., time limit) but cannot interpret or explain any information on the exam.
- Candidates are expected to answer the exam questions independently. There is to be no sharing of information, teamwork, or any other collaborative relationship with another candidate during the exam. Any violation of this policy is considered to be cheating. Any candidate engaged in this behavior may be subject to score cancellation and may not be allowed to sit for future administrations of the exam. See the disciplinary policy for additional information.
- No exam questions are to be discussed during or after the exam administration. Any infraction of these terms is considered to be a violation of candidates’ ethical responsibilities and subject to the disciplinary policy. It is also a violation of copyright law and exam security requirements.
- Candidates should dress comfortably. While all test sites strive to ensure the exam is given in a room that is neither too hot nor too cold, candidates should be prepared with appropriate layered attire.

- No food or beverage is permitted in the examination area.
- Candidates may not communicate with anyone except the proctor during the exam.
- Candidates are not permitted to bring guests, including children, to the testing center.
- Candidates should complete the exam quietly, without disturbing others.

## Special Accommodations

BICC provides accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). See “Accommodations for those with Disabilities” in Section 8 of this Candidate Handbook for information on special accommodations.

## Cheating

Individuals suspected of cheating will be subject to the disciplinary policies and procedures in Section 5 of this Candidate Handbook.

Any incidents of suspected cheating, violation of any BICC and/or test site policies, disturbances, attempts to remove test materials or notes from the testing room, or other exam-related irregularities will be reported immediately. All serious incidents will be investigated. Testing irregularities may result in termination of a candidate’s participation in the examination administration, invalidation of exam scores, or other disciplinary action.

BICC reserves the right to investigate any incident of suspected misconduct or irregularity.

## Copyright Information

All proprietary rights to the BCAT exam, including copyright, are held by the BICC. In order to protect the validity of the scores reported, candidates must adhere to strict guidelines regarding proper conduct in handling these copyrighted proprietary exam materials. The law strictly prohibits any attempt to reproduce all or part of the BCAT exam. Such attempts may include, but are not limited to: removing materials from the testing room; aiding others by any means in reconstructing any portion of the exam; posting content on any discussion forum or website; and selling, distributing, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of the exam. Alleged copyright violations will be investigated and, if warranted, prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It should be noted that examination scores might become invalid in the event of this type of suspected breach. Permanent revocation of certification may occur if allegations are substantiated. See the disciplinary policy in Section 5 for further information.

## Section 4: After the Exams

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### Exam Results

Scores are reported as both the raw score (sum of correct responses) and the percentage of items answered correctly. A candidate's total score determines whether he/she has passed or failed the examination after a comparison to the cut score.

Score reports will be issued directly to candidates. For administrations offered at the testing agency's sites, score reports will be issued at the conclusion of the candidate's testing session. For administrations offered at an approved provider's office, score reports will be issued within 1 business day of the testing appointment directly to candidates through their secure BICC account.

In instances in which the cut score has not been finalized, or other validation of the passing score is required, candidates may not receive score reports until this statistical analysis is complete. This delay will be communicated to candidates accordingly.

Score reports will include a "pass" or "fail" result and the candidate's score in relation to the passing score, reported as the total number of items answered correctly and the percentage of items answered correctly. Score reports will also include information on candidate performance in each content domain area along with guidance about limitations in interpreting and using the feedback and guidance for proper use, and limitations of, this information. Examination content area scores are not used to determine pass/fail status but are provided to offer a general indication of a candidate's performance and may be used to assist in evaluating relative areas of strengths and weakness in each content area and assist candidates in the selection of future training/education activities.

Candidate exam results are confidential and will be released only to the candidate, unless the candidate provides written authorization.

### Understanding Your Scores

A criterion-referenced standard setting process is used to establish the passing point for the exam. This means that each candidate's performance on the exam is measured against a predetermined standard. Candidates are not graded on a curve and do not compete against each other or against a quota.

This passing score for the exam is established using a panel of subject matter experts who carefully review each exam question to determine the basic level of knowledge or skill that is expected. The passing score is based on the panel's established difficulty ratings for each exam question. Under the guidance of a qualified psychometrician, the panel develops and recommends the passing point which is reviewed and approved by the BICC Board. The passing

point for the exam is established to identify individuals with an acceptable level of knowledge and skill. Receiving a score higher than the passing score is not an indication of more advanced knowledge or a predictor of better job performance. All individuals who pass the exam, regardless of their score, have demonstrated an acceptable level of knowledge.

## Re-Examination

Candidates who take the exam and do not pass must log in to their BICC online account and purchase a retake exam attempt.

BCAT candidates who fail the exam on their first attempt may immediately schedule a second attempt. After the first re-test attempt, any additional re-test attempts require a 30-day waiting period from the previous attempt. Candidates may not test more often than 4 times per 12-month period. Exam retake fees are posted on the web site and subject to change without notice.

## Exam Related Complaints

Candidates will have an opportunity during the exam to provide feedback regarding the content of the exam or specific exam questions. This feedback will be submitted to BICC and will be reviewed by BICC as part of the overall examination review and quality assurance process. Candidates will not receive direct feedback regarding specific item decisions.

Candidates with complaints about the examination processes or their experience at the testing site should submit concerns to the BICC via email to [leadership@behavioralcertification.org](mailto:leadership@behavioralcertification.org). All complaints received are handled by the BICC executive director.

Candidates who fail the exam and believe irregular testing conditions, significant technical problems, or violation of BICC policy were a contributing factor should file a complaint with BICC by sending an email to [leadership@behavioralcertification.org](mailto:leadership@behavioralcertification.org). All requests must be emailed within 48 hours of the test session. All complaints must describe the suspected error or problem and should include the candidate's full name, exam date, and exam location.

The executive director will review exam-related complaints within 15 days of receipt and will obtain additional information from the proctor/test site as needed. The executive director may refer complaints to the BICC Board for additional review.

If the issue can be resolved at the staff level, the executive director will make a determination and will notify the BICC of the result. If the issue cannot be resolved by the executive director, s/he may refer the request to the president of the BICC. The request will also be referred to the president of the BICC if the candidate does not accept a determination by the executive director.

## Section 5: Complaints and Disciplinary Actions

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### Introduction

Information regarding the complaint process will be available to the public via the BICC website or other published documents. A complete copy of this policy will be made available to any individual upon request.

In order to maintain and enhance the credibility of the BICC certification program, the BICC Board has adopted the following procedures to allow individuals to bring complaints concerning the conduct of certificants to the BICC Board.

In the event a certificant violates the BICC certification rules, requirements, and/or policies, the BICC Board may reprimand or suspend the individual or may revoke certification.

### Grounds for Sanctions

The grounds for sanctions under these procedures may include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Any restrictions, such as revocation, suspension, probation, or other sanctions of the individual's professional license, where applicable;
- Violation of established BICC rules, requirements, and/or policies;
- Conviction of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude under federal or state law in a matter related to the practice of, or qualifications for, services provided by a BCAT, or BCAP;
- Gross negligence, willful misconduct, or other unethical conduct in the performance of services for which the individual has achieved certification;
- Fraud, falsification, or misrepresentation in an initial application or renewal application for certification;
- Falsification of any material information requested by BICC;
- Misrepresentation of BICC certification status, including abuse of certification mark or logo;
- Cheating on any certification examination.

Actions taken under this policy do not constitute enforcement of the law, although referral to appropriate federal, state, and/or local government agencies may be made about the conduct of the certificant in appropriate situations. Individuals initially bringing complaints are not entitled to any relief or damages by virtue of this process, although they will receive notice of the actions taken.

## Complaints

### Complaint Submission

Complaints may be submitted by any individual or entity. Complaints should be reported to BICC in writing and should include the name of the person submitting the complaint, the name of the person the complaint is regarding, along with other relevant identifying information, a detailed description of factual allegations supporting the charges, and any relevant supporting documentation. Information submitted during the complaint and investigation process is considered confidential and will be handled in accordance with BICC's confidentiality policy.

## Preliminary Review

Upon receipt and preliminary review of a complaint involving the certification program, the executive director, in consultation with the BICC board president, may conclude, in his/her sole discretion, that the submission:

- contains unreliable or insufficient information, or
- is patently frivolous or inconsequential.

In such cases, the executive director and BICC board president may determine that the submission does not constitute a valid and actionable complaint that would justify bringing it before the BICC Board for investigation and a determination of whether there has been a violation of substantive requirements of the certification process. If so, the submission is disposed of by notice from the executive director and BICC board president to its submitter, if the submitter is identified. All such preliminary dispositions by the BICC board president are reported to the BICC Board at its next meeting.

Preliminary review will be conducted within 15 business days of receipt of the complaint.

If a submission is deemed by the executive director and BICC board president to be a valid and actionable complaint, the BICC board president will see that written notice is provided to the certificant whose conduct has been called into question. The certificant whose conduct is at issue will also be given the opportunity to respond to the complaint. The board president also will ensure that the individual submitting the complaint receives notice that the complaint is being reviewed by the BICC.

## Complaint Review

For each complaint that the BICC board president concludes is a valid and actionable complaint, the Board authorizes an investigation into its specific facts or circumstances to whatever extent is necessary in order to clarify, expand, or corroborate the information provided by the submitter.

## Review Committee

### *Review Committee Appointment*

The BICC board president appoints a Review Committee of three or more individuals who are not members of the BICC Board to investigate and make an appropriate determination with respect to each such valid and actionable complaint; the Review Committee may review one or more such complaints as determined by the BICC board president.

### *Review Committee Responsibilities*

The Review Committee initially determines whether it is appropriate to review the complaint under these Procedures or whether the matter should be referred to another entity engaged in

the administration of law. The timeline for responses and for providing any additional information will be established by the Review Committee. The Review Committee may be assisted in the conduct of its investigation by other members of the BICC Board or by BICC staff or legal counsel. The BICC board president exercises general supervision over all investigations.

Both the individual submitting the complaint and the certificant who is the subject of the investigation (or his or her employer) may be contacted for additional information with respect to the complaint. The Review Committee may at its discretion contact such other individuals who may have knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding the complaint.

All investigations and deliberations of the Review Committee and the BICC Board are conducted in confidence, with all written communications sealed and marked "Personal and Confidential," and they are conducted objectively, without any indication of prejudice. Investigations and deliberations cease at the discretion of the Review Committee or when a certificant's certification expires or is surrendered. BICC notifies and cooperates with all appropriate authorities as necessary.

An investigation may be directed toward any aspect of a complaint which is relevant or potentially relevant. Formal hearings are not held, and the parties are not expected to be represented by counsel, although the Review Committee and BICC Board may consult their own counsel.

Certificants who are found to bring frivolous complaints against other certificants or BICC may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board, up to and including revocation of certification.

Members of the Review Committee will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the activities of the Committee.

## **Determination of Violation**

### **Review Committee Recommendation**

Upon completion of an investigation, the Review Committee recommends whether the BICC Board should make a determination that there has been a violation of BICC policies and rules. When the Review Committee recommends that the BICC Board find a violation, the Review Committee also recommends imposition of an appropriate sanction. If the Review Committee so recommends, a proposed determination with a proposed sanction is prepared under the supervision of the Review Committee Chair and is presented by a representative of the Review Committee to the BICC Board along with the record of the Review Committee's investigation.

### **Board of Directors Determination**

### ***Complaint Dismissal***

If the Review Committee recommends against a determination that a violation has occurred, the complaint is dismissed with notice to the certificant, the certificant's employer (if involved in the investigation), and the individual or entity who submitted the complaint; a summary report is also made to the BICC Board.

### ***Determination of Violation***

The BICC Board reviews the recommendation of the Review Committee based upon the record of the investigation. The Board may accept, reject, or modify the Review Committee's recommendation, either with respect to the determination of a violation or the recommended sanction to be imposed. If the Board makes a determination that a violation has occurred, this determination and the imposition of a sanction are promulgated by written notice to the certificant and to the individual submitting the complaint, if the submitter agrees in advance and in writing to maintain in confidence whatever portion of the information is not made public by the Board.

In certain circumstances, the BICC Board may consider a recommendation from the Review Committee that the certificant who has violated the certification program policies or rules should be offered an opportunity to submit a written assurance that the conduct in question has been terminated and will not recur. The decision of the Review Committee to make such a recommendation and of the BICC Board to accept it are within their respective discretionary powers. If such an offer is extended, the certificant at issue must submit the required written assurance within thirty days of receipt of the offer, and the assurance must be submitted in terms that are acceptable to the Board. If the Board accepts the assurance, notice is given to the certificant's employer and to the submitter of the complaint, if the submitter agrees in advance and in writing to maintain the information in confidence.

### **Sanctions**

Any of the following sanctions may be imposed by the BICC Board upon a certificant whom the Board has determined to have violated the policies and rules of its certification program(s), although the sanction applied must reasonably relate to the nature and severity of the violation, focusing on reformation of the conduct of the member and deterrence of similar conduct by others:

- written reprimand to the certificant;
- suspension of the certificant for a designated period; or
- termination of the certificant's certification.

For sanctions that include suspension or termination, a summary of the final determination and the sanction with the certificant's name and date is published by the BICC. This information will be published only after any appeal has either been considered or the appeal period has passed.

Reprimand in the form of a written notice from the BICC board president normally is sent to a certificant who has received his or her first substantiated complaint. Suspension normally is imposed on a certificant who has received two substantiated complaints. Termination normally is imposed on a certificant who has received two substantiated complaints within a two year period or three or more substantiated complaints. The BICC Board may, at its discretion, however, impose any of the sanctions, if warranted, in specific cases.

Certificants who have been terminated will have their certification revoked and may not be considered for BICC certification in the future. If certification is revoked, any and all certificates or other materials requested by the BICC Board must be returned promptly to BICC.

## Appeal

### Request for Appeal

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice of a determination by the BICC Board that a certificant violated the certification program policies and/or rules, the affected certificant may submit to BICC in writing a request for an appeal.

### Appeal Committee

Upon receipt of a request for appeal, the BICC board president establishes an appellate body consisting of at least three, but not more than five, individuals. This Appeal Committee may review one or more appeals, upon request of the BICC board president. No current members of the Review Committee or the BICC Board may serve on the Appeal Committee; further, no one with any personal involvement or conflict of interest may serve on the Appeal Committee. Members of the Appeal Committee may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the activities of the Committee.

### Basis for Appeal

The Appeal Committee may only review whether the determination by the BICC Board of a violation of the certification program policies and/or rules was inappropriate because of:

- material errors of fact, or
- failure of the Review Committee or the Board to conform to published criteria, policies, or procedures.

### Appeal Procedure

Only facts and conditions up to and including the time of the BICC Board's determination as represented by facts known to the Board are considered during an appeal. The appeal will not

include a hearing or any similar trial-type proceeding. Legal counsel is not expected to participate in the appeal process, unless requested by the appellant and approved by the Board and the Appeal Committee. The Board and Appeal Committee may consult legal counsel.

The Appeal Committee conducts and completes the appeal within ninety days after receipt of the request for an appeal. Written appellate submissions and any reply submissions may be made by authorized representatives of the appellant and of the BICC Board. Submissions are made according to whatever schedule is reasonably established by the Appeal Committee. The decision of the Appeal Committee either affirms or overrules the determination of the BICC Board but does not address a sanction imposed by the Board. The decision of the Appeal Committee, including a statement of the reasons for the decision, is reported to the BICC Board of Directors.

The Appeal Committee decision is binding upon the Board, the certificant who is subject to the sanction, and all other persons.

## Resignation

If a certificant who is the subject of a complaint voluntarily surrenders his or her certification(s) at any time during the pendency of a complaint under these Procedures, the complaint is dismissed without any further action by the Review Committee, the BICC Board, or an Appeal Committee established after an appeal. The entire record is sealed and the individual may not reapply for certification. However, the BICC Board may authorize the BICC board president to communicate the fact and date of resignation and the fact and general nature of the complaint which was pending at the time of the resignation, to or at the request of a government entity engaged in the administration of law. Similarly, in the event of such resignation, the certificant's employer and the person or entity who submitted the complaint are notified of the fact and date of resignation and that BICC Board has dismissed the complaint as a result.

## Section 6: Maintaining Your Certification

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### Recertification Requirements

To qualify for recertification, BCAT certificants must meet each of the following requirements:

1. Complete one of the following professional development options:
  - a. Earn 12 hours of continuing education credits (at least 3 credits must be ethics-related topics). See Continuing Education Requirements for full detail.
  - b. Take and pass the certification exam based on the current content outline. If a certificant has not completed the 12 hours of continuing education credits required for recertification, he/she may recertify by taking and passing the certification exam prior to the expiration of the credential.
2. Attest to uphold the Code of Conduct.

3. Agree to maintain compliance with ongoing background checks.
4. Submit a Documentation of Supervision form completed once per month during the certification cycle.

## Expiration Date

Certification expires on the last day of the month 2 years following the date of certification. For example, if an individual is certified on May 15, 2019, certification will expire on May 31, 2021. Applications for recertification must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in which the certification expires.

Recertification reminder notices are issued approximately 60 days before the certification expires to the last known email address of each certificant. Certificants are responsible for notifying the BICC office of any changes in address, including email address.

Recertification is the responsibility of each BCAT certificant. BICC is not responsible for notices that fail to reach certificants.

## Purpose and Rationale for Recertification

### Purpose

BICC requires the continuing professional development of its certificants to ensure that individuals who hold the BCAT credential maintain an ongoing commitment to learning, keep pace with developments in the field of behavior analysis, and strengthen their knowledge and skills. The mandatory recertification process provides certificants with the opportunity to demonstrate the retention, reinforcement, and expansion of their knowledge and skills.

To support this purpose, recertification requires continuing education that enhances ongoing professional development, recognizes learning opportunities, and provides a process for both attaining and recording professional development achievements.

BICC also requires the certificants re-attest to uphold the Code of Conduct and earn at least 3 of the required 12 units of continuing education credits in topics directly related to ethics to promote compliance with principles of ethical practice, emphasize the requirements of the Code of Conduct, and enhance consumer protection and public safety.

### Recertification Period Rationale

The 2-year time period established for recertification is based on the BICC's determination that the certificant implements a treatment plan under the direction of a qualified health care professional who designs the treatment and identifies treatment goals, two facets of treatment that may be more immediately influenced by emerging research than the actual implementation of treatment. The implementation of treatment adheres strictly to the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis. Because the BCAT works under the

direction of a qualified health care professional (QHCP) possessing a graduate degree, recertification every two years is sufficient to maintain the certificant's high standard of clinical quality and to affirm the certificant's commitment to the Code of Conduct.

### Rationale for Requirements

Professional development is accomplished by obtaining the required number of continuing education credits. Renewal by continuing education credits ensures that the individual has participated in professional development activities that are directly related to the body of knowledge for BCAT certificants as defined by the exam content outline. To ensure that certificants supplement and reinforce their knowledge in appropriate subject areas, only those continuing education activities and courses approved by BICC will accrue toward the 12 units of CE units.

The BICC acknowledges that not all sources or types of continuing education contribute equally to professional development. To maximize the quality and relevance of continuing education credits earned by certificants, the BICC Board provides a list of approved providers that have been identified as established, reputable sources for continuing education. In addition, all credits earned must be on acceptable topics and from acceptable activities as defined above. This ensures that certificants participate quality continuing education activities that are relevant to their jobs and directly tied to the examination content outline.

Candidates who choose to renew by taking the certification exam rather than completing the 12 CE units demonstrate continued competence in the BCAT knowledge areas by successfully passing the certification exam which is based on the current content outline and developed using psychometrically-sound criteria. Exam statistics are monitored by the psychometric consultant to ensure appropriate reliability and validity statistics are achieved.

Agreeing to ongoing criminal background check monitoring is required to maintain the BCAT credential. BCAT certificants typically work with individuals with developmental disabilities, a vulnerable population that deserves the safety assurance that an ongoing background check provides. BICC staff monitor the results of the ongoing background checks for any adverse findings that may affect an individual's certification status. BCAT certificants are required to be listed on the BICC registry.

Certificants are required to document monthly supervision by a QHCP in accordance with the requirement that payers require behavior technicians to be supervised at least 5-10% of the time. A technician is an entry level position and requires supervision and should not practice independently in accordance with payer requirements. Documenting supervision monthly allows the QHCP the opportunity to catch potential issues in the technician's practice quickly thereby contributing to patient safety.

## Continuing Education Requirements

After initial certification is obtained, continuing education units may be accrued and used for recertification. Continuing education units must be obtained between the date of initial certification and the date that the recertification application is submitted. Once submitted, candidates cannot obtain/add additional continuing education credits to the recertification application. The recertification decision will be based solely on the submitted information.

### Documentation

Documentation of the continuing education activities must be completed in the Recertification Application CE Log. BCATs must retain documentation of CE activities for two years following recertification in the event they are selected for an audit.

Acceptable documentation includes letters from supervisors, official transcripts and certificates of completion.

### Acceptable Topics

Only continuing education activities and topics directly related to the knowledge, skill, and ability statements on the Exam Content Outline will be accepted. At least 3 credits must be directly related to ethics.

### Acceptable Activities

Continuing education credits may be earned at workshops, conferences, conventions, seminars, college/university courses, webinars, and in-service training events. Credit is also granted for professional presentations.

Credit may be claimed only once for each activity. For example, a 1 hour presentation that is delivered at two different conferences can only be claimed for 1 CE credit.

<i>Continuing Education Activities</i>	<i>Credits Awarded</i>	<i>Limitations</i>	<i>Required Documentation</i>
<i>Coursework</i>	1 CE for each clock hour of instruction; a 3 hour college course that meets for 12 weeks is equal to 36 CEs	No limit	Transcripts with grade of "C" or better,
<i>Workshops, seminars, and/or webinars</i>	1 CE for each clock hour	Must be BICC approved	Certificates of completion, letter verifying attendance

<i>Authorship and delivery of a conference session or poster presentation</i>	1 CE for each unique presentation	Limit of 2 CEs Conference must be BICC approved	Conference brochure or flyer and attestation
<i>Review of behavior analytic research articles and successful completion of an associated quiz or comprehension questions.</i>	1 CE for each article	Limit of 3 CEs	Certificate or letter of completion
<i>Participation as a volunteer in BCAT examination development activities, such as exam item writing or item review</i>	1 CE per activity	Limit of 2 CEs	Letter of verification from BICC
<i>Volunteer services related to BCAT knowledge, skills, and abilities</i>	1 CE per 10 hours of volunteer activity	Limit of 1 CE	Letter of verification from supervisor/organization
<i>Mentoring of entry-level therapists by senior therapists</i>	1 CE per 10 hours of supervised mentoring	Limit of 2 CEs	Letter of verification from supervisor or mentored therapist

### Acceptable Providers

With the exception of coursework, continuing education credits must be earned from a BICC approved provider. Certificants may request approval for credits received from non-approved providers.

### Fees

Fees for recertification are noted on the web site and are subject to change.

### Recertification Application Review

In order to maintain the credibility and integrity of the certification process, BICC reserves the right to verify any information provided on recertification applications. Requests for verification may be made prior to recertification or at a future time. Certificants are advised to retain all recertification documentation for at least 3 years after each renewal deadline.

All recertification applications will be reviewed to ensure that all recertification requirements are met.

#### Recertification Application Processing and Audit

Five percent of applications for each credential offered by BICC will be selected for random audit to confirm compliance with the recertification criteria at which time BICC will require that the certificant submit the required documentation for each continuing education activity. BICC will notify certificants in writing if they are selected for audit. Notification will include the requirements for satisfying the audit.

If any areas of non-compliance are identified during the review of a recertification application the individual will have 15 days to submit any required information. If the required information is not provided, the individual's certification will expire at the end of the 15 days or on the normal expiration date (whichever comes last).

If an application is selected for audit and the certificant does not respond or does not submit the requested documentation, certification will not be renewed.

In order to earn a BICC certification, candidates must complete and maintain a comprehensive, multi-layer, criminal background check and agree to ongoing monitoring. All BICC certificants are monitored by ongoing background checks that alert BICC in the event that a certificant's status changes. The results of rolling background checks are monitored by BICC staff. Adverse changes to the background check status may affect certification status in accordance with the eligibility requirements and disciplinary policy.

#### Incomplete Renewal Applications

An application will be considered incomplete if any of the requested information is missing or illegible or the appropriate fee is not included. Applications must be complete before they are processed and approved. Incomplete applications will not be returned, and application fees will not be refunded.

#### Recertification Acceptance

BICC will issue a recertification letter to the certificant once all renewal requirements have been met. Recertification applications will not be accepted from individual's whose certification is in a state of suspension or has been revoked.

### Failure to Recertify

Certificants who fail to complete the requirement for monthly documentation of supervised experience, may complete a one-time only supervision exercise that must be signed by the individual's current supervisor. Individuals may use this exercise one time only throughout the entire time in which they hold the credential to replace the monthly documentation of

supervision forms. After its use, any subsequent failure to obtain the monthly documentation of supervised experience will result in the inability to complete the recertification process, and the certification will lapse. Any individual wishing to reinstate the credential after this point will be required to meet all eligibility requirements in place at the time of application, submit a completed application and fee, and pass the certification exam in order to regain certified status. Individuals wishing to utilize this one-time only option must contact BICC in order to receive the exercise and form.

If certification has been expired for 60 days or less, an individual may reinstate his/her certification by meeting all of the recertification requirements, submitting a complete recertification application, and paying the recertification fee and reinstatement fee. If the application is approved, the individual's expiration date for the reinstated credential will be the same as if the certification had been renewed on time.

A one-time reinstatement option is available, if certification has been expired for more than 60 days. An individual must submit required documentation of supervision forms and retake and pass the exam in order to reinstate certification. Certification reinstated after 60 days will be reinstated with new dates of initial certification and certification expiration.

If certification has been expired for more than 6 months, or if the one-time reinstatement option has been previously used, certification will not be renewed, and the individual will have to re-apply for certification, meet all the eligibility criteria for initial certification, including all training requirements, and re-take and pass the certification examination in order to reinstate certification.

Certificants who are participating in active military duty or whose personal circumstances preclude timely recertification should contact BICC and request an exception to this policy. Any exceptions will be made at the sole discretion of BICC.

A BICC certification may not be used from the date of expiration until the credential is successfully reinstated and confirmation is provided by BICC in writing.

### **Changes in Contact Information**

Applicants and certificants are responsible for keeping their mailing address and email address up to date and notifying BICC in writing of any changes. The BCAT certificate and welcome kit will be uploaded to the individual's online account. All other communication, notifications, confirmations, and reminders will be sent to the email address on file.

## Section 7: Code of Conduct

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### Introduction

The BICC Code of Conduct applies to all individuals credentialed by BICC, as well as individuals seeking certification (candidates or applicants) from BICC. All applicants and certificants will agree to the BICC Code of Conduct (Code) as a condition of certification. Violation of any portion of the Code may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Disciplinary Policy.

### Purpose

The Code of Conduct establishes the basic ethical standards for the professional behavior of BICC certificants and candidates. The Code is designed to provide both appropriate ethical practice guidelines and enforceable standards of conduct for all certificants and candidates.

### Code of Conduct

BICC supports appropriate, professional standards designed to serve the public, employees, employers, consumers, and their caregivers. First and foremost, BICC certificants and candidates give priority to providing services that treat the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis. BCATs will perform these duties under the direction of a qualified health care professional in a manner that promotes integrity and reflects positively on the profession, consistent with accepted moral, ethical, and legal standards.

BICC certificants and candidates have the obligations to: maintain high standards of integrity and professional conduct; accept responsibility for their actions; continually seek to enhance their professional capabilities; practice with fairness and honesty; and, encourage others to act in a professional manner, consistent with the certification standards and responsibilities set forth below.

#### **Section 1: Legal Requirements**

Adhere to all laws, regulations, policies, and ethical standards that apply to the practice of providing applied behavior analysis.

1. Refrain from public behavior that is clearly in violation of professional, ethical, and/or legal standards that apply to the practice of providing services that treat the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder.
2. Refrain from discrimination in professional activities, including dual relationships with employees, employers, clients and their families, and other professionals.

3. Report all professional investigations and/or felony charges within three business days of becoming aware of them.

### **Section 2: BICC Policies & Requirements**

1. Follow all BICC certification program policies, procedures, requirements, and rules. This includes the obligation to be aware of and understand these policies and requirements.
2. Provide accurate and complete information to BICC concerning certification and recertification.
3. Keep confidential all BICC examination information, including preventing unauthorized disclosures of exam information.
4. Cooperate with BICC regarding matters related to the Code of Conduct and complaint and/or disciplinary investigations.

### **Section 3: Professional Performance**

1. Deliver competent services within the scope of the individual's BICC certification.
2. Act honestly in the conduct of responsibilities and in all professional interactions with others.
3. Recognize the limitations of one's professional ability (based on education, knowledge, skills, experience, etc.) and provide services only when qualified to do so.
4. Treat clients and their families, caregivers, and other supports with professionalism, fairness, and respect.
5. Maintain the confidentiality of private and sensitive information, unless there is mandate to report or other legal obligation to disclose the information.
6. Properly use professional titles, degrees, and all credentials and provide accurate and truthful information regarding education, experience, qualifications, and the performance of services.
7. Disclose any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest and avoid conduct that could cause a conflict of interest.
8. Uphold high standards of professional behavior at all times in the BICC certified role.

## Section 8: BICC Policies

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### Accommodations for those with Disabilities

BICC and its testing vendor will provide reasonable and appropriate testing accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended for individuals with documented disabilities who request and demonstrate the need for accommodation as required by law. ADA regulations define a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. BICC requires documentation to validate the type and severity of a disability to enable accommodations to be specifically matched with the identified functional limitation, in order to provide equal access to exam functions for all examinees.

Reasonable accommodations provide candidates with disabilities a fair and equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in the essential functions being measured by the examination.

Reasonable accommodations are decided upon based on:

- the individual's specific request,
- the individual's specific disability,
- documentation submitted,
- and the appropriateness of the request.

Reasonable accommodations do not include steps that fundamentally alter the purpose or nature of the examination.

Reasonable accommodations generally are provided for candidates who:

- have an impairment that substantially limits that person in one or more major life activities (e.g., walking, talking, hearing, performing manual tasks)
- have a record of such physical or mental impairment
- are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment

To apply for accommodation(s), the candidate must:

- Complete the Request for Testing Accommodation form and the Documentation of Disability-Related Needs form in the candidate handbook.
- Submit documentation provided by an appropriate licensed professional to the BICC which includes a diagnosis of the disability and specific recommendations for accommodations.
- Submit documentation at least 3 weeks prior to the testing date.

Requests for accommodations will be reviewed by the executive director who will communicate approved accommodations to the testing company. Applicants who request testing

accommodations should be contacted within two weeks of the exam date to verify that appropriate accommodations will be made at the designated testing site by either the executive director or testing company. Responsibility to verify with BICC that accommodations have been made rests with the applicant.

### **Aggregate Data**

Aggregate exam statistics (including the number of exam candidates, pass/fail rates, and total number of certificants) will be publicly available and updated annually. Aggregate exam statistics, studies, and reports concerning applicants/certificants will contain no information identifiable with any applicant/certificant.

### **Confidentiality**

BICC is committed to protecting confidential and/or proprietary information related to applicants; candidates; certificants; and the examination development, maintenance, and administration process.

The BICC maintains a database of all active applicants and certificants. Information about a candidate/certificant will only be released to that candidate/certificant unless release of the information is authorized in writing or electronically by the individual or is required by law. Personal information submitted by applicant/certificants with an application or recertification application, including results of any background check, is considered confidential. Personal information retained within the applicant/certificant database will be kept confidential.

All application information is confidential and will not be shared with any party other than BICC's examination development or administration vendors for certification processing purposes.

Examination scores are released only to the examination candidate unless a signed release is provided in writing by the individual or is required by law. De-identified, aggregate data can be provided to providers when requested for at least 5 or more applicants for the purposes of providers' evaluating their certification training programs.

### **Use of the Certification Mark**

After receiving notification of BCAT designation, the credential may be used as long as certification remains valid and in good standing. Individuals may not use the BCAT credential until they have received specific written notification that they have successfully completed all requirements, including passing the exam and background check. Certificants must comply with all recertification requirements to maintain use of the credential.

Certification is a non-transferable, revocable, limited, non-exclusive license to use the certification designation, subject to compliance with the policies and procedures, as may be revised from time to time.

Except as permitted by this policy, any use or display of BICC certification marks and/or logos without the prior written permission of the BICC is prohibited. Any candidate or certificant who manufactures, modifies, reproduces, distributes or uses a fraudulent or otherwise unauthorized BICC certificate, BICC designation or other credential may be subject to disciplinary action, including denial or revocation of eligibility or certification. Any individual who engages in such behavior also may be subject to legal action. BICC staff perform periodic monitoring of the use of the credentials via social media and internet searches. Violations of BICC policy discovered through this monitoring or other reporting may result in disciplinary or legal action.

Education and training providers may not use the BICC name, logos, or certification marks to state or imply any approval or endorsement by BICC or any affiliation with BICC.

#### Proper Use of Credentials

After meeting all eligibility requirements, passing the examination and the background check, individuals may use their BCAT credential in all correspondence and professional relations and on promotional materials, such as stationary, websites, business cards, etc. The mark or logo may be used only on business cards, stationery, letterhead, and similar documents on which the name of the individual certified is prominently displayed.

Individuals who have met the certification standards established by BICC are authorized to use the following certification mark in communications and marketing materials:

- The BCAT credential may be used as “BCAT” or “Board Certified Autism Technician.”
- The credential is typically used after the certificant’s name following any academic degrees and licensure (e.g. Mary Smith, BCAT).
- The mark must be clearly associated with the individual(s) certified by BICC.
- The mark should not be used in a plural or possessive manner.

The certification mark may be used only as long as certification is valid. Should the certification be suspended or withdrawn for any reason, the individual must immediately cease the use of the certification designation and acronym on stationery, websites, business cards, and any and all promotional materials.

#### Ownership of the Mark and Logo

The certification marks and logo are the property of the BICC. Permission to use the certification mark or logo is granted to credentialed persons at the discretion of the BICC Board of Directors, for permissible uses only.

The credential marks and logos may not be revised or altered in any way. They must be displayed in the same form as produced by BICC and cannot be reproduced unless such reproduction is identical to the mark provided by BICC.

The mark or logo may not be used in any manner which could bring BICC into disrepute or in any way is considered misleading or unauthorized. This includes any use of the mark or logo that the public might construe as an endorsement, approval or sponsorship by BICC of a certificant's business or any product thereof.

## Certificates

Each BCAT or BCAP certificant receives a certificate that includes:

- the certificant's name
- certification type
- date of initial certification
- expiration date or statement that the certification must be renewed

All certificates will include a statement that the certificate is the sole property of BICC and must be returned upon request. The certificate may only be displayed during the time period for which the credential is valid. When disciplinary actions result in the revocation of an individual's certification, BICC will require the return of any certificates issued.

## Reconsideration Requests

An applicant whose eligibility for initial certification or recertification has been denied may request reconsideration of the decision.

The request for reconsideration must be submitted in writing to the executive director at [leadership@behavioralcertification.org](mailto:leadership@behavioralcertification.org) within 15 days after the decision has been rendered. The request should state the reasons the applicant believes he or she is eligible for certification/recertification and how he/she complies with the published requirements.

## Reconsideration Review Process

### Initial Review

The executive director will review the request and make a determination within 15 days. If the issue can be resolved at the staff level, the executive director will make a determination and will notify the BICC of the result.

### Review by the Reconsideration Committee

If the issue cannot be resolved by the executive director, he/she may refer the request to the BICC president. The candidate can also refer the request to the BICC president if the candidate can provide information and/or documentation that was not available previously to the executive director.

The Reconsideration Committee will review the request and make a determination within 30 days. The decision made by the committee will be final. The candidate will be notified of the decision within 14 days of the committee's decision.

The committee may review eligibility and recertification requests for reconsideration and make determinations via teleconference meetings, via email, or other means as the committee deems appropriate, as long as all committee members have the opportunity to participate in the review and decision.

### Reconsideration Committee

When a request for reconsideration is referred to the BICC president, the president will appoint a Reconsideration Committee within 30 days to review the request.

The Reconsideration Committee may be a sub-committee of the BICC and may be appointed as an ad-hoc or standing committee.

### Statement of Nondiscrimination

BICC does not discriminate against any candidate for certification on the basis of race, color, creed, age, gender, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, parental status, ancestry, sexual orientation, military discharge status, or source of income. All candidates for certification will be judged solely on the published eligibility criteria determined by BICC.

### Verification of Certification

An individual's certification status is not considered confidential and may be published by the BICC. BICC will provide confirmation of certification status to anyone who requests the information, and verification will be accessible via the program's website. Verification of certification status will include the individual's name, certificate number, credential held, effective and expiration dates, and the zip code, state, and country where the certificant resides.

The executive director maintains a database of all active applicants and certificants.

Certification status for any individual may be verified by contacting the executive director. An individual's name and current certification status will be verified upon request.

Application status, information about whether an individual has taken a BICC exam, and score information will not be released without applicant consent.

## Section 9: Forms

### Special Accommodations Request Form

If you have a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please complete this form and the Documentation of Disability-Related Needs Form. The information you provide, and any documentation regarding your disability and special accommodation, will be treated with strict confidentiality and will not be shared with any source, without your express written permission, except for BICC.

Please submit completed form to: [leadership@behavioralcertification.org](mailto:leadership@behavioralcertification.org)

#### APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please provide (check all that apply)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Accessible Testing Site            | <input type="radio"/> Screen Magnifier (Large Font)           |
| <input type="radio"/> Separate Testing Room              | <input type="radio"/> Reader Required for Learning Disability |
| <input type="radio"/> Extended Testing Time              | <input type="radio"/> Reader Required for Visual Disability   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other special accommodation: _____ |   |

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Documentation of Disability-Related Needs Form

Candidates for the BCAT certification examination who have a learning, psychological, or other disability that requires accommodation during testing must provide a written disability report prepared by an appropriately qualified, licensed health care professional (e.g. physician, nurse practitioner, psychologist, psychiatrist). The information you provide, and any documentation regarding your disability and special accommodation request, will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Please submit completed form to: [leadership@behavioralcertification.org](mailto:leadership@behavioralcertification.org)

### LICENSED HEALTHCARE PROVIDER DOCUMENTATION

I have known \_\_\_\_\_ since \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
*Test applicant*

in my capacity as a \_\_\_\_\_  
*Professional Title*

### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Given the nature of the test to be taken by the above-named candidate, it is my opinion that he/she should be accommodated by providing the following special arrangements:

**Check all that apply:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Accessible testing site            | <input type="radio"/> Screen Magnifier (Large Font)           |
| <input type="radio"/> Separate testing room              | <input type="radio"/> Reader Required for Learning Disability |
| <input type="radio"/> Extended testing time              | <input type="radio"/> Reader Required for Visual Disability   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other special accommodation: _____ |   |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ License \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if applicable)*

## Section 10: Supervision Examples

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Examples of acceptable supervision are included below.

- 1 hour and 30 minutes of supervision from your supervisor(s) during a 30-hour ABA therapy work week.
- At least 2 synchronous (in real time) contacts with a supervisor per month.
- You schedule a meeting with your supervisor. You want to learn more about autism and why some of your clients are so different even though they have the same diagnosis. You meet for 30 minutes and your supervisor reviews the diagnostic criteria for autism.
- Your supervisor calls together all the therapists working with Johnny. Johnny's mom contacted the supervisor and let her know that Johnny had a seizure. Johnny's physician provided Johnny's mother information to share with his staff on how to respond if Johnny has another seizure. Your supervisor reviews the information with you and the team so that if Johnny has a medical emergency everyone knows how to respond.
- Your supervisor gives you a camera and asks you to record video of you and your client performing programs including receptive identification of objects, imitation with objects, and echoic imitation. You record approximately 25 minutes of video and return the camera to your supervisor. Your supervisor reviews the 25 minutes of video and sends you an email with feedback about your performance during the session.
- You attend a patient meeting with your supervisor, client, and client's mom. During the meeting your supervisors reviews the client's data, demonstrates new programs, and reviews behavior plans.
- You have a staff meeting attended by all the behavior therapists in your organization. During the meeting your supervisor demonstrates error correction procedures, paired-choice preference assessment, and mand training.
- Your supervisor uses a HIPAA compliant, video conferencing app on a mobile device to see and hear you and your client during a therapy session. They also provide feedback by talking to you.
- Your supervisor reviews notes you left in the client's log as well as data you collected over sessions. The supervisor meets with you for 15 minutes without the client present to discuss the client's progress and ask for clarification about a note you left.
- Your supervisor asks you to collect data on challenging behavior with another client. You are not assigned to this client, but they are very similar to a client on your caseload. The client engages in property destruction. You and your supervisor simultaneously collect data on the client's property destruction while another therapist is running the session. After 30 minutes, you and the supervisor review the data you collected and calculate interobserver agreement.