



March 1, 2019

McNeese State University
Department of Psychology
P.O. Box 91895
Lake Charles, LA 70609

Dear Dr. Cameron Melville,

I write to you on behalf of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accreditation Board to inform you that the Board has deferred a decision on re-accreditation pending receipt of evidence that the program has made specific improvements within two years.

The Board agreed with the site visit report, there are several commendable aspects to the McNeese State ABA program including areas that exceed the accreditation standards. There are also areas in which improvements are needed, specifically:

Standards 2-107, 2-108, 2-109. Written agreements for practica or assistantships do not exist. Due to faculty overload, there was inadequate supervision of students' research, which resulted in a lack of student exposure to both clinical and research experiences.

Standard 3-106; Standard 9-109. Students may not currently have sufficient experience with the execution and design of research, or lack adequate faculty supervision of their research.

Standards 4-102, 4-103; Standard 6 Faculty. These standards were judged as unmet due to the extent to which administrators valued the faculty's input regarding the program, including the significant overloads placed on core faculty without reassignments or compensation. Moreover, the low number of core faculty puts the program's quality and sustainability at risk.

Standards 8-100, 8-101. The program's website had a lack of clarity or was missing information.

The Board appreciates the program's thorough and collegial response to the site visit report. The response letter indicated immediate action plans for addressing these areas of concern. Given the recent resignation of a faculty member, in addition to the areas needing improvements, the Board voted to allow your program up to two years to address these items. In accordance with item 3-1-103, from the ABAI Accreditation Handbook, the program's previous grant of accreditation is automatically extended during the deferral period. The program will be expected to complete the annual accreditation reports and submit the annual accreditation fees, beginning this year.



Following this deferral period, the program will submit a new self-study report, acknowledging the areas of improvement, and arrange for a site visit. There will not be an additional fee associated with the new self-study application – only the site visitor fees. Please know the program may submit the self-study application sooner, if criteria are met before the two-year deferral period expires.

If you have any questions about the deferral period and processes, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, if your program assigns a new Program Administrator during the current term, please notify the Board immediately so we may update our records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenna Mrljak".

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Jenna Mrljak, Ph.D., BCBA
Education Manager
Association for Behavior Analysis International
ABAIaccreditation@ABAInternational.org

cc: Michael Perone, Ph.D., ABAI Accreditation Board Chair