



July 22, 2021

University of Kansas
1000 Sunnyside Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66045

Dear Dr. Derek Reed,

On behalf of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accreditation Board, I am pleased to inform you that the Board has granted **full accreditation through December 31, 2025** to the PhD program in Behavioral Psychology in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas.

The accreditation process is specifically designed to convey information about a training program's comprehensiveness, rigor, quality, and transparency. Its purpose is to promote quality control and continuous improvement. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for your success in helping to preserve the integrity of training in behavior analysis.

The site visitors identified several aspects of your program worthy of commendation, including the high overall quality of the program, strength and commitment of the faculty, high achievements of the students, purposeful efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, and strong support from the college and university administration. The site visitors also offered several recommendations that you may consider as part of your ongoing efforts at improving the program.

The Board expressed concern about discrepancies in your reports of student outcomes. The information in the Outcomes Assessment section of your self-study report (the table on pp. 27-30) does not align with the information that the program has provided in its annual reports (available here:

https://accreditation.abainternational.org/media/114692/ku-phd_aggregate_report_data_2015-2019.pdf). The Board has no way of knowing which data set is correct or, for that matter, whether either is correct. Because of the importance of public disclosure and accountability, it is imperative that you address this problem promptly. Two steps are needed:

First, you must submit a new self-study table that accurately covers calendar years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016. (I am referring to the table that provides the information required by Sections 3-100 through 3-104 of the self-study report; it is not necessary to



update the other information in the report.) It may be that your information gathering has sometimes combined data from the MA and PhD programs. The table should be completed with information from the students who were in the PhD program in the calendar year under consideration. For example, where the table requires the median years to graduation for students whose degrees were conferred by the program in 2020, you should count the time that a student spent in the PhD program to obtain the PhD degree.

Second, you must take appropriate actions to ensure accurate reporting in the future. I suggest that you develop an in-house guide for tabulating the necessary data. I would be happy to assist you by reviewing the Board's reporting requirements with you.

Your updated outcomes assessment table and plan for ensuring future accuracy must be submitted by August 31, 2021.

During this grant of accreditation, the program is required to pay an annual sustaining fee as described in Title VII Section 7-1-104 of the *Accreditation Handbook*, and to remain in compliance with the Board's policies and procedures. I would like to call special attention to three important policies related to public disclosure. Your program is required to:

1. share the program's accreditation status and display the Board's doctoral-level accreditation seal on the program's web site. (See the Board's *Policy on Public Disclosure of Accreditation Status*.) I will email you a copy of the current version of the seal.
2. display on your web site a prominent link to the aggregate report of the program's student outcomes that is posted on the Board's web site. The link to your program's aggregate report is: https://accreditation.abainternational.org/media/114692/ku-phd_aggregate_report_data_2015-2019.pdf. (See Title IX, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Handbook*.)
3. submit an annual report as described in Title VII of the *Accreditation Handbook*, using the form posted at <https://forms.gle/hjStiMjAu2FduRp79>.

The aforementioned policies can be found via the "Documents" tab at <https://accreditation.abainternational.org>.) As program administrator, you should familiarize yourself with the materials in this section of the Board's web site.



I will send you an invoice for the sustaining fee to be paid during the first quarter of each year, and I will send you a reminder about the annual report which normally is due on April 1 of each year.

If your program assigns a new Program Administrator during the current grant of accreditation, please notify me immediately so I can update our records.

If you choose to apply for reaccreditation, you must submit a new self-study before April 1, 2025, using the Self-Study Report form available via the "Documents" tab at <https://accreditation.abainternational.org>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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@ABAIInternational.org

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