August 15, 2023

University of North Carolina Wilmington  
Dept of Psychology, UNC Wilmington, 601 S. College Road  
Wilmington, NC 29403

Dear Dr. Ray Pitts,

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, 2028, to the campus-based Ph.D. program in Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis Concentration, in the Department of Psychology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

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 and Board found commendable aspects of UNCW’s Ph.D. training program. The Ph.D. program is well designed with a wide variety of contemporary academic topics in behavior analysis, incorporates a great blend of faculty expertise and experience, involves good experiential learning opportunities and supervisors for students, and produces high-quality dissertations. The Board appreciates the collegial nature of your response to the site visit report and the program’s commitment to continuous improvements.

The Board and site visitors noted an area of concern with upcoming retirements and plans for hiring new faculty. It will be critical for the program to ensure faculty hires are suitable replacements for the evolving nature of the behavior analysis program and emerging trends in the larger discipline. In the program’s recruitment efforts, the Board and site visitors recommend an appropriate balance of faculty with expertise in basic research as well as diverse areas of applied research such as autism, developmental disabilities, organizational behavior management, behavioral gerontology, health psychology/public health, and sustainability. The Board recommends that the program implement its strategic plan of hiring qualified faculty to replace the faculty leaving.
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 (Standard 8). 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 website. (See the Board’s Policy on Public Disclosure of Accreditation Status.). The copy of the current version of the seal is included in the email.

2. display on your website a prominent link to the aggregate report of the program’s student outcomes that is posted on the Board’s website (when available in 2023). The link to your program-specific page, which will eventually include a published aggregate report is: [https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/accredited-programs/university-of-north-carolina-wilmington.aspx](https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/accredited-programs/university-of-north-carolina-wilmington.aspx) (See Title IX, Chapter 3 of the Accreditation Handbook.)

3. submit an annual report and sustaining fee, normally due April 1 of each year, as described in Title VII of the Accreditation Handbook, using ABAI’s electronic form (a link will be shared with you prior to the deadline).

The aforementioned policies can be found via the “Documents” tab at [https://accreditation.abainternational.org](https://accreditation.abainternational.org). As program administrator, please familiarize yourself with the materials in this section of the Board’s website.

If your program assigns a new program administrator during this period, please notify me immediately so I can update our records. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – I am available to help.

We look forward to the continued developments and improvements of the program.

Sincerely,

Jenna Mrljak, Ph.D., BCBA
Deputy Director: Boards and Committees
Association for Behavior Analysis International
ABAIaccreditation@ABAInternational.org

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