



February 17, 2025

The Chicago School, Chicago Campus
325 N. Wells St.
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Dr. Chivon Niziolek,

On behalf of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accreditation Board, I am pleased to inform you that the Board has granted **accreditation through December 31, 2027**, to the M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis program, Chicago Campus in the Department of Applied Behavior Analysis at The Chicago School, with a required **progress report due February 1, 2026**. The program's accreditation status is granted based on a calendar year with expiration occurring at the end of the year.

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 Board agrees with the site visitors' recommendation to increase the number of core faculty members and shares their concern that the faculty to student ratio is inadequate to support the program's ability to fulfill its mission. The Board also agrees that the program needs to increase the opportunities for students to engage in professional development, such as presenting at conferences and co-authoring scholarly publications. Additionally, the Board raised concern regarding the program's BCBA pass-rate performance.

As such, the Board requests the program provide updates to address the following concerns in a progress report by **March 1, 2026**:

- **Standard Area 6 – Faculty:** At the time of the Board's decision, it was their understanding the program employs two core faculty members and is concerned with the loss of faculty members throughout the re-accreditation process. To ensure the program has adequate resources to fulfill its mission and provide support to students, the Board strongly recommends the program hire two additional core faculty members. In the progress report, please provide an update on the steps taken to increase the number of core faculty members, such as gaining approval to hire, advertising job postings, conducting interviews, and making offers to qualified



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candidates. Adherence to this requirement will help ensure the faculty composition and size is adequate to support current and future student enrollment.

- **Standard Area 3 – Outcomes Assessment**

- **3-102. Success Rate on Behavior Analyst Certification Board exam:** The Board is concerned with the program's most recent pass rate performance. The program must identify the reasons for the pass rate performance and implement strategies to improve performance on pass rates in future years. The Board understands that pass rate data may not reflect changes made to the program for several years. In the progress report, please provide what actions were taken to analyze reasons for current pass rate performance, strategies implemented to improve pass rate performance, and how the program plans to monitor and adjust strategies on an ongoing basis.
- **3-107 and 3-108. Student presentations and publications:** The program must identify ways to promote student's professional development by increasing opportunities to present in local, regional, and national/international conferences and engage with faculty in research opportunities. In the progress report, provide an update on what steps have been taken to increase opportunities for students to engage in these activities and evidence of encouraging students to do so.

The Board appreciates the collegial nature of your response to the site visit report and prompt communication through the accreditation process.

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 masters-level accreditation seal on the program's website. See the Board's *Policy on Public Disclosure of Accreditation Status*. **The program is not compliant with this requirement. Please ensure that the website is updated immediately.** Specifically, the accreditation statement should reference the program is accredited by the ABAI Accreditation Board (not ABAI). 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. The link to your program's webpage on ABAI's website, inclusive of your aggregate report, is:



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<https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/accredited-programs/the-chicago-school.aspx> (See Title IX, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Handbook*.)

3. submit an annual report and annual sustaining fee, normally due April 1 of each year, as described in Title VII of the *Accreditation Handbook*, using the form posted at <https://forms.gle/hjStiMjAu2FduRp79>. Your next annual report and sustaining fee are due April 1, 2025.

The aforementioned policies can be found via the “Documents” tab at <https://accreditation.abainternational.org>. Additionally, you may find our current fee schedule at <https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/fee-schedule.aspx>. As program coordinator, you should familiarize yourself with the information in these sections of the Board’s website.

If your program applies for re-accreditation, please note it is the responsibility of the program to submit the self-study with the appropriate fees by April 1 of the last year of the current grant of accreditation. If your program wishes to apply for re-accreditation, the self-study, supporting documents, and application fee will be due April 1, 2027 with a site visit occurring prior to September 30, 2027. I will reach out to you the year prior to your final year of accreditation to notify you of this process.

Additionally, if your program assigns a new program coordinator 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. I will be glad to discuss the Board’s requirements with you and, if you would like, we can include Dr. Ben Witts, the Board Coordinator, in the discussion.

Important Dates:

- **Progress Report Due:** February 1, 2026
- **Annual Reports and Annual Sustaining Fees Due:** April 1, 2025, April 1, 2026, and April 1, 2027
- **Updated Self-Study, Application Fees, and Annual Report Due:** April 1, 2027
 - **Note:** if your program would like to have a spring site visit, please submit the self-study by February 15.
 - **Note:** The annual report is due in 2027, however, ABAI does not charge a sustaining fee the year a program is applying for re-accreditation.
- **Site Visit for Re-accreditation Due:** September 30, 2027

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



Sincerely,

Alyssa McElroy

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cc: Ben Witts, Ph.D., IBA, BCBA-D
ABAI Accreditation Board Coordinator