



May 6, 2025

University of Missouri, Columbia
611 Conley Ave., 311A Townsend Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Dear Dr. Sadler,

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, hybrid program in the Department of Special Education at the University of Missouri, Columbia, with a progress report due **August 1, 2025**.

Accreditation is granted to a program that meets the required standards, as represented by a level of operational integrity, financial sustainability, and effectiveness that offers a measure of confidence compatible with the length of the grant awarded. A three-year grant of initial accredited is awarded to programs that meet the standards, but the board has reservations about their ability to meet accreditation standards over the long term. It is expected that programs will demonstrate significant growth in the standards before the next accreditation cycle. 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 commended the support the program provides to its students, low attrition rates, quality thesis projects, and its integrative training model with the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment.

The board raised several concerns related to public disclosure, faculty capacity, and course content alignment. During the accreditation period, the board expects the program to address the following concerns:

- 1. Inconsistent or missing information on website (Standards 8-100 and 8-101)**

The program must make the following updates to ensure compliance with public disclosure requirements:

- Update broken link to the Student Handbook (under “Administrative Procedures” subheading) on the website (<https://cehd.missouri.edu/degree/applied-behavior-analysis-ms/>).
- Provide a direct link to the cost of tuition on the program’s webpage.
- Update credit hour requirement to ensure consistency across webpages. The [course catalog for the M.S. in ABA program](#) lists a minimum of 39 credits hours whereas the [program website](#) lists a minimum of 36 credits hours.
- Ensure program faculty names are correct.

2. Ensure adequate faculty support for students if program size increases (Standard 6-100)

The board agreed that the program faculty are well qualified and work collaboratively to support students. They noted recent faculty turnover as a concern. If the program intends to increase enrollment in the coming years, the board recommends an additional core faculty member is hired to ensure adequate student support and stability of the program. They suggest emphasis is placed on hiring faculty with expertise in basic behavior analysis. The board will monitor the program’s enrollment through the program’s annual report data.

3. Improve Basic Behavior Analysis content across coursework (Standard 9-107)

The board acknowledges the program provided an update on its basic behavior analysis content in the site visit report response. The board requests that the program further review the basic behavior analysis content to ensure it meets the purpose of this content area (*to develop competence in understanding how principles of behavior are discovered and described in the context of basic research*). The program should review the published syllabi on the board’s [website](#) and incorporate more contemporary readings related to the experimental analysis of behavior. Additionally, the program may request consultation with the board regarding its proposed revisions to courses that incorporate basic behavior analytic content. If the program wishes to consult with the board regarding its revised syllabi, please contact abaiaccreditation@abainternational.org no later than **June 15, 2025**.

To address these concerns, the board requests a progress report, due **August 1, 2025**, that includes the following:

- Evidence of an updated website that addresses all concerns related to public disclosure.
- Revised syllabi for all courses that adequately incorporates basic behavior analysis content and contemporary readings.

The board appreciates the collegial nature of your response to the site visit and collaboration throughout 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 master's-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 student outcomes on your website, as required by Title IX, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Handbook*. After the first year of accreditation, the program will receive an annual aggregate report inclusive of student outcomes data, which will be posted to the ABAI website. Programs may post a prominent link to the aggregate report to satisfy the reporting requirements and should ensure the link is clearly labeled as "student outcomes".
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, 2026**.

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:** August 1, 2025
- **Annual Reports and Annual Sustaining Fees Due:** April 1, 2026
- **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, programs are not charged the sustaining fee the year a program is applying for re-accreditation.
- **Site Visit for Re-accreditation Due:** Between January 1, 2027, through September 30, 2027

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

Sincerely,



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Alyssa McElroy, Ph.D., BCBA, LBA-MI
Director of Education
Association for Behavior Analysis International
ABAIaccreditation@ABAIInternational.org

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