



September 30, 2025

Columbia University Teachers College
Ph.D., in Special Education: Applied Behavior Analysis
Department of Health Sciences and Applied Educational Psychology
525 W. 120th Street, Box 223
New York, NY 10027

Dear Dr. Fienup,

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, 2030**, to the Ph.D. in Special Education: Applied Behavior Analysis program in the Department of Health Sciences and Applied Educational Psychology at Columbia University, Teachers College.

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 five-year grant of accreditation is awarded to programs that meet the standards and for which the Board has no substantive concerns about their ability to meet standards during the accreditation period. The program's accreditation status is granted based on a calendar year with expiration occurring at the end of the final year of the grant.

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 commends the program for its thoughtful response to prior feedback and for maintaining strong outcomes despite a small number of core faculty. The quality of students' dissertation projects is notable, and the program has expanded practicum opportunities to provide more diverse clinical training. The Board looks forward to continued integration of applied practices across coursework and practica.

The site visitors raised questions regarding the program's coverage of the basic behavior analysis content area requirement (Standard 9-102). The Board reviewed the content and acknowledged that our standards allow for hours to be distributed across more than one course. However, the Board noted discrepancies between the number of instructional hours



and the credits awarded, as the reported class time and semester length did not appear to align with credit requirements. The Board requests clarification of contact hours in the program's next application for re-accreditation.

Though the program faculty's productivity is impressive, the Board recommends that the program seeks to hire an additional faculty member, ideally from diverse academic backgrounds, to strengthen long-term stability and reduce risks associated with reliance on a small number of current faculty.

The Board appreciates the collegial nature of your response to the site visit report and 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 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, and ensure it is clearly labeled "student outcomes". The link to your program's webpage on ABAI's website, inclusive of your aggregate report, is <https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/accredited-programs/teachers-college-columbia-university.aspx>. (See Title IX, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Handbook*.)
 - a. Note: The program provided a link to a PDF with one year of data. We recommend including longitudinal data or linking to the aggregate report on this PDF so that longitudinal data can be accessed.
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 are located on the following webpage:

<https://accreditation.abainternational.org/documents.aspx>. The current accreditation fees are located on the following webpage: <https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/fee-schedule.aspx>. As program coordinator, please familiarize yourself with the information in these sections of the Board's website.

If your program applies for re-accreditation, it is the responsibility of the program to submit the self-study and fees by April 1 of the last year of the current grant of accreditation. If your program applies for re-accreditation, the self-study, supporting documents, and application fee will be due April 1, 2030 with a site visit occurring prior to September 30, 2030. You will receive a reminder the year prior to your final year of accreditation.

Additionally, if your program assigns a new program coordinator during this period, please notify our Accreditation Administrator immediately so our records remain current. If you have any questions, please let me know. I remain available for questions.

Important Dates:

- **Annual Reports and Annual Sustaining Fees Due:** April 1, 2026, April 1, 2027, April 1, 2028, April 1, 2029 and April 1, 2030
- **Updated Self-Study, Application Fees, and Annual Report Due:** April 1, 2030
 - **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 2030, however, ABAI does not charge a sustaining fee the year a program is applying for re-accreditation.
- **Site Visit for Re-accreditation Due:** Between January 1, 2030 through September 30, 2030

The Board looks forward to the continued developments and improvements of the program.

Sincerely,

--

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