**REVISIONS TO DISCIPLINES LIST FORM**

**PLEASE TYPE**

*(Note: Only typed forms will be accepted.)*

**DATE SUBMITTED: September 27, 2019**

**DISCIPLINES LIST TITLE: Registered Behavior Technician**

This proposal is for a  New discipline

Revision to existing discipline

Reason for the proposal  Create a new discipline

Update language in existing discipline to reflect new terminology

Make minimum qualifications in existing discipline more restrictive

Make minimum qualifications in existing discipline less restrictive

**PROPOSAL LANGUAGE:**(If this is an existing minimum qualification, please include the original language and change using strikeouts and *italics*).

Master’s in behavior analysis, education, or psychology OR the equivalent AND certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) as set by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

**PROPOSAL EVIDENCE:**

Any Disciplines List proposal must have the following evidence, which is essential because it provides the rationale about why the change is needed as well as inform the field that the research has been completed to ensure that the change is necessary. A lack of documentation about the need of Discipline List Revision may cause the proposal to be delayed or rejected by the Executive Committee. Please use the following check list to ensure all you have conducted all necessary research.

Required investigation of the following and statement of findings:

* Contacted an associated professional organization to determine support of proposal

A copy of this proposal has been submitted to the California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA).

* Included evidence of degrees within the proposed revision of the discipline or new discipline.
* Provided a list of the titles of the degrees and programs to document the need for a new or revised discipline using the below criteria:
  + Minimum of three degrees
  + Regionally accredited institutions (all public institutions in California)
  + Disciplines in the Master’s List requires evidence of the availability of masters degrees
  + Disciplines in the Non-masters List requires evidence of the availability of degree, certification, and/or professional experience, if necessary

**The following accredited institutions in California offer master’s degrees in Behavioral Analysis:**

* California State University Northridge: Master of Science in Applied Behavioral Analysis
* California State University Sacramento: Master of Science in ABA
* California State University Los Angeles: Master of Science in Psychology with an option in Applied Behavior Analysis
* Pepperdine University: Master of Science in Behavioral Psychology
* The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Los Angeles): Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis

**The following institutions in California offer BACB approved course sequences for BCBA Certification:**

* California State University San Diego, College of Education: Advanced Certificate in Behavior Analysis
* Brandman University: Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate
* Loyola Marymount University: Board Certified Behavior Analyst Online Certificate
* California State University Los Angeles: Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate
* Provided statewide need documented by evidence to show a change is necessary and not merely a response to a unique need of one college, district or region. Demonstrated a balance of need across the state and included a discipline seconder from another district.

Careers in behavioral analysis are growing across the state (Burning Glass Technologies, 2016). The following summary created by Applied Behavior Analysis Edu (2019) explains the widespread impact on this field created by recent California legislation:

California Senate Bill 946 (effective July 1, 2012) requires healthcare service plan contracts and health insurance policies to provide coverage for behavioral health treatment for individuals with autism and other developmental disorders.

This insurance mandate requires health insurers to maintain an adequate network of providers, including qualified autism service providers. The bill encompasses the provision of several evidence-based therapies, including applied behavioral analysis (ABA).

As a result of the adoption of SB 946, the demand for ABA services in California has increased dramatically, greatly precipitating the need to adopt standards and procedures for protecting consumers.

Furthermore, California [Assembly Bill 1715](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1701-1750/ab_1715_bill_20160126_introduced.htm) was passed in 2016, which was designed to protect children with autism and other individuals receiving behavior analysis services by ensuring that only qualified professionals can provide them with care.

Qualified professionals are identified by their level of education and professional certification. Paraprofessionals serving in the role of behavioral technician may have been hired without certification prior to 2016; however, this is no longer the case.

* Explained the impact of proposal across the state using a list the pro and con arguments and including refutation of the con arguments

**Pro Arguments**

1. RBT training and certification is required for individuals when the services are covered by insurance, creating a high market demand for certified RBTs.
2. Valid RBT training must be overseen by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).
3. Existing minimum qualifications for Psychology, Education, Child Development, and the CTE disciplines do not address the BACB certification requirements necessary for valid RBT training.

**Con Arguments**

1. RBT training coursework could be taught by a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA), which requires a lower level of certification (i.e., any bachelor’s degree and BCaBA certification).
   1. **Refutation:** A BCaBA is not licensed to operate independently; therefore, an individual with BCBA certification would still be required to oversee the course.
2. RBT training can be provided independently by qualified individuals.
   1. **Refutation:** The growing demand for RBTs has created a need for training to be available across a broader market. Additionally, training provided through an accredited institution can offer quality assurances that individual providers may not be able to provide.
3. An available alternative discipline could be used to determine qualifications of faculty.
   1. **Refutation:** To hire a RBT faculty member under a different discipline would indicate that the individual qualifies to teach all courses in that discipline, which may not be the case. Similarly, someone hired under existing disciplines, such as Psychology or Education would not necessarily possess the required BCBA certification.

* Provided other evidence such as significant changes to the field that requires a change to the Disciplines List.
* Provided a ½ page written rationale to be included in public documents.

Recent legislative actions requiring the certification of all professionals involved in Applied Behavioral Analysis have created a demand for individuals in the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) occupation. The RBT is a paraprofessional who practices under the supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA). The RBT is primarily responsible for the direct implementation of behavior-analytic services working with individuals with impairments such as autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Currently, the RBT training available is provided by private companies and individual professionals or service organizations. These options can result in a higher fee for training or potentially lower quality training than what could be offered through an accredited community college. RBT training must be sufficiently rigorous and effective to prepare the individual to demonstrate required competencies and pass the certification exam.

Students may elect to take the RBT course alone to gain this certification, or they may combine this training with degree coursework in related fields, such as Education, Child Development, or Psychology. Gaining this certification early in a student’s college career also creates a potential income source for students while they earn their degrees.

A new Registered Behavior Technician discipline is required, as the Behavior Analyst Certification Board requirements for individuals training RBTs do not match any existing disciplines as described in the Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators in California Community Colleges.

**SUBMISSION**

Once a proposal is received by the Senate Office, it is reviewed by staff to ensure that all the information is complete and includes the revision, contact information, appropriate signatures and rationale. The Senate Office will also check to ensure that the proposal has not previously been considered and rejected by the delegates at a plenary session or, if it has, it is supported by a new rationale. The proposal is then sent to the S&P Chair to review the Senate Office information and to ensure that the proposal meets the initial requirements of the Disciplines List review process as well as to verify that the proposal is not being submitted to deal with a district-specific problem that does not apply broadly. If there are any concerns with the proposal, the S&P Chair, working with the S&P Committee, will immediately follow up with the initiator.

**The contact person (or a designee) will be required to attend hearings where the proposal is presented. These hearings are typically held at the ASCCC plenary sessions. It should be noted that the contact person is responsible for investigating and documenting the need for changes to the Discipline List.**

Please reference the Disciplines List Handbook for information about the process including the role of the initiator, the Standards and Practices Committee, the Executive Committee, and the delegates. This handbook can be found on our website at <http://asccc.org/disciplines-list>.

Contact person (author of proposal) Cynthia Sheaks-McGowan, Ed.D.

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Seconder (must be from another District) Thesa Roepke, Alan Hancock College

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**Signature of College Academic Senate President**[[1]](#footnote-1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date approved by College Academic Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved by Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone for President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN FORM TO:** The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

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Email: [disciplineslist@asccc.org](mailto:disciplineslist@asccc.org)

1. By signing this document, the Senate President is certifying that the required investigation and statement of findings have been sufficiently addressed. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)