

Field Hours FAQs

Why are the required mentoring and supervision hours changing?

The BACB (Behavior Analyst Certification Board) reviews minimum training standards periodically to comply with requirements from the NCCA (National Commission for Certifying Agencies). As a result of a recent review, it was [determined by the BACB](#) that the intensive practicum model, which requires 750 hours of mentoring and supervision experience, could no longer be offered by universities. The BACB determined that experience hours needed to increase in quantity and rigor to meet the needs of the growing behavior analysis field. In 2020, Simmons will no longer offer the intensive practicum model to incoming students in order to ensure that they will be qualified to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) exam. The new supervised practicum model will require the completion of 2,000 hours at an approved clinical placement site in the student's area.

Anyone applying for BCBA® certification after January 1, 2022, must meet the new supervision requirements.

Will the increase in hours affect other aspects of the program?

The increase in experience hours does impact certain aspects of the program. A summary of the changes and what students can expect to complete under the new supervised fieldwork model is listed below:

- Students will begin their supervised field work in term 2 and continue their supervised field work over five terms in the program.
 - All students will complete a non-credit orientation to supervised fieldwork in term 1 to familiarize themselves with BACB requirements as well as Simmons requirements.
- Supervised fieldwork experience counts for 2 credit hours per term for a total of 10 credit hours. This increase in credit hours brings the full program to a total of 42 graduate-level credits.

What type of supervision is offered in the BehaviorAnalysis@Simmons program?

Simmons students will complete hours under the “supervised fieldwork” category as outlined by the BACB. This category requires that students complete a total of 2,000 experience hours at an approved clinical placement site.

All hours counted toward the 2,000 required must include:

- An appropriate, department-approved clinical placement experience setting that provides behavior analytic services.
- Five percent of hours spent participating in supervision activities with a qualified supervisor provided by the University.
- Clinical placement tasks that are behavior analytic in nature as assigned by the clinical placement site.
- Clinical placement tasks that include both restricted and unrestricted work. Clinical placement tasks that are restricted in nature must account for no more than 40% of the total hours counted (i.e., no more than 800 of the 2,000 hours required can be spent in direct implementation of behavior analytic programs).
- Observations of supervisees providing behavior analytic services with appropriate human clients at the clinical placement site.

More detailed information regarding the [BACB’s fieldwork requirements](#) is located on the BACB website.

What if I start under the 750 hour model and my program is delayed and/or I register for the exam late?

If this occurs, students will be directed to the program director for additional academic advising.

How do these new requirements benefit me?

The total number of experience hours needed to take the BCBA® exam gives you more hands-on training and additional time training in the field. This will expose you to a greater network of professionals, helping you to better prepare for a successful career in applied behavior analysis.

Can I complete my supervised fieldwork at my place of employment?

Students currently working in the field may have the opportunity to complete their hours at their current place of employment, pending faculty approval and written authorization from the place of employment.

The site must meet BACB experience standards, which require client observations. Further, Simmons University requires that all placements have an appropriate BCBA® clinical supervisor who is responsible for overseeing clinical service delivery at the site.

Am I under supervision the entire time I am accruing experience hours?

No. Simmons students completing the supervised fieldwork experience must spend 5% of their time in supervision each month. Supervision includes individual and group activities.

Supervisor activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Monitoring skill development throughout the supervised fieldwork
- Observing performance with clients and providing feedback
- Developing and communicating performance expectations
- Reviewing and providing feedback on written materials

I'd like to learn more about the requirements. Where can I find more information?

This [newsletter](#) published by the BACB is a good reference on the latest fieldwork requirement changes. You can also visit the [BACB website](#) for the most up-to-date information.