



May 15, 2023

California State University, Los Angeles  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Dear Dr. Michele Wallace,

On behalf of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accreditation Board, I am pleased to inform you that the Board has granted **re-accreditation through December 31, 2025**, to the M.S. in Counseling, Option in Applied Behavior Analysis on-campus program in the Division of Special Education on the Los Angeles campus of the California State University system.

The site visitors and Board found commendable aspects of the training program. They also raised concern about critical items needing attention. Specifically, the Board is concerned about the limited number of core faculty to review, support, and mentor students, which in turn contributed to concerns whether the program is adequately meeting standards for the curriculum (Standard 2), outcome assessment (Standard 3), number of resources (Standard 5), and the thesis or equivalent (Standard 9).

There are two main areas in which improvements are needed by the 2024 fall term:

- Standard 6 – Faculty. The program must carry out the hiring of a third, full-time core faculty member. The Board understands and acknowledges the changes in faculty that have recently occurred and looks forward to the program maintaining stability in the core faculty, supported by the institution's approval to engage in a faculty search this year.
- Standard 9 – Thesis/Equivalent. The program must implement improvements to the thesis/equivalent project in accordance with the Board's [\(Updated\) Thesis or Equivalent Guidance](#). The Board requests evidence that the program has taken steps to incorporate the proposal and committee processes for the program's thesis/equivalent projects.

To help address these concerns, the Board requests a progress report providing evidence of hiring another faculty member and implementation of the thesis or equivalent requirement in effect for Fall 2024. **The progress report must be submitted by August 31, 2024.**



The Accreditation Handbook, section 7-1-101 – Progress Reports, states:

A program may be required to submit a report on its progress in correcting any areas of concern identified by the ABAI Accreditation Board in the accreditation decision letter. The program reports on its continuous improvement efforts, including any new initiatives since the most recent site visit, and its efforts toward improvement based on ongoing self-assessment. The ABAI Accreditation Board may take any of the actions described in Title III if its analysis of a progress report indicates that a program is no longer in compliance with one or more accreditation requirements.

Please note section 3-1-105 of the Handbook, which indicates that the Board may withdraw the current grant of accreditation if it finds that the program has not demonstrated its compliance with the Board's standards, policies, and procedures.

The Board recommends continued attention to the following items, some of which were highlighted in the site visit report and acknowledged in the program's response letter. The Board will pay attention to these matters when applying for re-accreditation in 2025.

- Continue to increase the breadth of research, training opportunities, and mentorship for the students.
- Continue to engage in quality improvements to course content to ensure that primary literature and advanced concepts are incorporated into all courses, alongside the primary readings and text.
- Continue to monitor and improve upon the performance on the certification examination.

The Board appreciates the collegial nature of your response to the site visit report and the program's commitment to continuous improvements.

As the program remains accredited, 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 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 aggregate report is:



<https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/accredited-programs/california-state-university,-los-angeles.aspx> See Title IX, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Handbook*.)

3. submit an annual report and annual 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>. We received your 2022 annual report information – thank you. ABAI will issue the invoice for the 2023 annual sustaining fees.

The aforementioned policies can be found via the “Documents” tab at <https://accreditation.abainternational.org>. As program administrator, you should familiarize yourself with the materials in this section of the Board’s website. If your program assigns a new program administrator 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 Mike Perone, the Board Coordinator, in the discussion.

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

Sincerely,

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Jenna Mrljak, Ph.D., BCBA  
Director of Education  
Association for Behavior Analysis International  
[ABAIaccreditation@ABAIInternational.org](mailto:ABAIaccreditation@ABAIInternational.org)

cc: Michael Perone, Ph.D., ABAI Accreditation Board Coordinator