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# Higher Education in Behavior Analysis Today & Tomorrow

Michael Perone  
ABAI Accreditation Board



<https://accreditation.abainternational.org>

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# Higher Education in Behavior Analysis Today & Tomorrow

- Graduate programs are essential for the growth of behavior science
- Higher education is ABAI's priority
- How ABAI supports higher education
  - Publications
  - Training materials
  - Support for credentialing programs
- ABAI accreditation process

# Graduate programs are essential

## Education



Behavior science has been established in graduate programs in psychology, education, and related disciplines

- e.g., - Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- University of Kansas
  - University of Washington
  - West Virginia University
  - Western Michigan University

# Graduate programs are essential

## Education



Behavior analysis graduate programs have trained some of the best in our field who, in turn, have trained other major contributors

# Graduate programs are essential

## Education



## Research



Behavior analysis grad programs conduct research to advance science, practice, & education

e.g.,

TAVB, BAP, JABA, JEAB,  
JOBM, TBA, TPR...

# Graduate programs are essential

## Education



## Research



## Application



e.g.,

- Applied Behavior Consultants—California State University
- The Continuous Learning Group—West Virginia University
- MammaCare—University of Florida

**Important application centers were born in BA programs**



# Graduate programs are essential

## Universities Hiring Faculty in Past 12 Months

- Armstrong State University
- Ball State University
- Caldwell University
- California State University Sacramento
- California State University Stanislaus
- Drake University
- Drexel University
- Lehigh University
- Long Island University
- McNeese State University
- Mercyhurst University
- Northern Michigan University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Saint Joseph's University
- Temple University
- Texas Tech University College of Education
- University of British Columbia
- University of Kansas
- University of North Texas
- University of Waikato
- Western University

**27 positions at  
21 universities**

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# Higher education is ABAI's priority

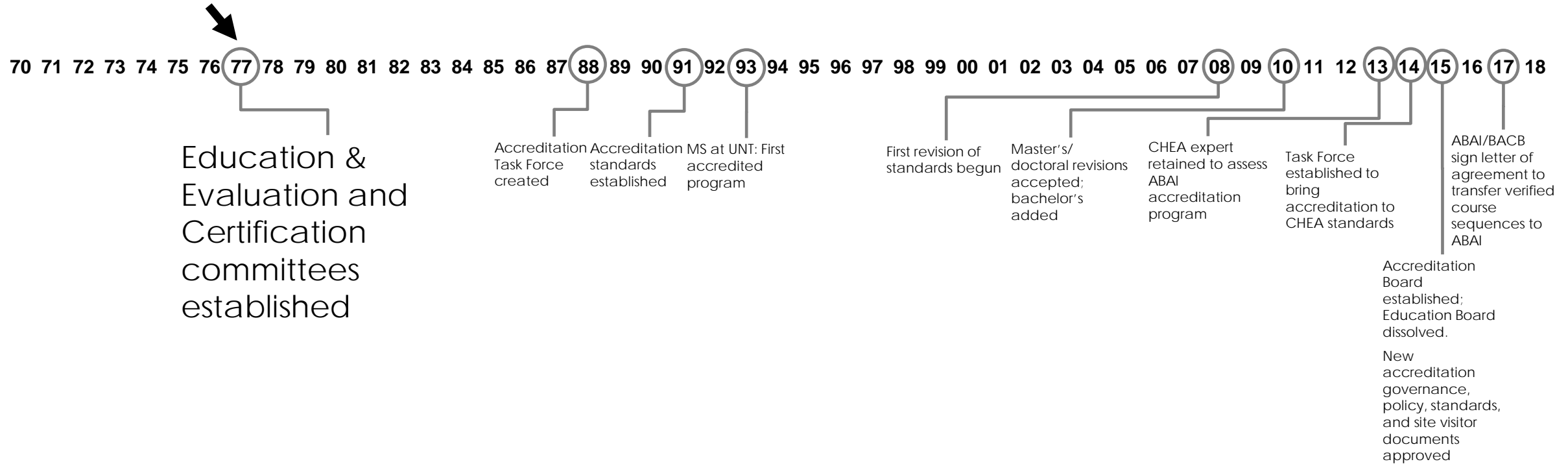
**Accreditation is central to our mission:**

To contribute to the well-being of society by developing, enhancing, and supporting the growth and vitality of the science of behavior analysis through research, **education**, and practice.



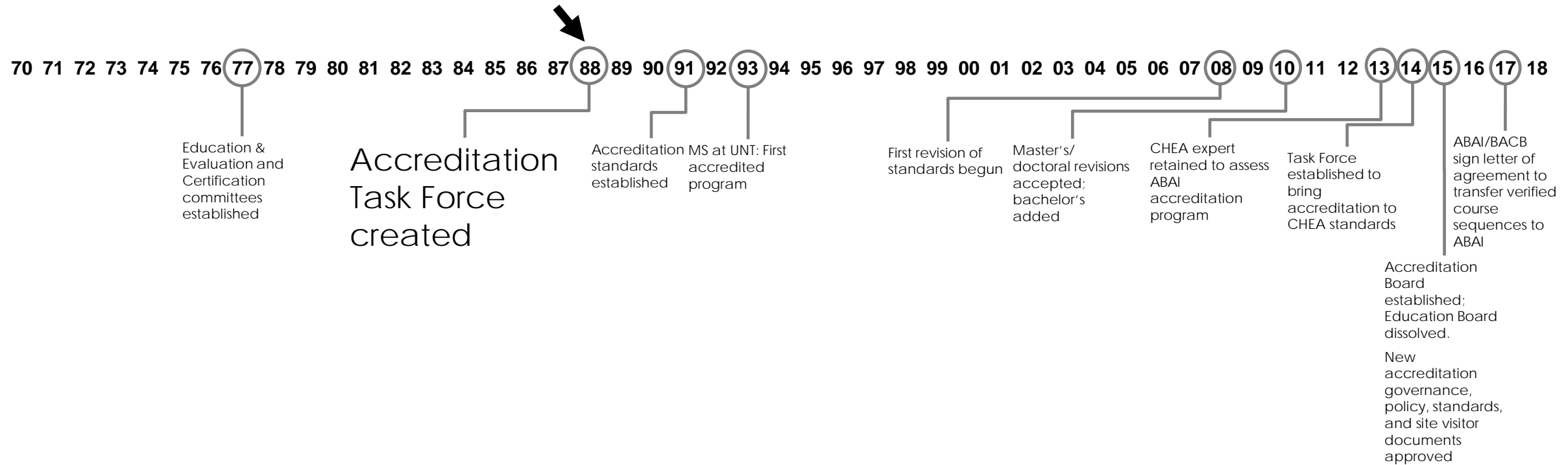
# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## A commitment of long standing



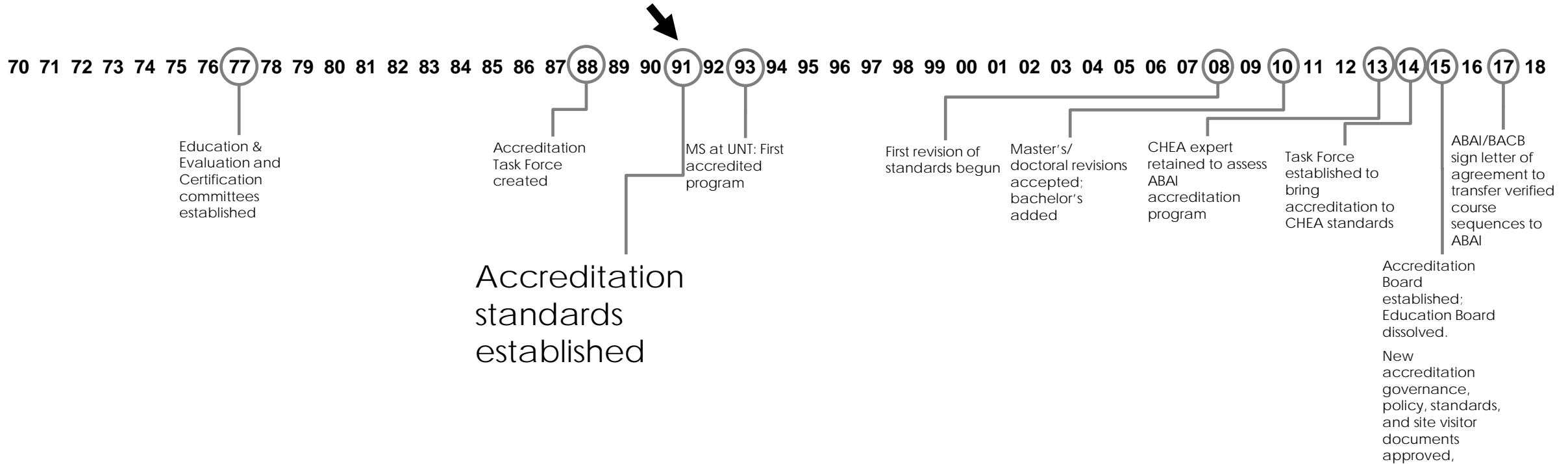
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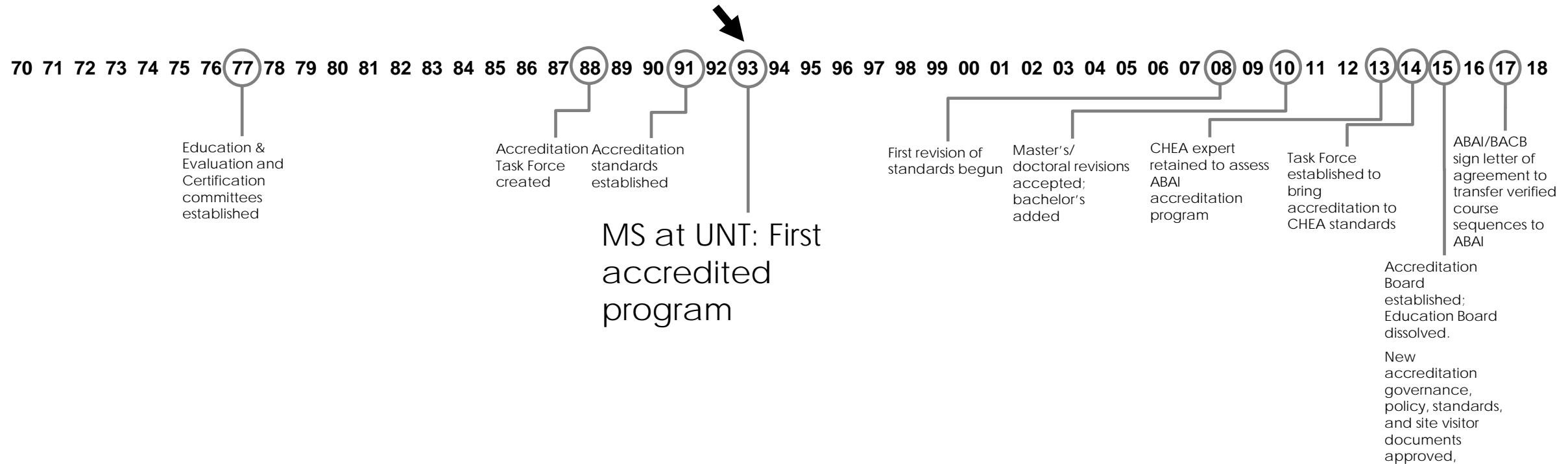
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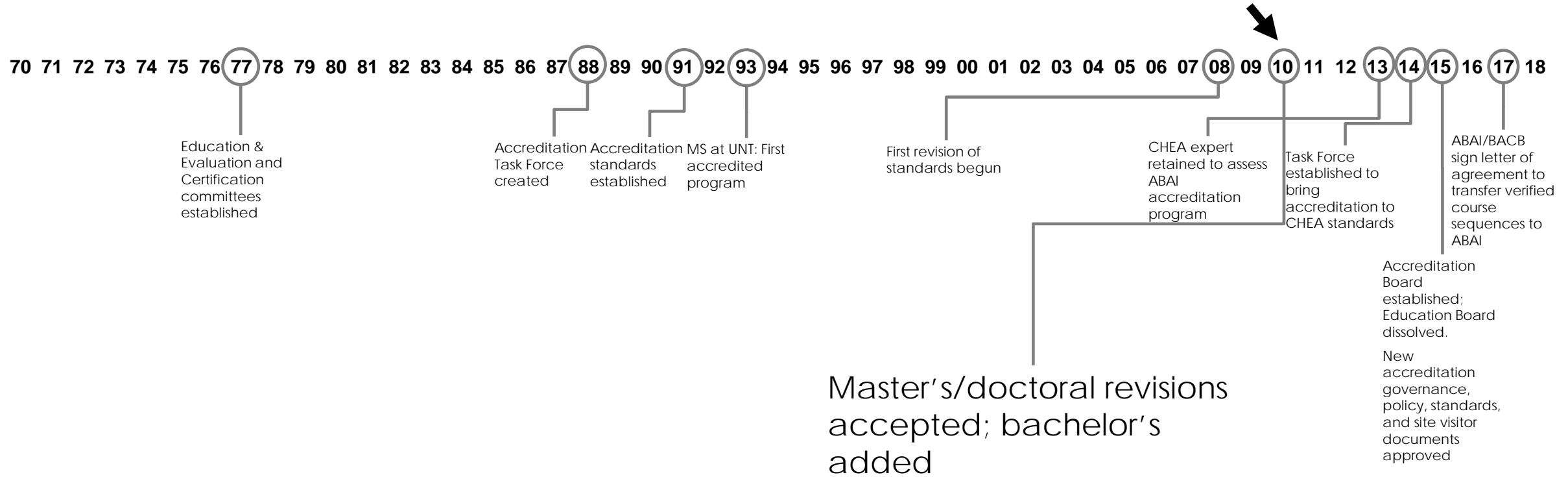
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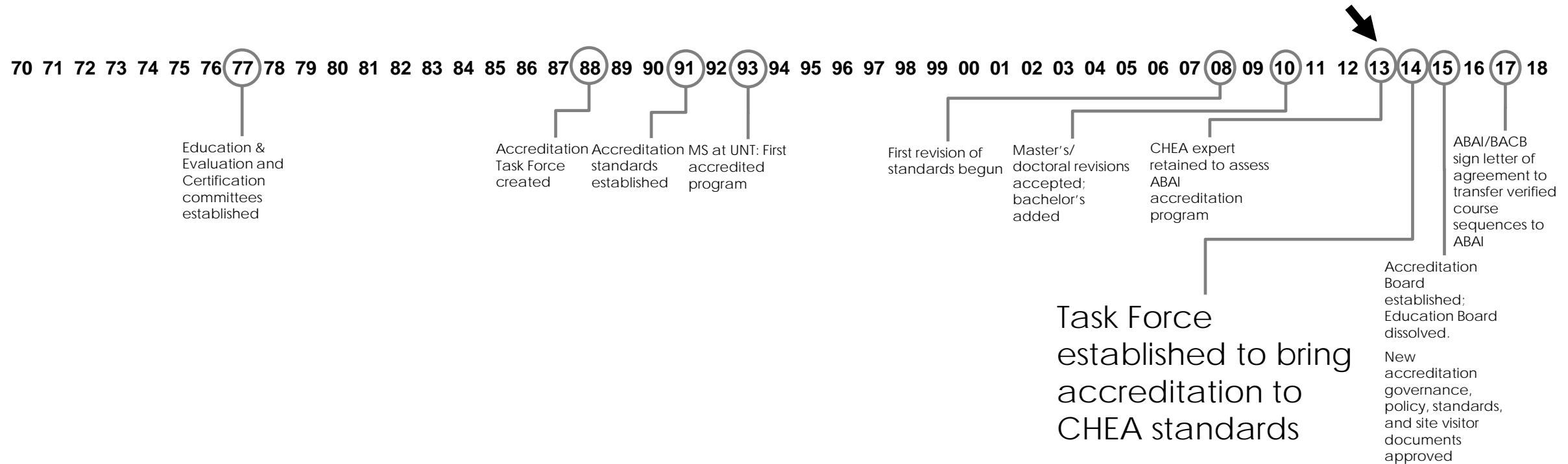
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## A commitment of long standing



# Higher education is ABAI's priority

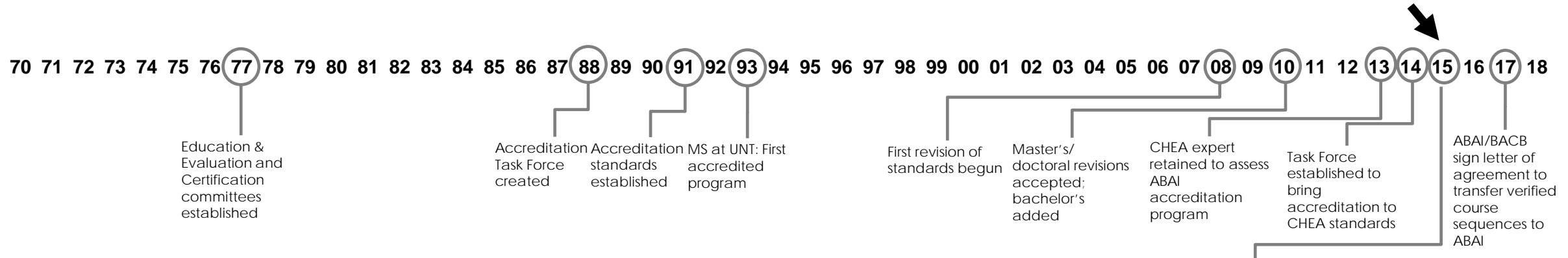
## A commitment of long standing





# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## A commitment of long standing



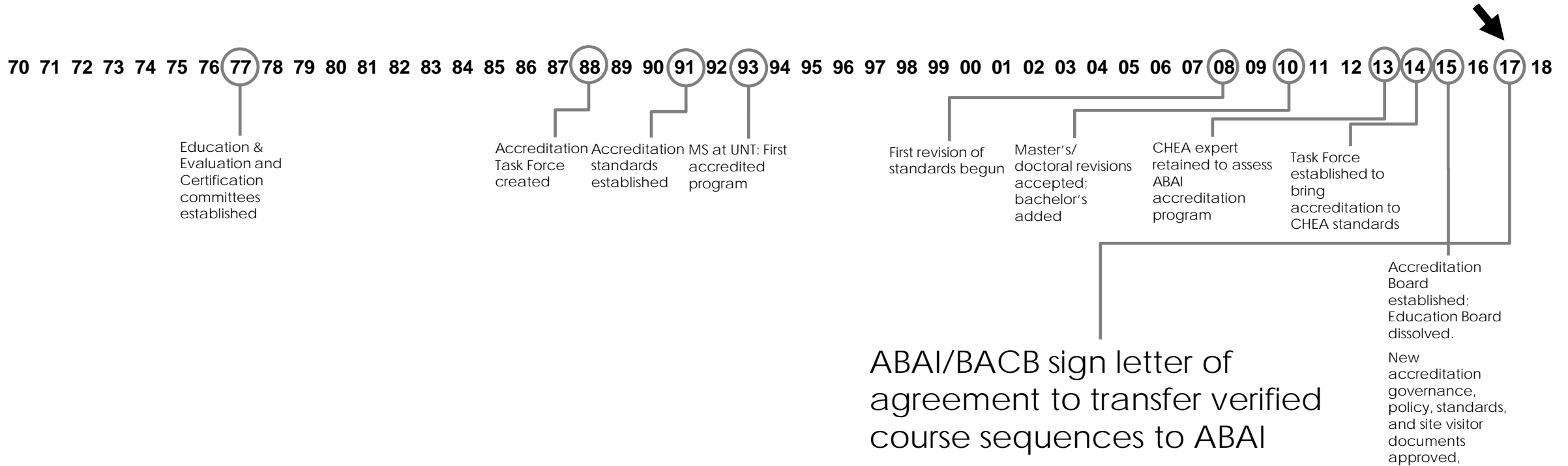
Accreditation Board established; Education Board dissolved.

New accreditation governance, policy, standards, and site visitor documents approved



# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## A commitment of long standing



# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## A nationally recognized system of accreditation



*Council for Higher Education Accreditation:*  
Assure, strengthen, and continuously improve  
academic quality



*Department of Education:* Assure the soundness  
of institutions and programs eligible for federal  
funds

# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## A nationally recognized system of accreditation

- Accountability to outside agencies
- Nationally recognized standards for accreditation and quality assurance for faculty, students, parents, general public
- Independence of judgment
- Systematic procedures for selecting and training site visitors
- Systematic procedures for selecting board members



# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## A nationally recognized system of accreditation



ABAI system designed meet CHEA's 2016 standards.

Recognition process on hiatus while CHEA reviews its standards.

# Higher education is ABAI's priority

Accreditation Board establishes and implements standards of accreditation



Michael Perone  
2015–2020  
Coordinator



Sharon Brush  
2015–2020



Claudia Dozier  
2015–2019



Mitch Fryling  
2015–2021



Linda Hayes  
2015–2018



Maria Malott  
2015–2018



Jonathan Pinkston  
2015–2019

# Higher education is ABAI's priority

Accreditation Board: 5 elected, voting members, 2 appointed non-voting members.



Michael Perone  
2015–2020  
Coordinator

Basic



Sharon Brush  
2015–2020

Community



Claudia Dozier  
2015–2019

Applied



Mitch Fryling  
2015–2021

Applied



Linda Hayes  
2015–2018

Non-  
Voting



Maria Malott  
2015–2018

Non-  
Voting



Jonathan Pinkston  
2015–2019

Basic



# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## Accreditation Board: How independent?

- Solely responsible for final decisions on accreditation.
- Formulates standards & policies in conjunction with input
  - Educators
  - Practitioners
  - Students
  - Public

# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## Accreditation Standards

- Mission
- Curriculum
- Outcomes Assessment
- Administration
- Resources
- Faculty
- Student Services
- Public Disclosure

# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## Accreditation Standards



Annual reports online



# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## Accreditation Standards

- Principles of Behavior
- Research Methods
- Conceptual Analysis
- Applied behavior Analysis
- Basic Behavior Analysis
- Ethics
- Supervised Experiential Learning
- Thesis or Equivalent
- Dissertation

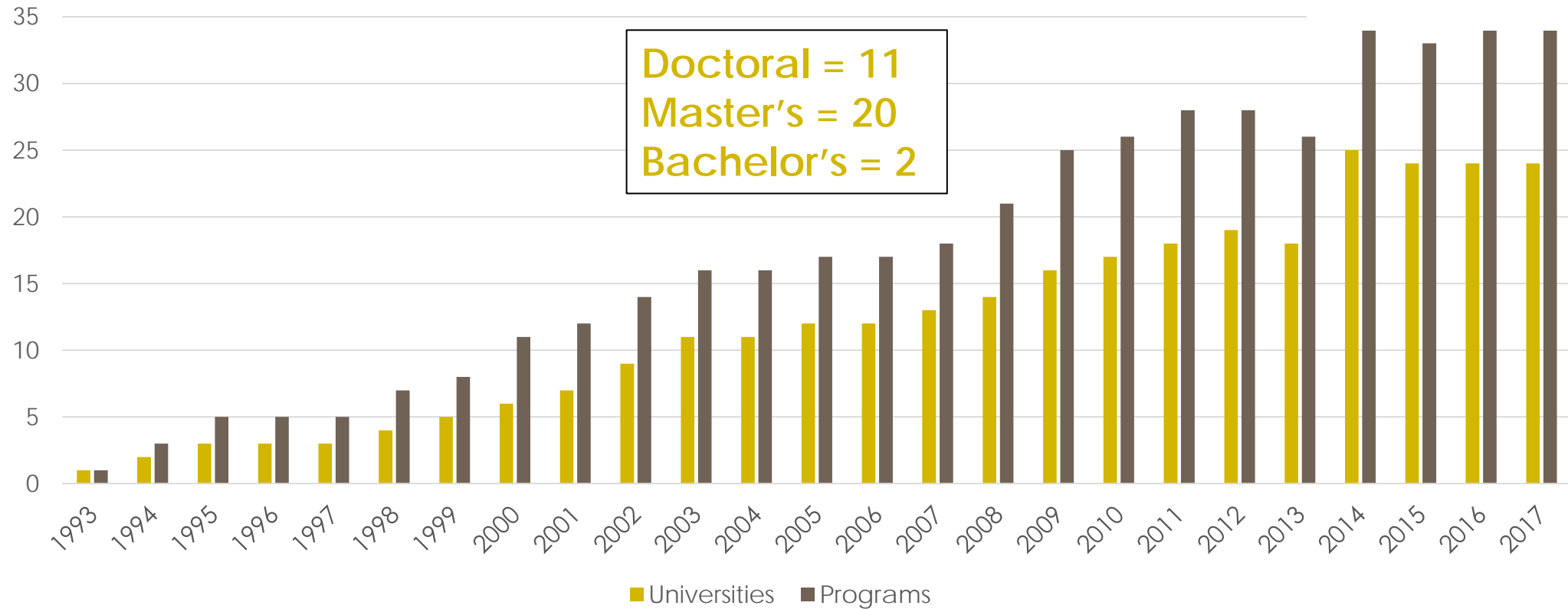
# Higher education is ABAI's priority

## Accreditation Standards

- Basic Behavior Analysis
  - To understand how principles of behavior are discovered and described in the context of basic research
- Supervised Experiential Learning
  - To develop skill in professional practice or research. Work to complete thesis or equivalent and/or a dissertation counts



# Higher education is ABAI's priority



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- **How ABAI supports higher education**
  - **Publications**
  - **Training materials**
  - **Support for credentialing programs**
- ABAI accreditation process



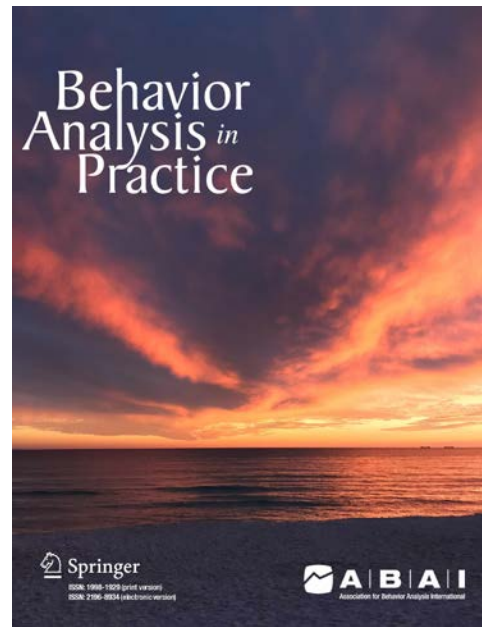


# Publications

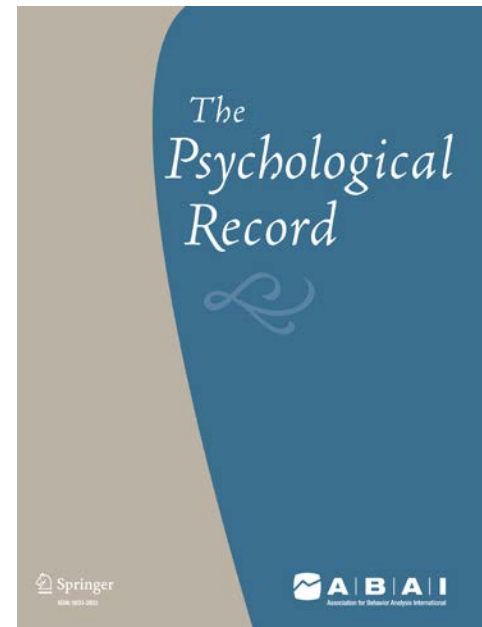
ABAI journals support science & practice, training for students, & professional development for faculty & practitioners



2 issues per year



4 issues per year



4 issues per year



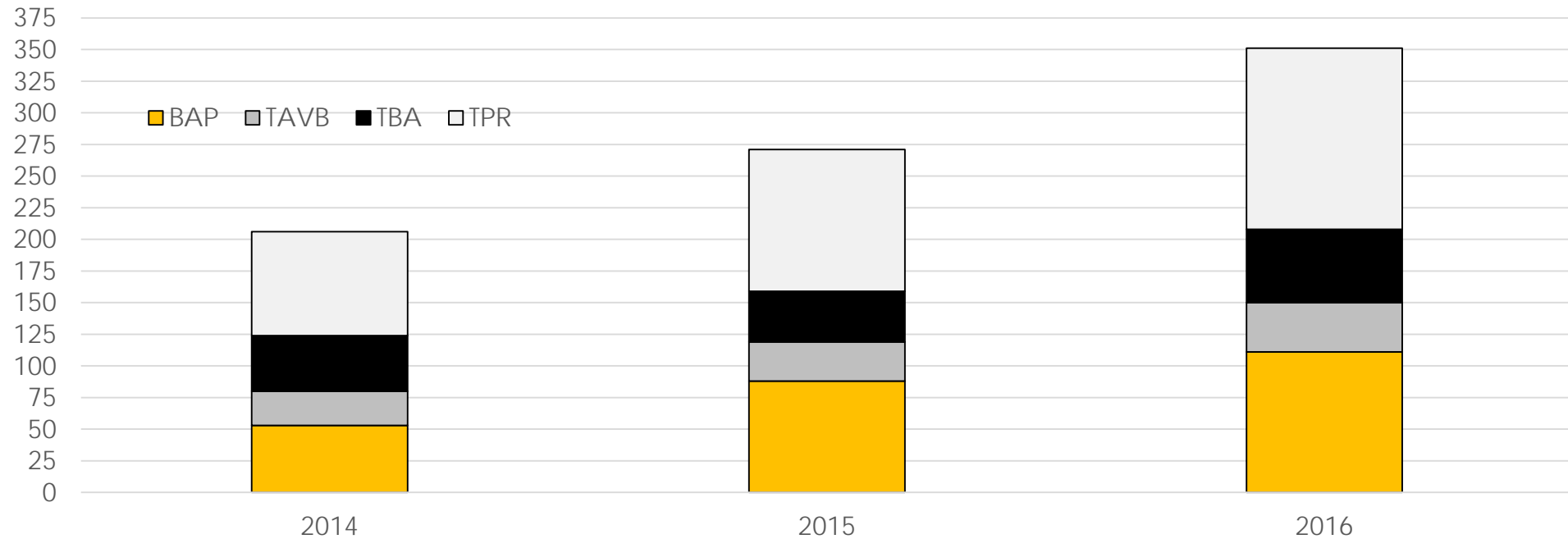
4 issues per year  
starting in 2019



# Publications

ABAI journals support science & practice, training for students, & professional development for faculty & practitioners

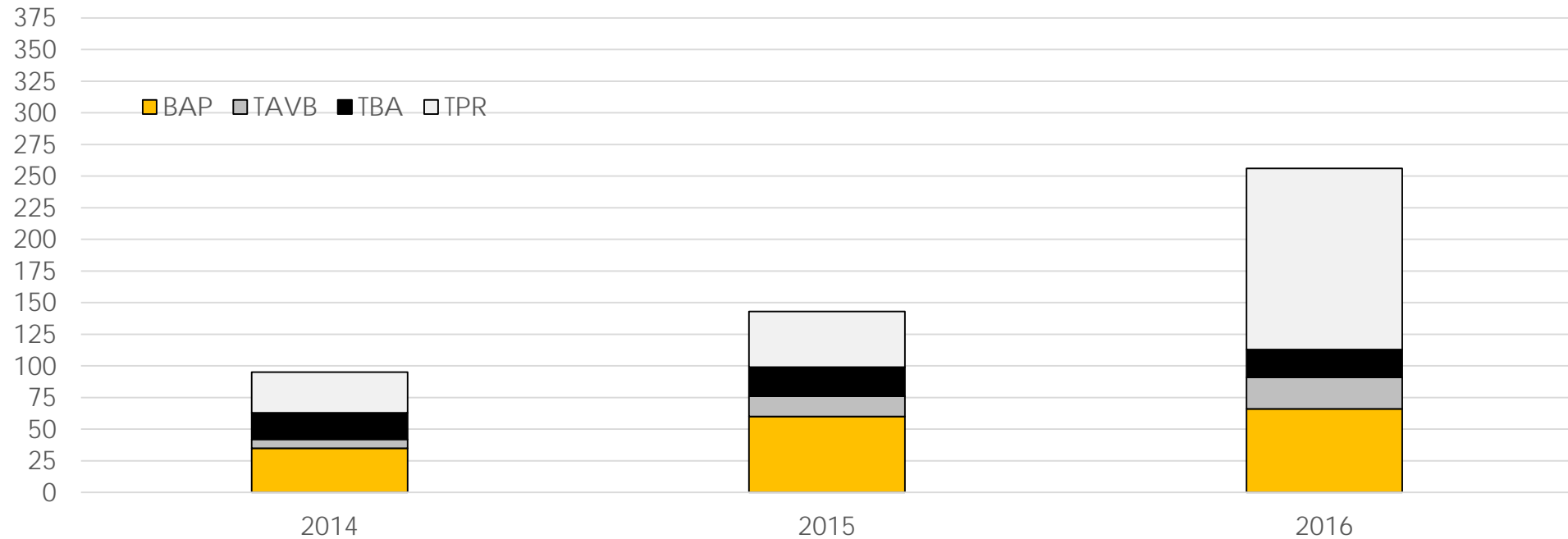
Submitted Manuscripts by Year



# Publications

ABAI journals support science & practice, training for students, & professional development for faculty & practitioners

Accepted Manuscripts by Year



# Training materials



Association for Behavior Analysis International

## Operant Leadership Theory

- Leadership is behavior
  - Effect on followers
- Effective leadership
  - Antecedents
  - Monitors
  - Consequences
- **MONITORING** is key variable



**DONALD A. HANTULA**  
Effective Supervision  
and Ethics

[abainternational.org](http://abainternational.org)

- Purchase and watch videos online
- Take quiz
- Receive CE certificate

# Training materials

## My Courses

ABAI courses incorporate video presentations and other materials from ABAI conferences into university courses offered for academic credit; these require enrollment through the university. Please find below the courses in which you are enrolled.

*Advanced  
Behavior  
Analysis  
(PA620)*

### **Advanced Behavior Analysis (PA620)**

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology  
(3 Credits)

[START](#)

[VIEW EXAM RESULTS](#)

[PRINT EXAM CERTIFICATES](#)

## Other Courses



### **Fundamental Issues in Theory and Philosophy Course**

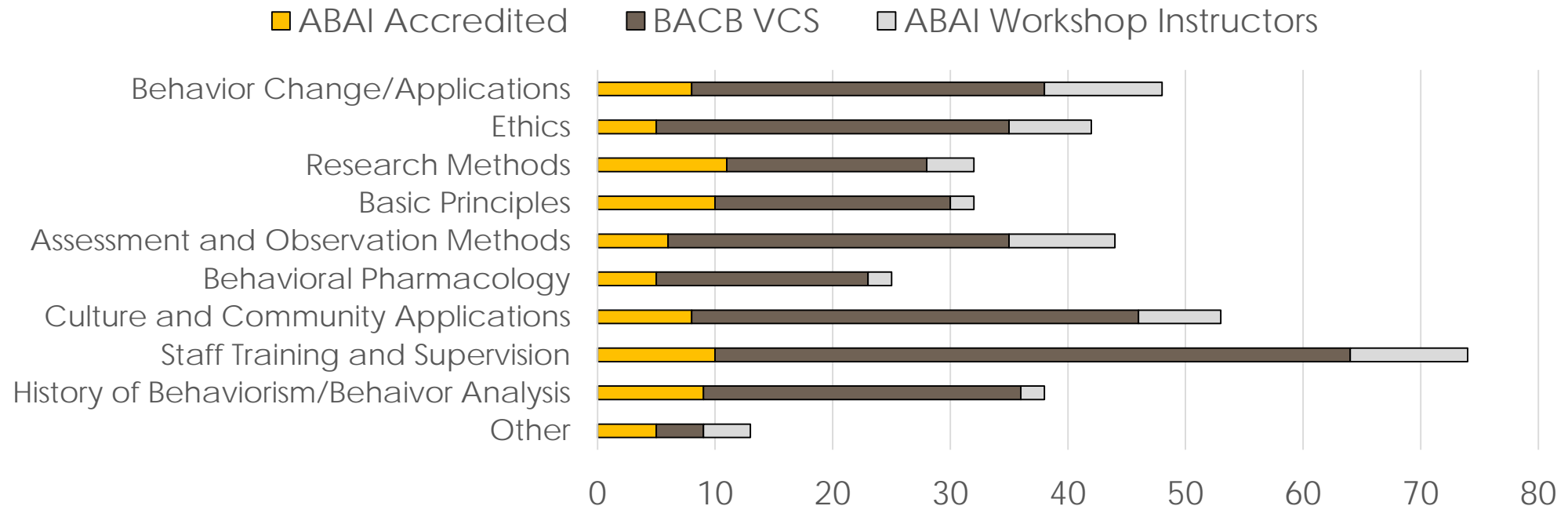
University of Veracruz  
Maestría en Investigación en Psicología Aplicada a la Educación

[ENROLL](#)

# Training materials

## 2018 Market Survey

For which of the following do you most struggle to find choices in textbooks for your graduate level courses?



# Support for credentialing programs

## BACB

- BACB required by National Commission for Certifying Agencies (CCA) to separate education from certification.
- Course sequence to be transferred ABAI.
- Name change: ~~Approved~~ **Verified** Course Sequence (VCS)

## ABAI

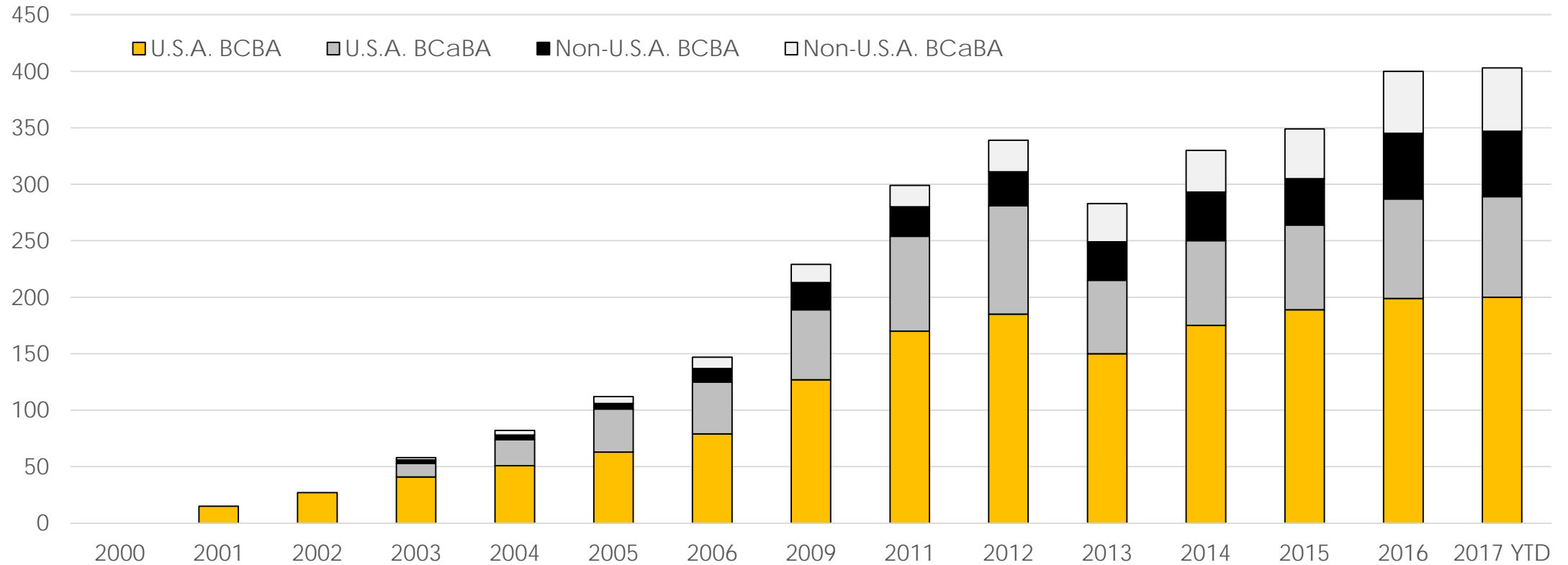
- Setting education standards is a priority
- ABAI Accreditation is independent of the VCS
- The VCS program will have its own board
- ABAI hopes to establish a path to accreditation for VCS programs





# Support for credentialing programs

Number of Verified Course Sequences by Year



# Support for credentialing programs

## ABAI – BACB Agreement of November 1, 2017

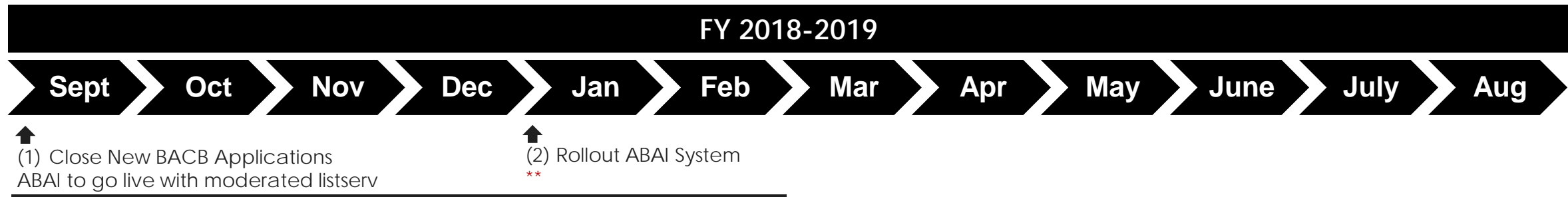
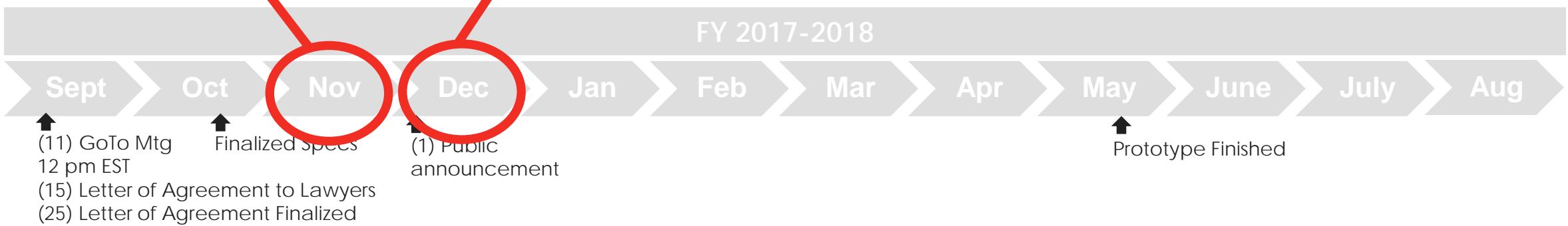
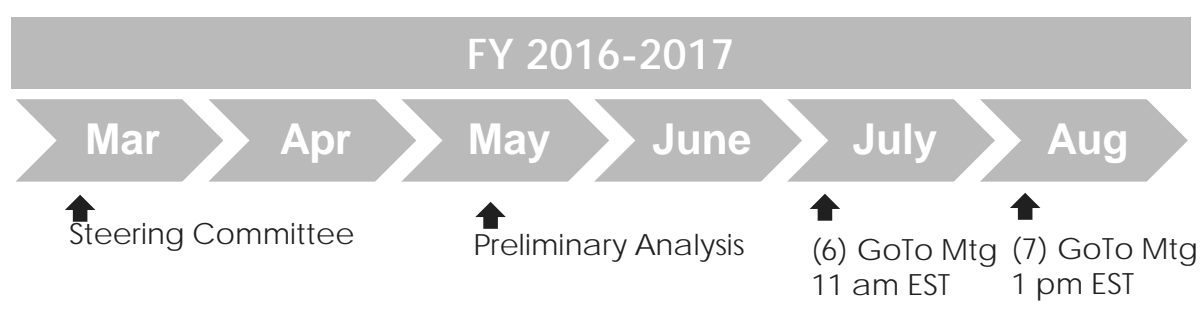
- The transfer of the VCS process shall be completed on or before December 31, 2019
- ABAI VCS approval or denial will remain consistent with the BACB standards for coursework
- ABAI may revise the standards for VCS Coordinators and Instructors, at its discretion, at any time



# Support for credentialing programs

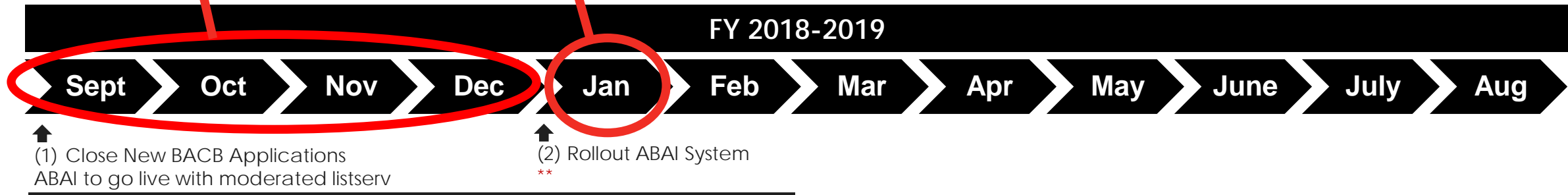
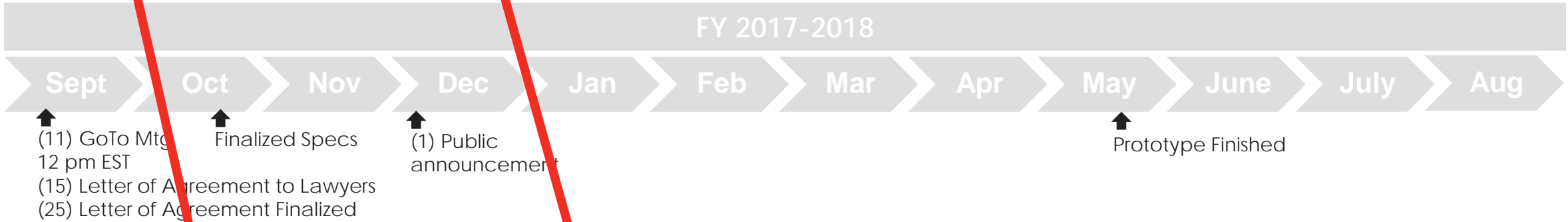
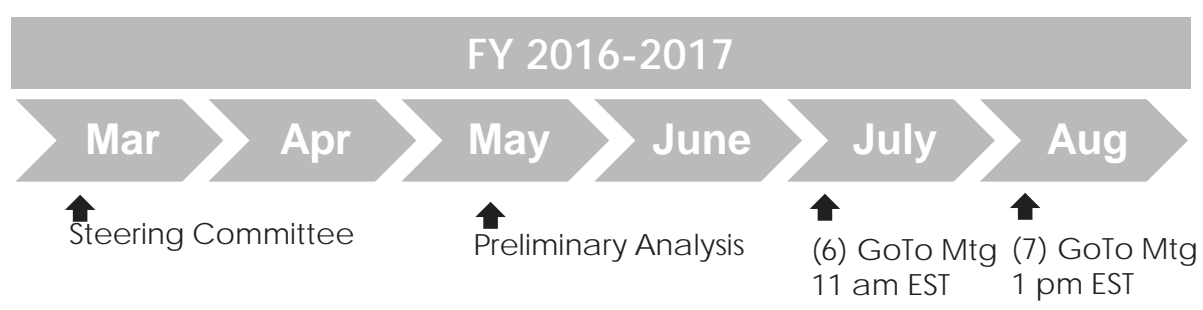
## ABAI – BACB Agreement of November 1, 2017

- ABAI accepts responsibility for the VCS process at least until January 1, 2026
- BACB allows an ABAI representative in BACB meetings that review and recommend coursework changes
- ABAI allows a BACB ad hoc representative in the ABAI board that verifies course sequences



\*\* BACB Task List, Sixth Edition, development begins in 2020; programs will have to utilize it beginning in 2027.





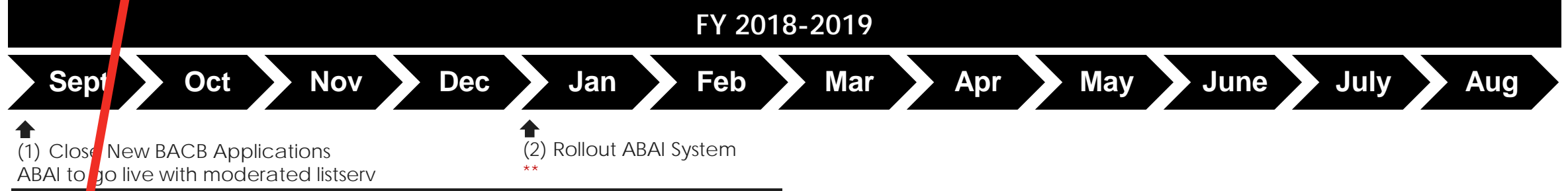
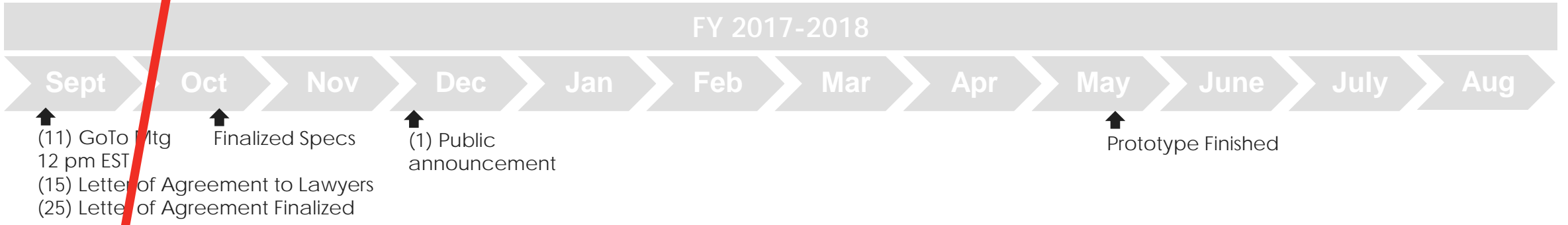
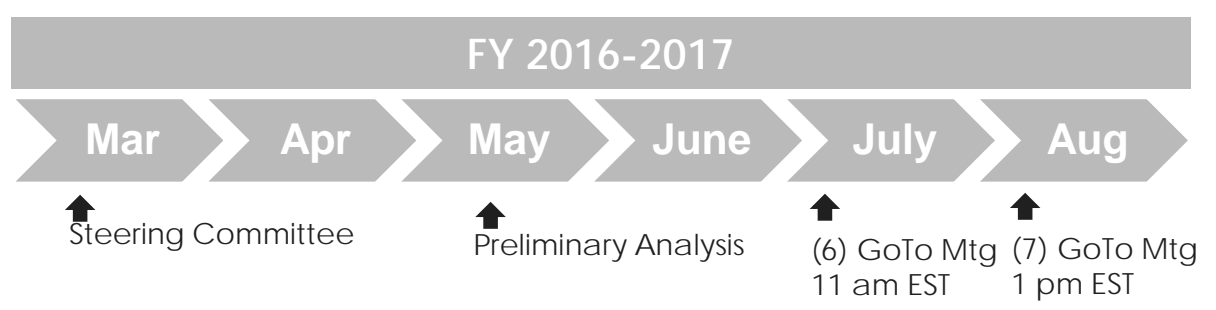
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New applications suspended

ABAI starts managing VCS process



**ABAI starts charging fees**



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# Support for credentialing programs

## Fee Structure

|                             | <u>Application Fee</u> |                         | <u>Annual Report Fee</u> |                         |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
|                             | First Program          | Each Additional Program | First Program            | Each Additional Program |
| BCBA                        | \$500                  | \$250                   | \$500                    | \$250                   |
| BCaBA                       | \$250                  | \$125                   | \$250                    | \$125                   |
| International               | \$125                  | \$65                    | \$125                    | \$65                    |
| In ABAI Accredited Programs | \$0                    | \$0                     | \$0                      | \$0                     |



# Support for credentialing programs

## VCS Program Requirements

- US Institutions accredited; Non-US institutions evaluated by Foundation for International Services
- Coursework meets educational requirements for BCBA and/or BCaBA certification
- VCS Coordinator: faculty member doctoral degree and BCBA or BCBA-D certification
- Stand-alone BCaBA programs: VCS Coordinator may have master's degree or higher



# Support for credentialing programs

## VCS Instructional Hours

| Content   | BCaBA      | BCBA       |
|---|------------|------------|
| Ethical and Professional Conduct  | 15         | 45         |
| Concepts and Principles of BA   | 45         | 45         |
| Measurement and Data Analysis   | 10         | 25         |
| Experimental Design   | 5          | 20         |
| Identification of the Problem and Assessment                                    | 30         | 30         |
| Fundamental Elements of Behavior Change and Specific Behavior Change Procedures | 45         | 45         |
| Interventions and Behavior Change Considerations                                | 5          | 10         |
| Behavior Changes Systems  | 5          | 10         |
| Implementation, Management, and Supervision                                     | 5          | 10         |
| Discretionary   | 15         | 30         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>180</b> | <b>270</b> |

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- How ABAI supports higher education
  - Publications
  - Training materials
  - Support for programs leading to professional credentials
- **ABAI accreditation process**



# Accreditation process

- Request a preliminary review to determine eligibility
- Submit self-study and fees
- Schedule site visit
- Respond to site visitor's report
- Provide additional information as requested by site visitors or the Accreditation Board
- Once accredited, submit annual reports.



# Accreditation process

## Optional Resource Visit to assess readiness for accreditation

- Does not guarantee outcome of accreditation review
- Request visit and pay fee
- Schedule resource visit with assigned site visitor
- Provide a self-study draft prior to the visit
- Site visitor collects data and provides an analysis of program strengths and weakness in the context of accreditation standards

# Accreditation process

## Consider becoming a site visitor

*To be eligible, you must meet one of these requirements:*

- Associate or Full Professor in an ABAI accredited program **OR**
- ABAI Fellow with a university affiliation **OR**
- Current or past Full Member of the ABAI Executive Council with a university affiliation.



# A Final Word

## Why accreditation?

- A program of self-evaluation & improvement
- Contingencies arranged by
  - Disciplinary colleagues
  - Students & parents
  - Public

# Thank you

<https://accreditation.abainternational.org>

