

Do Behavior Analysts Have Some Sort of License?



A Brief History



Professional licensure exists to protect the public by ensuring individuals are properly trained and qualified to perform high-risk work. In Texas, licensure standards were shaped by the 1937 New London School explosion, a tragedy caused by engineering errors that demonstrated the devastating consequences of unqualified practice and led to stronger public safety regulations.

What is Behavior Analysis?

Scientific Foundation

- Behavior analysis is a science focused on understanding and improving human behavior.

Areas of Practice

- Behavior analysts apply principles of behavior-environment relationships in fields such as autism and developmental disabilities, education, and gerontology.

Growing Demand

- The field has expanded rapidly, with increasing nationwide demand for behavior analysts. Texas ranks among the **top five** states in demand for behavior analysts.

Quality of Care

- Increased demand highlights the importance of ensuring behavior analysts are properly qualified to provide high-quality services.

Why is Licensure Important?

1 Ensuring Qualifications

Establishes that behavior analysts have the specified education in behavior analysis, supervised training by a licensed behavior analyst, and passed an examination

2 Setting Standards

Establishes expectations for standard of care and professional conduct, including ethical behavior

3 Enforcing Accountability

Allows the regulatory board to investigate complaints, identify corrective actions, and impose sanctions

Licensure

vs

Certification

Type	Legal requirement	Voluntary credential
Purpose	Establishes a minimum standard of competence and scope to legally practice	Verifies specialized knowledge and professional training
Regulated by	State board; Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)	Professional organization; Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)
Example	Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) in Texas	Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

Why Verify Licensure

- Consumer Protection:** Protects consumers by confirming the provider is legally authorized and properly qualified to offer behavior analytic services
- Risk Reduction:** Reduces risk by avoiding unlicensed or unqualified providers who may lack adequate training or oversight
- Accountability:** Allows consumers to review public disciplinary records from TDLR and BACB to identify ethical violations or inactive credentials

Why This Matters

Licensure is a critical measure for protecting the public and upholding professional standards. Just as the Engineering Registration Act was established to prevent tragedies like New London, the licensure of behavior analysts ensures that those working in Texas are qualified, ethical, and accountable.