Understanding the New Behavior Analyst Certification Board Requirements

The Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) has made changes to their requirements for candidates looking to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBA). The 4th Edition Task List will affect students taking the BACB exams starting in 2015.

- The coursework eligibility requirements have increased 45 hours, from 225 hours to 270 hours, and there is now a requirement for a freestanding ethics course for BCBA.
- The coursework eligibility requirements have increased 45 hours, from 135 hours to 180 hours, for BCaBA.
- Beginning January 2015, a new exam will be administered to applicants that apply after September 2014.
- Students that qualify and apply for the BCBA exam under the 3rd Edition Task List can take the old exam through September 2014.
- Students that qualify and apply for the exam by September 2014 under the old requirements but do not take or fail the old exam can take the new exam in January 2015.

What Saint Joseph’s University is doing to meet these new requirements

- Saint Joseph’s University’s pre-approved curriculum already meets the 4th Edition Task List’s coursework requirements and will prepare students to sit for the new BACB exams in 2015.
- To meet the freestanding ethics course requirement for BCBA, Saint Joseph’s University has added the course CRJ 657: Ethics in Behavior Analysis, which became available in the spring 2013 semester.
- CRJ 657: Ethics in Behavior Analysis is a 3-credit hour, 16-week course and will replace the elective course options previously offered to Master’s in Criminal Justice with Behavior Analysis Specialization and Post-Master’s Behavior Analysis Certificate students.
- CRJ 657: Ethics in Behavior Analysis Course Description:

The course will focus on the ethical application of behavior analytic services. The first half of the course will detail the Guidelines for Responsible Conduct of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board as well as relevant literature on the topic of ethical behavior in the field. The second half of the course will focus on providing “context” to these Guidelines, highlighting principles of behavior and potential applications of these principles that raise ethical issues. Case studies will be reviewed throughout the course that are drawn from personal experience and examine some of the issues practicing Behavior Analysts encounter on the job. At the conclusion of the course, students will be expected to present a case study drawn from their own personal or professional experience.