The Board Certified Autism Professional (BCAP), is BICC’s graduate-level, autism-specific certification for master’s and doctoral-level professionals. The BCAP was developed utilizing a diverse group of practitioners in partnership with test development experts in a manner consistent with generally accepted psychometric principles and best practices for certification.

CERTIFICATION SCOPE

Certification as a Board Certified Autism Professional (BCAP) demonstrates behavior analytic competency in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder and a commitment to consumer safety by practitioners working independently. BCAPs provide evidence-based autism treatment services, including but not limited to assessment, treatment planning, functional analysis of maladaptive behaviors, direction of technicians, and direct treatment to address the deficits and behaviors associated with autism spectrum disorder using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis.

BENEFITS OF BCAP CERTIFICATION

- Demonstrates autism-specific education, experience, and knowledge
- Increases public protection and consumer safety by requiring ongoing background checks
- Demonstrates commitment to ongoing learning and professional development
- Provides assurance that clinicians are qualified to conduct behavior assessments and design, supervise, and implement treatment independently and work in a leadership role to provide clinical supervision
- Provides consumers, employers, and funding agencies the means to identify qualified clinicians
- Increases employer, caregiver, and consumer confidence in the knowledge, skills, and abilities of clinicians
**Becoming Certified:**

BCAP certification requires a master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited institution, completion of a minimum of 285 hours of coursework across content areas; completion of 1000 hours of supervised experience providing evidence-based autism treatment services; agreeing to BICC’s Code of Conduct and passing BICC’s background check, and passing the BCAP examination.

**Recertifying:**

BCAP certificants are required to recertify every three years. Recertifying involves completing 36 hours of continuing education (four hours must be ethics related and three hours must be autism related), attesting to the code of conduct, and reauthorizing the background check.

**Career Pathway:**

The BCAP creates a pathway for qualified health care professionals to provide services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis (ABA). The latest data indicate that there is a shortage of at least 30,000 qualified health care professionals who can provide ABA services to families affected by ASD. There is an urgent need to identify additional qualified health care professionals with ABA in their scope of practice, acting within their competency, to treat individuals with ASD.

*BICC promotes the highest standards of treatment for individuals with autism spectrum disorder through the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all aspects of the certification and certification renewal processes. BICC is an independent and autonomous governing body for the BCAT and BCAP certification programs. Both the BCAT and BCAP were developed in accordance with the rigorous standards of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).*