

Regulation of Applied Behaviour Analysis Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: What are my responsibilities as a regulated Behaviour Analyst in Ontario?
- A: As regulated health professionals, Behaviour Analysts will be required to deliver professional services competently and ethically, by law. They will be accountable to the public, through their regulatory body, the new College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario, for their professional behaviour and activities. Once regulated, Behaviour Analysts will have to meet rigorous professional entry requirements, adhere to prescribed standards, guidelines, and ethical principles, and participate in quality assurance activities to continually update and improve their knowledge and skill. Complaints and discipline processes hold professionals accountable when a client/patient, a family member, or friend of the client, an employer, an insurer, a colleague, or a general member of the public, believes that the standards may have been breached.
- Q: When does the regulation of Applied Behaviour Analysis come into force?
- A: The [Psychology and Applied Behaviour Analysis Act, 2021](#) will be proclaimed effective July 1, 2024. At that time, the College will change its name to the “College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario”. Beginning that date, only ABA practitioners who are registered with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario will be allowed to use the title “Behaviour Analyst” in Ontario.
- Q: Who will need to register with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario?
- A: Any person wishing to use the title “Behaviour Analyst”, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language, must register with the College. This would apply to clinical supervisors who provide clinical direction and supervision of ABA activities, which include behaviour assessment, designing an intervention plan, implementing intervention plans, and monitoring and evaluating the plans. Beginning on July 1, 2024, and going forward, only those who have registered with the College will have access to the restricted title “Behaviour Analyst”. Service providers who deliver ABA interventions directly to a client/patient or caregiver and are accountable to a Behaviour Analyst clinical supervisor will not be regulated.
- Q: I am a practitioner registered with another College and I also practise Applied Behaviour Analysis. Will I have to register with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario?
- A: The scope of practice or activities that a Behaviour Analyst performs when providing services to a client are not Controlled Acts or restricted activities. They are therefore in the public domain. However, if one is not registered with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario, one must be aware of the restrictions within the [Psychology and Applied Behaviour Analysis Act, 2021](#) regarding how one refers to themselves in the course of providing services related to applied behaviour analysis (see question #5 below).

Q: If I am not registered with the College of Psychologists and Behaviour Analysts of Ontario as a Behaviour Analyst, what can't I do once the regulation is in force?

A: Non-members must not use the title "Behaviour Analyst" or indicate any certification (e.g., BCBA or BCBA-D) or designation, or communicate in any way that could be considered as holding oneself out as a person who is qualified to practice as a Behaviour Analyst. *Note:* Non-members are not prohibited from displaying professional development or education related to applied behaviour analysis, such as a diploma in Autism and Behaviour Sciences or another educational certificate.

Q: Will Behaviour Analysts be authorized to perform any of the Controlled Acts?

A: No. Behaviour Analysts will not be authorized to perform any of the Controlled Acts outlined in the legislation. A Controlled Act may only be performed by those professions that have been granted authorization under the [Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#) and their profession specific acts. The full list of the 14 Controlled Acts may be found in section 27 of the *RHPA*.

If a Behaviour Analyst registrant is dually registered with another regulatory College, and if their registration with that College qualifies them to perform one or more Controlled Acts, that registrant can continue to perform the Controlled Act(s) they are authorized, in legislation and in their profession specific act, to perform, while engaged in the practice for which they have been authorized to perform the Controlled Act(s).

Q: How do I find out if I am eligible for registration?

A: The College of Psychologists of Ontario has designed a Self-Screening Tool to assist practitioners of behaviour analysis, therapy, or intervention to determine if they will need to apply to the College of Psychologists of Ontario once preregistration opens. To view the Self-Screening Tool, click [here](#).

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For more information, visit the [Applied Behaviour Analysis \("ABA"\) Portal](#) on the College of Psychologists of Ontario's website, watch the College's recently released [video information session](#) on the regulation of ABA, review the [FAQs page for answers to frequently asked questions](#), or contact the College at aba@cpo.on.ca.