Becoming an RBT

The Registered Behavior Technician® (RBT®) certification is a paraprofessional credential in the field of behavior analysis. RBTs support the implementation of behavior-analytic services under the guidance and ongoing supervision of an RBT Supervisor or RBT Requirements Coordinator, who oversees and is accountable for their work.

The eligibility requirements for becoming an RBT are below. You can also find this in the RBT handbook included in this task analysis.

Eligibility Requirements

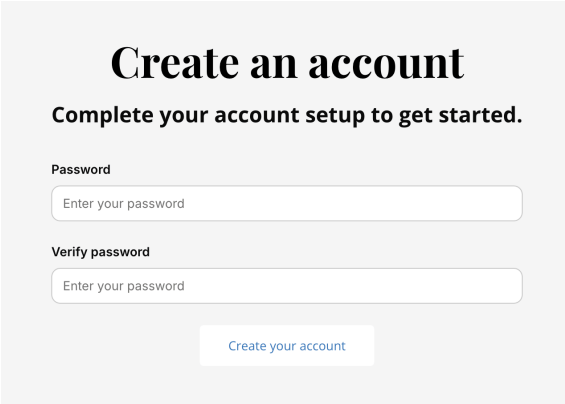
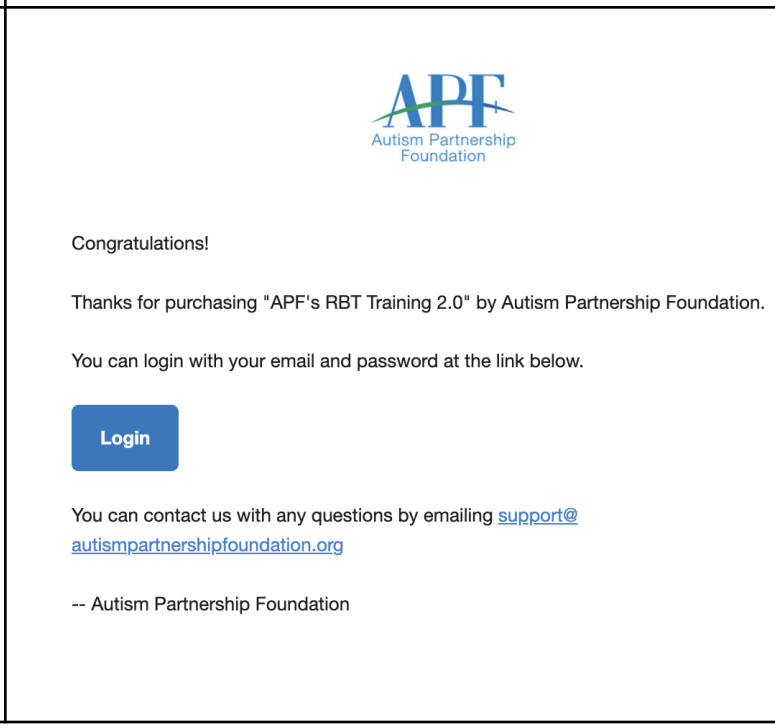
The following eligibility requirements must be met before applying for RBT certification.

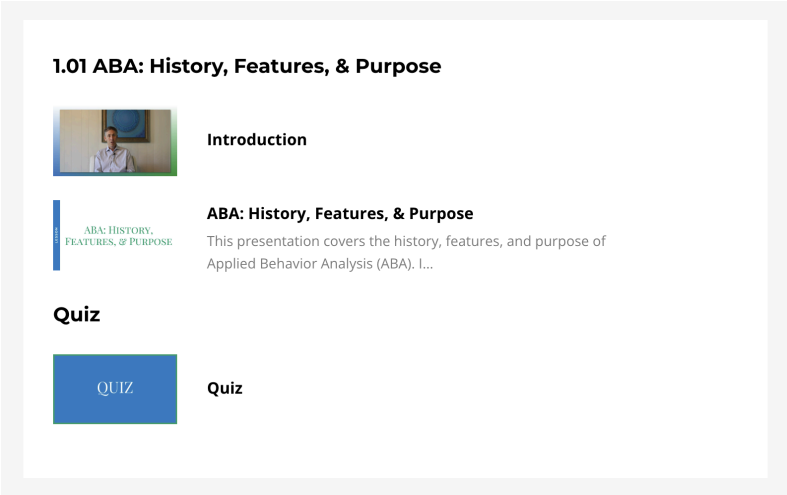
Requirement	How to Demonstrate This Requirement
Age: You must be at least 18 years old when you submit your RBT certification application.	No more than 180 days before submitting your application, the Attesting Certificant must confirm: • your age, • completion of at least a high school education, • that you passed a criminal background check, AND • that you passed an abuse registry check. Once confirmed, the Attesting Certificant must sign and complete the RBT Certification Application Attestation form no more than 90 days before paying for the RBT certification application. This form must be uploaded in your application. In the event of an audit, your Attesting Certificant may be required to provide documentation to support their attestation. Please note, the Attesting Certificant may not be related to, subordinate to, or employed by the applicant.
Education: You must have at least a high school-level education or the equivalent when you apply for RBT certification.	
Criminal Background Check: You must complete and pass a criminal background check no more than 180 days before paying for your RBT certification application. The check must be comparable to those required for home health aides, child care professionals, and teachers in the community where you will provide services. If an organization uses a continuous monitoring system, the date of the most recent result may be entered on the form, even if it falls outside the 180-day requirement. Please note that fingerprinting is not required by the BACB, but this requirement may vary by state and organization.	
Abuse Registry Check: You must complete and pass an abuse registry check no more than 180 days before paying for your RBT certification application. The check must be comparable to those required for home health aides, child care professionals, and teachers in the community where you will provide services. Please note that fingerprinting is not required by the BACB, but this requirement may vary by state and organization. *Note:* If the applicant resides in a state or province without an abuse registry, or if the abuse registry information is unavailable to organizations like yours, then you may indicate "Unavailable" on the RBT Certification Application Attestation form.	
Training: You must complete a 40-hour training that meets the requirements described in the RBT 2026 40-Hour Training Requirements and Curriculum Outline in no less than 5 days and no more than 180 days. Please note, the start date and the end date are included in the total day count. For example, if training started on January 1, 2026, the end date cannot be any earlier than January 5, 2026, and not later than June 29, 2026. This training may be offered by your employer, a university, or an online training program. The BACB does not provide 40-hour training, certificates of completion, or training program recommendations.	Include a copy of your 40-hour training certificate with your RBT certification application. Your training provider will provide this certificate when you complete a 40-hour training program. Check with your instructor to confirm that your course was designed to meet the 2026 requirement. Previously completed 40-hour trainings may be eligible for submission but must meet all current requirements. Please note, the training provider may not be related to, subordinate to, or employed by the applicant.
Intial Competency Assessment: After you complete the required 40-hour training and no more than 90 days before you submit an RBT certification application, you must demonstrate that you can competently perform the tasks outlined on the RBT Initial Competency Assessment: Effective January 1, 2026.	Complete the RBT Initial Competency Assessment: Effective January 1, 2026 with your assessor and upload the completed assessment with your RBT certification application. Please note, the Assessing Certificant may not be related to, subordinate to, or employed by the applicant.

Eligibility	
	To qualify, you must: • Be at least 18 years old • Have a high school diploma or equivalent • Pass a criminal background check that meets requirements

Reimbursement	
	PAL will reimburse the following costs related to acquiring your RBT certification if it is completed within **5 months** of hiring. • Background clearance (e.g., FBI clearance, criminal records check, child abuse registry check) • RBT exam fee Submit PAL General Reimbursement Form. The reimbursement form can also be found on the PAL Portal

40 hour training module Please complete the 40-hour training module BEFORE you moving on to the next steps		
1	Fill out the information form at the Autism Partnership Foundation	Autism Partnership Foundation **Autism Partnership Foundation offers a free 40-hour training. Staff may also complete the required 40-hour training through another provider; however, PAL does not reimburse costs associated with the 40-hour training. Make sure the RBT training modules meet the updated 2026 requirement.*

2	Create an account by creating a password	
3	You will receive an email with access to your account. Star this email as this is how you will log into the RBT modules	

3	Start your RBT Training. Each module will have an introduction and a presentation about the topics from the task list. You pass the module once you complete the quiz at the end. Proceed through the modules at your own pace. You will have 180 days to complete all topics. Download the 40-hour RBT modules completion certificate.	
4	Review the RBT Handbook and watch the videos from the BACB website	RBT Handbook Jan 2026.pdf How to Become an RBT Maintaining Your RBT Certification
5	Review the RBT Ethics Code (this can be done white completing the modules - it does not have to be done beforehand)	RBT Ethics Code.pdf
6	Once you complete the 40 hour training, complete the RBT Competency Assessment with your supervisor. This can be done during one of your supervision sessions.	2026-RBT_Initial_Competency_Assessment.pdf Please note: • The Competency Assessment must be done **within** 90 days of registering and sitting for the exam • The assessor can not be related to, employed by, or subordinate to the applicant
7	Email and request the RBT Attestation form to be filled out by the PAL HR team	RBT-Certification-Application-Attestation-form.pdf

7	Apply for the RBT Exam	• Create an account with the BACB
		• Submit your RBT application, including:
		  ○ Proof of 40-hour training
		  ○ Competency assessment
		  ○ RBT attestation form
		• Pay the application fee ($65) & exam fee ($45)

Important BACB RBT Changes in 2026:
The BACB recently updated the RBT recertification process beginning in 2026. Under the new requirements, RBTs will renew their certification every two years instead of annually. The Recertification Competency Assessment will no longer be required; instead, RBTs will complete 12 Professional Development Units (PDUs) during each two-year certification cycle. These PDUs, along with the recertification application, will be submitted directly through the BACB account. We'll share updated guidance as more details and resources become available from the BACB.