

RBT Initial Competency Assessment: FAQ for Candidates

What is the Initial RBT Competency Assessment?

It is a required evaluation that confirms you can perform all 20 foundational behavior technician tasks, as outlined by the BACB. You must complete it after finishing your 40-hour training and before applying for the RBT exam.

When should I complete the assessment?

- Only after completing your 40-hour training
 - No more than **90 days** before submitting your RBT application to the BACB
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Who can give the assessment?

Only a BCBA, BCaBA, or FL-CBA who:

- Has completed the **8-hour supervision training**, AND
- Is employed by or has a **contractual relationship** with your employer or the clients involved in the assessment

They cannot be someone you're related to, work for, or who works for you.

What will I have to do?

You'll be asked to demonstrate 20 skills from the RBT Task List (e.g., taking data, prompting, behavior reduction strategies). These can be assessed by:

- Direct work with a client
- Role-play (with someone acting as a client)
- Interview (explaining concepts to your assessor)

Note: At least 3 tasks in Skill Acquisition/Behavior Reduction must be done with a real client. With Behavior Navigators; this will be conducted across 2 meeting sessions 45mins-1 hour each.

- First Meeting covers Measurement (Tasks 1-3) & Professionalist and Requirements (Tasks 16-20)
 - Second Meeting covers Assessment (Tasks 4-5) & Skill Acquisition and Behavior Reduction(Task 6-15)
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What do I need to bring or send?

- Your 40-hour training certificate
 - Your availability for scheduling
 - Any required assessment materials (e.g., token boards, data sheets)
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Do I have to pay for it?

If you're not being assessed through an employer, yes. Rates vary by BCBA but typically range from **\$100 to \$250** depending on time, format, and support provided.

Can any BCBA sign off on my assessment?

No. The BACB requires the assessor to have a **direct or contractual relationship** with you and the clients involved. They must also ensure quality and compliance. It's not just a "sign-off."

What happens if I don't pass all the tasks?

- The assessor can give you **feedback** and allow you to **retry** on another day.
 - However, they cannot give **corrective feedback** during the **final assessment** of a task.
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What happens after I pass?

- Your assessor will complete and sign the official BACB form
- You will submit that form with your full RBT certification application online at BACB.