

Learning Disability Documentation Requirements

Diagnosing a Learning Disability

A learning disability can only be diagnosed by a qualified psychologist administering a psychoeducational assessment. Visit the [Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario](#) for more information.

Required Documentation

Students seeking academic accommodations for a learning disability must submit a psychoeducational assessment completed by a Registered Psychologist or Psychological Associate that has been completed: (a) in the last five (5) years or (b) after 18 years of age, and includes the following

- Standardized tests using **adult measures**.
- Signatures of the **Registered Psychologist** or **Psychological Associate**.
- Appropriate standardized tests of ability (e.g., WAIS-IV).
- Appropriate standardized tests of Information Processing (e.g., WMS-IV).
- Appropriate standardized tests of achievement, ideally sampling each of the following achievement areas:
 - reading (decoding, comprehension, fluency).
 - writing (mechanics, expression, fluency).
 - math (calculation, conceptualization, fluency).
 - memory (working, auditory, visual - immediate and delayed).
- Evidence of a significant discrepancy between (at least) normal ability and one or more achievement areas (reading, writing or math).
- Other potential causes for the discrepancy ruled out.
- Relevant medical, developmental, education, and family history.
- Behavioural observations.
- A statement confirming the validity of testing results.
- Percentile scores for all standardized measures administered.
- Test results reported and interpreted.
- A clear diagnostic statement.

Note: Assessments missing any of the above elements may not be accepted, possibly delaying a student's registration while Accessible Learning follows up with the issuing assessors.

Recommended Accommodations

Assessors can recommend academic accommodations that are tied directly to the test results. Wilfrid Laurier University reserves the right to approve appropriate accommodations based on its own assessment of a student's access needs in the academic environment.

Memory Aids

Students seeking to use memory aids during exams as an accommodation must include the following specific memory testing details in their assessments:

- Validated measures of performance validity.
- Memory tests that assessed later recall of learned information.
- Measures that evaluated whether cues aided recall.

Students and their assessors should visit our [Memory Aid](#) information sheet for more detailed information.

Individual Education Plans (IEP)

An IEP indicating an exceptionality is not sufficient documentation at Laurier and having a history of receiving IEPs in high school does not guarantee eligibility for academic accommodations. In keeping with obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, only students with documented evidence of a diagnosed disability are eligible for academic accommodations at Laurier.

Interim Accommodations

Students whose documentation do not meet the above requirements may be eligible for interim accommodations while they pursue fulsome documentation.

Interim accommodations expire after one to two terms and typically include baseline supports.

To be assessed for interim accommodations, submit any documentation you have such as:

- Grade 12 IEP.
- Outdated psycho-educational assessments.
- Letters from healthcare providers (HCP).

HCP letters must be dated, on original letterheads and include their signature and license number.