

Diagnosing a Learning Disability

A learning disability can only be diagnosed by a qualified psychologist through a psychoeducational assessment.

For general information about learning disabilities, visit the [Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario](#).

Required Documentation

Students seeking academic accommodations for a learning disability must submit a psychoeducational assessment completed by a Registered Psychologist or Psychological Associate. The assessment must have been completed:

1. Within the past five (5) years, or
2. After 18 years of age

All psychoeducational assessments, regardless of completion date, must include:

- Standardized tests using adult measures where applicable.
- Appropriate standardized tests of Ability using adult measures (e.g., WAIS-IV).
- Appropriate standardized tests of Information Processing (e.g., WMS-IV).
- Appropriate standardized tests of Achievement 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).

Inspiring Lives

- 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.
- Signatures of the Registered Psychologist or Psychological Associate.

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.

Memory Aids

Students requesting memory aids during exams as an accommodation must ensure their assessments include:

- Validated measures of performance validity.
- Memory tests assessing later recall of learned information.
- Measures evaluating whether cues aided recall.

For detailed guidance, students and assessors should review our [Memory Aid](#) guidelines.