

Criteria for Psycho-Educational Assessment Reports

The following outlines the criteria required for a psycho-educational assessment to meet the documentation standards necessary to register students with the Disability/Accessibility Services office at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Students with a Specific Learning Disorder (SLD)/Learning Disability (LD) must submit a psycho-educational assessment report, meeting these criteria, in support of their accommodation requests.

1. The assessment report must be prepared and signed by a qualified professional.

- Registered Psychologist with APE
(*Authorized Practice Endorsement*)

Note: The report may be completed by a Provisional Psychologist or Psychometrist, as long as they are supervised and the report is signed by a Registered Psychologist with APE.

2. The assessment must contain a clear diagnostic statement that a specific learning disorder/ learning disability is present, and include the rationale for the diagnosis.

Use of ambiguous terms such as “suggests” or non-specific wording such as “*academic weaknesses*”, “*learning differences*”, and “*test anxiety*” do not constitute a diagnosis.

3. The recommendations should be based on the test results and need to include at least some accommodations relevant to the post-secondary setting.

A separate section for post-secondary recommendations is helpful.

4. The assessment must be relatively current, with the testing having been completed within the last five years.

Although a specific learning disorder persists across the lifespan, a psycho-educational assessment may need to be updated due to several factors:

- As individuals grow, learn, and mature, their cognitive, achievement, and social/emotional performance changes and develops accordingly. Compared with an older assessment, a current assessment provides more accurate information on the individual's profile of strengths and areas of need, which best informs support planning for post-secondary studies.
- The psychometric norms used to determine an individual's scores are valid for current use, and are not intended or designed to predict long-term functioning.

5. Test results must be reported in terms of standard scores and/or percentiles, with the confidence intervals of the scores provided.

This information is needed to develop an individualized and appropriate support plan for the student. Standard scores are required to receive accommodations on some standardized exams (e.g. LSAT, MCAT, GED).

6. Testing should be comprehensive.

Utilizes a multimethod approach to assessment that addresses several domains including:

- Cognitive Processing Abilities
- Academic Achievement
- Socio-Emotional Status
- Informal Observation
- Relevant History

If you are not sure whether your psycho-educational assessment meets these criteria, please contact the Disability/Accessibility Services office at the post-secondary institution you are applying to and we can review your document.

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
The Centre for Student Accessibility
accessibility@uregina.ca

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Access and Equity Services
aes@usask.ca

SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC
Accessibility Services
accessibility@saskpolytech.ca

Psycho-Educational Assessment Information

What is a Psycho-Educational Assessment?

A psycho-educational assessment is a comprehensive evaluation that provides a deeper understanding of an individual's cognitive functioning (e.g., problem-solving, information processing, memory, etc.), academic skills, attention/executive functioning, and social/emotional functioning. It identifies areas of strength and weakness in an individual's learning profile and is used to identify or rule out the presence of learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and/or mental health conditions that can interfere with learning and/or efficient daily functioning.

Individuals can refer themselves for a psycho-educational assessment. An outside referral (e.g., from a medical practitioner) is not required.

The fee for a psycho-educational assessment (in SK) can vary depending on the practitioner and the referral question but is typically between \$2000 to \$4000.

Possible funding options

Extended medical insurance/benefits

If a student has extended medical insurance or benefits (or are covered under parental plans), they should inquire with their plan(s) to determine whether they have coverage for working with a Registered Psychologist that may cover some or all of the costs of a psycho-educational assessment.

Grants through student loans

The cost of a psycho-educational assessment may be reimbursed by the Canada Student Grant for Services & Equipment for Students with Disabilities. Students will need to be eligible for a student loan and submit a copy of the assessment report and the paid receipt as part of their grant application.

On-campus assessment services

Counselling Assessment Intervention & Research Services (CAIRS) - Email: cairs.inquiries@usask.ca

CAIRS assessments are conducted by practicum students from the School & Counselling Psychology Master's Program in the Department of Educational Psychology & Special Education under the supervision of Registered Psychologists who make any relevant diagnoses. The fee for this service is a reduced rate of \$2000 for a comprehensive psycho-educational assessment. Options for more detailed, complex assessments are available at rates of \$2500 and \$2700, depending on the specific referral questions.

University of Saskatchewan Psychology Clinic (USPC) - Email: psychology.clinic@usask.ca

The USPC provides comprehensive psychological assessments conducted by practicum students from the Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology under the supervision of Registered Doctoral Psychologists who make any relevant diagnoses. The fee for this service is \$2000 with sliding scale options based on financial need.

Options for off-campus assessment services

Astoria Counselling & Assessment

<https://astoriacounselling.ca>

306-262-1525

hello@astoriacounselling.ca

Strides Psychological & Behavioural Services

<https://www.stridestherapies.ca>

Sally Greenough, Registered Psychologist

306-291-8537

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Chelsea McConnell, Registered Psychologist

306-240-8693

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