



UniAccess has suggested a Psycho-Educational Assessment ...

Why, What and Where

Why?

A psycho-educational assessment will identify your learning strengths and weaknesses. For some people an assessment will result in a diagnosis of a learning difficulty. If you have always struggled with one of the core academic skill areas (reading, writing, spelling or math's), and if this difficulty seems to be in contrast to your capabilities in other areas, and has persisted despite reasonable educational opportunities, an assessment may provide you with helpful information. UniAccess policy requires that you provide a recent psycho-educational assessment report (within the last 5 years) identifying a learning difficulty, for us to recommend Alternative Exam Arrangements (such as extra time).

What is a Learning Disability?

Learning Disability (LD) is the result of a neurological disorder which causes the learner to receive and process some information inaccurately.

For more information see:

http://www.adcet.edu.au/Cats/Specific_Impairments/Learning_Disabilities.chpx

What Happens in the Assessment Process?

Usually there will be several components: an interview, a number of testing sessions, a feedback interview and confidential written report. The types of test questions you are asked should come from approved standardized professional assessment tools. There are often practice items before each test. What tests are used depends on the individual but may include both psychological and academic skills. Skills and abilities assessed may include:

Psychological:

- intelligence
- language skills
- memory
- verbal and visual learning
- attention/concentration
- eye-hand coordination for paper-and-pencil tasks
- planning ability
- reflective/impulsive response style

Academic:

- reading (phonetic skills, sight vocabulary, reading comprehension),
- spelling
- writing
- mathematics (basic numerical operations, mathematical reasoning),
- academic fluency (speed of reading, writing, calculating)
- listening comprehension
- oral expressive skills

Where to get an assessment: Some referral options

Please note, the Australian Psychological Society APS website can provide a broader list of practitioners (<http://www.psychology.org.au/>). You should discuss the fee before booking an appointment. Some practitioners will offer a reduced fee or let you pay in installments if there are financial constraints.

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