

# Autism Spectrum Disorder

## Accessibility & Disability Services at Edgewood College

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder ranging from mild to severe and characterized by core features of social/communication deficits, repetitive/restrictive behaviors and a lack of emotional reciprocity. The number of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pursuing higher education is increasing.

The source for understanding the nature of Autism Spectrum Disorder is the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). The DSM-5 combines into one category previously distinct but overlapping subtypes (i.e., autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorder).

### Documentation Requirements

Professionals rendering diagnoses of ASD, and making recommendations for reasonable accommodations should have:

- At least five years of clinical experience with this population.
- Appropriate licensure/certification.
- Identification (e.g. name, title and professional credentials of the evaluator as well as areas of specialization, employment, as well as state in which the person practices should be stated in the documentation.
- All reports on letterhead, typed in English, dated, and signed.
- A multidisciplinary assessment approach is often critical for the diagnosis and treatment of the individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Team members may include any of the following:
  - o Neuropsychologists
  - o Licensed psychologists
  - o Psychiatrists
  - o Relevantly trained medical doctors (e.g. developmental pediatricians or child neurologists)
  - o Clinical social workers
  - o School psychologists
  - o Speech and language therapists
  - o Occupational therapists

### Documentation to Support Diagnosis

Documentation should be based on a comprehensive diagnostic protocol that includes objective as well as subjective data. The diagnostic report should include the following components:

- Specific diagnosis or diagnoses
- Description of current symptoms in the testing environment as well as across other settings (e.g., high school, college, or daily life activities)
- Relevant information regarding the test taker's prescribed use of psychotropic medications that will be taken on the day of the test
- Relevant information regarding educational interventions as well as current treatment and their impact
- A narrative discussion of all relevant information, including results of standardized assessment measures.
- Recommendations for accommodations must include a rationale.

## Tests for Assessing Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

When selecting a set of tests, it is important to consider the technical adequacy of instruments, including their reliability, validity and standardization on an appropriate norm group. The following list includes a variety of popular standardized measures for diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### Tests of Intellectual Functioning

- Kaufman Adolescent and Adult Intelligence Test
- Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales (RIAS)
- Stanford-Binet 5 (SB5)
- Test of Non-Verbal Intelligence (TONI-3)
- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - IV (WAIS-IV)
- Woodcock-Johnson –III - Tests of Cognitive Ability

### Attention/Memory/Learning

- Brown Attention Deficit Disorder Scales for Adolescents or Adults (BADDs)
- California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT-II)
- Children's Memory Scale
- Conners' Adult ADHD Rating Scale — Self Report (CAARS)
- Conners' Continuous Performance Test-II (CPT-II)

### Executive Functioning (EF)

- BRIEF
- California Verbal Learning Test-Clustering score
- Delis Kaplan Executive Functioning System
- Rey Osterrieth Complex Figure organization score
- Tower tests (Tower of London, Tower of Hanoi)
- Verbal, category and design fluency tests
- Wisconsin Card Sorting Test

### Language and Communication Skill Assessment

- Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP)
- Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised
- Test of Adolescent and Adult Language
- Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised

### Psychiatric, Personality and Behavioral Assessments

- Adaptive Behavior Assessment System-2
- Beck Depression Inventory II (BDI-II)
- Gilliam Autism Rating Scale
- Gilliam Asperger's Disorder Scale



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