

## Diagnostic Testing\*

While the University of Portland **does not provide diagnostic testing services**, we wanted to provide the following information about such services to assist those with questions about it. Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have questions about diagnostic testing, or if you just want to talk through the process or your options.

**Testing Resources in Portland:** Originally created by a local community college. This information has been currently updated as of the Summer of 2021. The information in the document is also represented on a Google map.

- [Map of Portland-Area learning disability evaluation sites](#)
- [Learning disability evaluation sites listed](#)

**What is learning disability testing:** Learning disability testing is conducted when a student has a question about how they learn, why certain tasks are harder than others, if they have a learning disability, how to maximize their learning strengths, and other academic-related learning questions. This type of testing may also be called “diagnostic testing,” “psychoeducational testing”, or “educational testing”. This type of testing is conducted by a licensed professional, usually a psychologist, and consists of several different tests that look at memory, processing, verbal/non-verbal abilities, writing, visual tasks, attention/focus, reading, and other skills needed for academic tasks. You will sit in a private room with the tester, who will guide you through a series of tasks, some of which are timed, some are written, some are oral, some are visual.

**How long does it take:** Psychoeducational testing is generally conducted in two, three-hour sessions, or up to 6-8 hours. It's intense! Sometimes the tester might ask you to come back for additional sessions if they would like to investigate something further. After the testing is complete, the tester compiles the results and related recommendations in a report. This can take a few weeks. Then you meet with the tester to go over the results in a “feedback session” and decide on what the next steps might be. A great next step would be to provide your documentation to Accessible Education Services and schedule a follow up appointment.

**When do I need to update my testing:** Depending upon a variety of individual factors, including when your testing was conducted, the thoroughness of the testing and/or report, and/or the nature of the data gathered from your last testing, Accessible Education Services may ask you for updated testing. This will help staff in making sure accommodations fit your current academic needs. It's important to talk with the Accessible Education Services if you have questions about getting updated testing. The law requires documentation to be “current”.

\*Original information compiled by Lewis & Clark College