

Learning Disability Testing, Adult Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder Testing, and Medication Evaluation at FGCU

Accommodations

If you are seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the state of Florida requires documentation of the disability. FGCU has developed a standard that meets the state as well as national testing requirements for students with Learning Disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Students seeking accommodations for LD or ADHD or other conditions should begin by scheduling a consultation with Adaptive Services, 590-7956. For more information about appropriate documentation, students are encouraged to visit <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/Adaptive/>.

Many students have been diagnosed with ADHD without having been fully evaluated. Florida State standards for accommodations for disability require a full evaluation. <http://www.firn.edu/doe/rules/6a-62.htm#6A-6.03018>

Initial Testing

If you have never been tested for ADHD or LD before, you will need to complete the entire testing battery. This is a full day of testing (up to 6 hours) that will explore many aspects of cognitive and behavioral functioning in order to develop the best working diagnosis. Students interested in being evaluated should schedule a testing consultation with Dr Judi Gibbons at CAPS. If testing is indicated, the student will be asked to provide items that will assist in the evaluation process.

These may include:

- Self-report of symptoms
- Observer reports of symptoms (generally, these are from a parent and a teacher)
- Evidence of history of symptoms dating back several years (report cards or letters from elementary or middle school teachers provide this data)
- Report of personal and family history
- All paperwork given by the examiner (including personal history, consent, and common concerns)

When these items are provided to the examiner, and a receipt for half payment is shown, a testing date will be scheduled. The battery consists of evaluation of aptitude, achievement, and information processing. Undergoing testing does not guarantee any specific result or accommodation.

Repeat Testing

Many students come to FGCU having already undergone full diagnostic testing for ADHD and/or learning disabilities. If your testing is less than 3 years old, you do not need to repeat your testing. It is considered current by Florida State standards. You will need to provide a copy of your testing for our records.

If your testing is more than 3 but less than 5 years old, and you were tested using adult standards (such as the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale), you will be asked to

- Provide a copy of your testing/evaluation
- Meet with a psychiatrist to review the chart and update evaluation (either at FGCU or of your own choosing) and
- Take a brief test/evaluation of symptoms at CAPS.

If your testing is more than 5 years old, you will need to take the full adult testing battery as outlined under “Initial Testing” above.

If your testing was more than 3 years ago, and you were tested with adolescent or child geared scales, you will need to take the full adult testing battery as outlined under “Initial Testing” above.

If you are a parent of a high school student, you may wish to advocate for your student to be tested again through the school system during the senior year, using adult measures.

Regarding Medications for ADHD

Students who are seeking to be evaluated for medications for ADHD through the psychiatrist at FGCU will also need to show evidence of a full diagnostic evaluation to have an initial or continued prescription for stimulant medications. A letter from a physician or psychologist without supporting documentation will not be considered sufficient.

FGCU students wishing to receive prescriptions for ADHD related medications at FGCU must go through psychiatry services at CAPS. These medications include:

Methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta, Metadate, Methylin)
Dexmethylphenadate (Focalin)
Amphetamine (Adderall)
Dexamphetamine (Dextrostat, Dexadrine)
Pemoline (Cylert)
Atomoxetine (Strattera)

The CAPS clinician or the psychiatrist may require a full or partial diagnostic testing battery prior to any prescription renewal. Any requests for new prescriptions or for diagnostic evaluation will be referred for diagnostic testing. This testing, as described on the first page, is available to enrolled FGCU students at a reduced rate from community standards. **The cost for the Learning Disability at test battery is \$350; the cost for the LD/ADHD test battery is \$450.** Students may wish to choose a provider outside the university; referrals will be given on request.

Psychiatry services is part of Counseling and Psychological Services, and either of these services may require that a student receiving medications for ADHD also receive counseling/psychotherapy services or other campus services as needed.

As always, students may elect to receive psychiatry, testing, or counseling services at a provider outside of FGCU.

Questions about this policy may be directed to Dr Judi Gibbons or Dr Jon Brunner of Counseling and Psychological Services at 590-7950.