



School Psychology 545 - Spring 2021

Assessment 1

Instructor: Mason Rivers, Ed.S., NCSP
Class day and time: Section 01, Tuesdays 4:00-7:00 PM
Section 02, Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 PM
Class location: Zoom links available in Moodle
Office hours: Phone or Zoom by appointment
Phone: 504-430-4326
Email (preferred): rivers@lclark.edu

This course is to be taken in conjunction with SPSY 544.

Restrictions: Admission to the School Psychology Program or consent of instructor.

Credit: 3 semester hours

Required text:

Sattler, J.M. (2018). *Assessment of Children: Cognitive Foundations - 6th edition*. San Diego: Jerome M. Sattler, Publisher, Inc.

Flanagan, D.P., Ortiz, S.O., & Alfonso, V.C. (2013). *Essentials of Cross-Battery Assessment, Cross-Battery 3rd Edition*.

Additional readings will be made available online or in class.

Course description:

This course is a part of a three-part assessment sequence that addresses the psycho-educational, social, emotional, and behavioral assessment of children and adolescents. In this course, the focus is on gaining competency with the skills and tools needed to collect, interpret, and present data using psycho-educational assessments involving cognitive and academic measures.

This course is designed to prepare students to (a) understand and learn the process of assessment, (b) critically evaluate various standardized measures of cognitive and achievement functioning, (c) employ an empirically-based method of analyzing information obtained during the assessment process and linking data to interventions, (d) communicate assessment findings orally and in writing in a clear and professional manner to a variety of audiences, and (e) appreciate the theoretical constructs and psychometric properties that underlie cognitive and achievement assessment instruments.

Students will use empirically supported procedures for collecting, analyzing, and presenting assessment data used in making educational and clinical decisions. All measures discussed in the course will be presented as *tools* that complement other facets of assessment. The course emphasizes both “how to” administer specific tests, as well as general principles and theoretical grounding to guide the use and application of these and other assessment tools throughout the individual’s

professional career. Ethical administration and interpretation is emphasized, including understanding the theory and specific uses and limitations of intellectual assessment tools, standardization procedures, properties of the normative sample, data-based interpretation of results, and issues of special populations and human diversity.

The course format stresses the formative evaluation of students progress towards a criterion of competence. Students are expected to master the administration, scoring, and basic interpretation of specific cognitive and achievement measures to a high level of mastery. Additional training and experience will be necessary, however, to further develop and refine skills and to apply them to diverse individuals in a variety of settings. Students demonstrating initial competence following this course will be ready for further training in individual intellectual assessment in supervised practicum experiences, but not for unsupervised/independent practice.

Course goals and objectives:

1. Demonstrate initial competence in the standardized administration, scoring, interpretation, and reporting of the WJ-IV COG, WISC-V, and WJ-IV ACH.
2. Develop initial proficiency in report writing for cognitive and achievement testing.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of basic principles of Cross Battery Assessment for identification of a specific learning disability using a patterns of strengths and weaknesses (PSW) model.
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge of psychometrics and test development including an application of psychometric theory in practice.
5. Recognize measurement principles for selecting, using, and interpreting assessment tools.
6. Become familiar with ethical and legal standards and responsibilities in regard to test materials.
7. Exhibit interpersonal relationship skills including the ability to develop and maintain rapport with an examinee and communicate in a sensitive manner.
8. Develop an appreciation and awareness of the use and limitations of standardized assessment tools, particularly for students from diverse linguistic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of issues surrounding the intellectual assessment of children and adults from special populations, such as preschoolers, children/adults with disabilities, and children/adults for whom English is a second language.
10. Demonstrate the Professional Standards associated with the School Psychology program at Lewis & Clark College.

Grading components and scale

Test Protocols (WJ-COG, WJ-ACH, WISC)	= 160 points
Reports	= 150 points
Video Observations	= 200 points
Quizzes	= 160 points

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Each student must achieve mastery of the 3 major tests taught in this course; WJ-IV COG, WISC-V, and WJ-IV ACH. Mastery is set at 80% for the total average and for each component (protocols, reports, and video). Thus, for the WJ-IV COG, a student must have an 80% average of the accumulated point value (3 protocols, 1 case student report, 1 video observation) and an 80% average on each of the three components (protocols, report, and video observation). The same criterion applies to the WISC-V and WJ-IV ACH. The one exception to this is that on the 3rd protocol for both the WJ-IV COG and WISC-V, the student must achieve a 90% criterion level on scoring of the protocol or an additional scoring assignment will be assigned. The grade on an assigned protocol for scoring is averaged with the grade on the protocol that fell below the criterion; the additional assignment cannot be used to replace the initial grade on that protocol. For the videos/observations, if the 80% criterion is not achieved, an additional video/observation is required. The purpose of this extra observation (if required) is to regain up to ½ of the points lost on the original observation in certain areas, not to replace the grade. The highest grade that can be obtained if an observation is redone will range from 80-89, depending on the initial observation score (no A is allowed if a video observation is redone). Failure to meet any criteria for the WISC-V or either WJ-IV scales will result in additional testing or writing assignments depending on the area of weakness. Additional requirements are assigned by the instructor and not allowed for general grade improvement. The additional work is assigned only if the student is unable to meet the performance criterion. If extra work does not allow for meeting the performance criterion, the student has not successfully met the course requirements and the resulting average will equal 0 on that component. No other requirements can compensate for the 80% mastery level on the WJ-IV COG, WISC-V, and WJ-IV ACH.

Turning in any item late: -5 points per day. Protocols or videos submitted without an accompanying properly completed consent are considered late until the point when the consent is received by the instructor.

Course grading scale

WJ-IV COG	= approximately 33%
WISC-V	= approximately 33%
WJ-IV ACH	= approximately 10%
Quizzes	= approximately 24%

Scale:	[93-100% = A]	[90-92% = A-]	[87-89% = B+]	[83-86% = B]
	[80-82% = B-]	[77-79% = C+]	[73-76% = C]	[70-72% = C-]
	[≤69% = F]			

Attendance

CPSY Departmental Attendance Policy: Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit). In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade

of incomplete may be given for an assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

Additional requirements/expectations

Each student must have a stopwatch (cannot beep) and a black, blue, and red ink pen. Students may want a clipboard.

Each student may choose to find his/her subjects for testing for the four video observations. If the subject's age falls within the appropriate age range for the assessment, you will need to follow the consent procedures outlined below. If the test subject's age is outside of the appropriate age range for the assessment, a script will be provided for the test subject to follow.

Students should not test family members unless a script is being used. Scores CANNOT be shared with students, families, schools, or other concerned parties. All consent forms will say this and this policy must be adhered to.

Students will be provided with test protocols when they pick up their test kits. Testing should not take place more than 1 week prior to the due date, because oftentimes there will be course content covered in the last class time before testing is due that is required to accurately complete the assessment. In other words, you will not be ready to give the tests more than 1 week before the due date. The protocols cannot be copied or faxed (we will discuss scanning and uploading in class). No requirements in this course, including reports, may be faxed. No requirements in this course, particularly reports, can be emailed. Reports must be in final form on the date due and uploaded to Moodle at the onset of the class period.

All students are expected to act professionally in setting up testing appointments and conducting the test session. Careful consideration must be given to environmental conditions during testing.

Professional Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy: All Lewis & Clark students are responsible for knowing the standards of professional conduct and academic integrity. Please refer to the Lewis & Clark graduate catalog for the Standards of Professional Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy.

Disability Services Statement: If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in the Albany Quadrangle (503-768-7192). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork there for the current semester requesting accommodations, staff in that office will notify me of the accommodations for which you are eligible.

Test Kits: It is your responsibility to follow the check-out schedule or make alternate arrangements so that you have the kit for the test we are discussing in class (see moodle for details). The test kit check-in and check-out schedule is as follows:

SECTION	DATE	TIME	ACTION	TEST
01	1/11/21	12:00 PM	check out check out pick up	WJ-COG WISC (A) Protocols
02	1/11/21	12:30 PM	check out check out pick up	WJ-ACH WISC (B) Protocols
01	2/2/21	10:00 AM	check in	WJ-COG
02	2/2/21	1:00 PM	check in check out	WJ-ACH WJ-COG
01	2/3/21	2:00 PM	check out	WJ-ACH
02	3/16/21	10:00 AM	check in check in	WJ-IV COG WISC (B)
01	3/16/21	1:00 PM	check in check in check out	WJ-ACH WISC (A) WISC (B)
02	3/17/21	2:00 PM	check out	WISC (A)
01	4/15/21	10:00 AM	check in	WISC (B)
02	4/15/21	10:30 AM	check in	WISC (A)

It is your responsibility to check in and check out tests kits during the times listed above. The current plan is to complete this through a drive thru process in parking lot “O” on the grad campus. If you can not make one of the appointments above it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements with Rachel Greben (gradloaner@lclark.edu) Each member of the group will be financially responsible for all missing components, and all test kits must be returned in their entirety prior to receiving a grade for the course. An essential aspect of professional courtesy is to return or pass on a test kit in perfect condition, ready to be used by the next person.

This is a very rigorous course which requires a lot of outside work. All testing is done outside of class hours, and scoring and report writing are also done outside of class, although some scoring is

done within the class period for initial protocols. Thus, the applied skills (practice) components of this course will require much additional time, and students must be aware of time management issues as they progress throughout the semester. It is very important that students keep up with the readings assigned in the chapters as these will facilitate understanding of testing issues and assist in report writing. *Quizzes are used to ensure that students are keeping up with the assigned chapter readings.* Any concerns that arise regarding the inability to meet course and time demands should be discussed with the professor immediately when these arise. The class itself may go beyond the time limits set when administration of tests is being covered and for some periods when scoring is addressed; thus, students need to plan accordingly.

For videos, all expected subtests must be visible and audible. Any subtest not recorded in its entirety, not visible, or not audible must be completed again, without exception. To be visible, the instructor must be able to see the examiner's face and the work area, which must allow visibility of both the examiner and examinee pointing to examination materials. To be audible, the instructor must be able to hear all audio (including both examiner and examinee) using standard computer audio capabilities.

Due to the nature of this course, it may be necessary on several occasions to go overtime. This is especially true on practice days that involve learning test administration and the scoring of protocols.

Changes: The instructor reserves the right to make appropriate changes in the syllabus and course schedule/sequence. It is the candidate's responsibility to keep updated on course information if he/she/they is absent.

Communication: E-mail is the preferred method of communication with the instructor. I will typically respond to candidate inquiries within 48 hours on weekdays. Any changes to class times, candidate expectations, assignments, etc. will be communicated via the announcements section on Moodle. Please make sure that you are subscribed to the announcements and receiving them as appropriate.
