

Discrepancy analysis

Federal regulations specify several criteria for determining the existence of a specific learning disability, including underachievement in one or more areas, failure to make sufficient progress in response to targeted intervention, and a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both. (34 CFR §300.309(a)). IDEA 2004 introduces greater flexibility in the assessment process for identifying learning disabilities and/or determining eligibility for special services.

Similar to the WIAT-II, the WIAT-III provides the capability of conducting an ability-achievement discrepancy (AAD) analysis using either the simple difference or predicted achievement method. The WIAT-III also includes the capability of conducting a pattern of strengths and weaknesses (PSW) discrepancy analysis, which most closely resembles the Concordance Discordance Model of SLD identification presented by Hale and Fiorello (2004).

To conduct an ability-achievement discrepancy analysis, you must have the Scoring Assistant installed for both the WIAT-III and a compatible ability test. However, you can conduct a Pattern of Strengths and Weaknesses (PSW) discrepancy analysis with the WIAT-III alone or by creating a combination report with a compatible ability test. Using the WIAT-III Scoring Assistant only, a PSW analysis can be calculated by manually entering scores from the WPPSI-III, WISC-IV, WAIS-IV, DAS-II, or the KABC-II. Unlike the AAD analyses, **the PSW analysis can only be calculated using the Scoring Assistant.** *To reduce the possibility of calculation errors and to ensure results that are accurate and time efficient, tables for manual calculation are not provided in the Technical Manual CD.*

Each of these models may be used within established cognitive and neuropsychological approaches to assessment (e.g., cognitive hypothesis-testing model, the cross-battery assessment approach, Cattell-Horn-Carroll theory, Lurian model).

For a more in-depth discussion of how to conduct a PSW analysis, refer to the Examiner's Manual Chapter 4.

Article ID: 3790

Last updated: 19 Apr, 2010

Scoring Support -> WIAT-III -> Discrepancy analysis

<https://pearsonassessmentsupport.com/support/index.php?View=entry&EntryID=3790>