



ACUMEN ASSESSMENTS

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AcumenAssessments.com

The doctors at Acumen Assessments collectively have over 60 years of clinical and forensic experience evaluating medical professionals. We provide reliable, objective, valid, and meaningful evaluations and consultation services to physicians/licensed professionals, Physician Health Programs, and Medical Boards/Colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

The difficulties that lead to an assessment vary widely:

- Sexual misconduct, harassment, and boundary violations
- Substance use disorders
- Personality factors that complicate the monitoring process
- Personality disorders and professional ethics
- Distress and disruption in the workplace
- Psychiatric disorders
- Difficulties with professional role functioning
- Complex and difficult to understand cases
- Challenges associated with aging and possible neurocognitive decline

Our comprehensive multidisciplinary fitness for duty evaluation process is 3.5 days long from Mondays through Thursday mornings. We have a wide menu of additional specialty assessment options, including focal substance use evaluations and specialty evaluations for medical students and residents at a discounted rate depending on the nature of the assessment.

Elements of Assessment:

- The assignment of a primary evaluator to oversee the entire assessment
- Three hours or more of face-to-face psychological and cognitive testing
- Four standardized computer administered personality tests and a continuous performance test
- Four case conference team meetings (staff only) along with ongoing team discussion
- Identifying information, reason for referral, and relevant history
- Collateral contacts and document review
- Psychiatric history
- Comprehensive substance use history and relevant drug screens
- Medical history and Current medications
- Developmental, social, family, professional, and legal history
- Mental status
- Violence and/or Sexual risk and threat assessment (if indicated)
- Polygraph examination (if indicated)
- Results of psychological/cognitive testing
- Comprehensive summary of assessment and explanatory hypothesis
- DSM-V Diagnosis
- Fitness for duty determination
- Treatment and monitoring recommendations

Acumen Assessments Clinical Staff

Scott Stacy, PsyD, Managing Partner, Acumen Assessments

Dr. Stacy has 25 years of experience completely dedicated to working with medical and other licensed professionals. He has 29 years of experience evaluating and treating comorbid psychiatric and substance use disorders within inpatient, residential, day treatment, and outpatient levels of care.

Peter Graham, PhD, Co-Director Partner, Acumen Assessments

Dr. Graham has 30 years of experience working with medical and other licensed professionals. He has been evaluating and treating addiction, mental illness, and personality disorders for 33 years; 10 at the inpatient level, and 2 as program director at the inpatient and partial hospital level prior to turning to full-time intensive outpatient work with professionals 20 years ago.



John Whipple, MD, Consulting Board Certified Psychiatrist, Acumen Assessments

Dr. Whipple has 30 years of experience working with medical and other licensed professionals. Dr. Whipple has been involved in the evaluation and treatment of psychiatric, personality, and substance use disorders at inpatient, residential, and day treatment levels of care for 34 years. He is also certified by the FAA to provide substance use evaluations for pilots in the HIMS program.

Monica Soderberg, LCSW, DSW, LCMFT, Consultant

Ms. Soderberg has been working with medical professionals for 14 years and has 40 years working with professionals from all walks of life. Ms. Soderberg has 39 years of experience in working with comorbid substance use and psychiatric disorders on an outpatient basis and is an expert on trauma.

Michael Seely, PsyD, Senior Staff Psychologist, Acumen Assessments

Dr. Seely has been working exclusively with medical and other licensed professionals for 7 years. He has over 6 additional years of experience evaluating and treating substance use disorders as well as comorbid mental health issues in outpatient settings. He is certified by the FAA to provide substance use evaluations for pilots in the HIMS program.

Josh Hypse, PsyD, Staff Psychologist, Acumen Assessments

Dr. Hypse is a staff psychologist and primary evaluator with over 3 years of experience working full time with the professional population. He also has nine years of experience evaluating and treating psychiatric conditions and conducting substance use evaluations and treatment in community health and professional settings.

Alex Latham, PsyD, Staff Psychologist, Acumen Assessments

Dr. Latham is the newest addition to our Acumen Assessments professional staff with experience working in the VA setting and professionals' evaluation and treatment settings. He also has over 5 years of experience providing neuropsychological and psychodiagnostic assessments in clinical and forensic settings.

Psychiatric Assessment

The role of the psychiatric consultant at Acumen Assessments is to provide a timely review of the physician/professional client's psychiatric, medical and personal care to determine if there are any indications of impairment to practice. This consultation includes a close review of pertinent signs and symptoms of emotional distress that may be relevant to the referring or incident event. This consultation compliments histories obtained by other team members. The psychiatrist gives close attention to any current and past psychiatric care. The consultant also serves as the initial, triage physician of record to review any persistent or acute medical problems. The psychiatrist is onsite in case of medical emergencies and meets with the Acumen Assessments team members on a daily basis for ongoing discussion.

Out of this consultation, the psychiatrist contributes to the multidisciplinary diagnostic conceptualization of the client's current mental status, as well as the client's current medication regimen. Preliminary suggestions for treatment interventions and/or further medical evaluation are also offered for the team's consideration.

Acumen Assessments Psychological Testing Methods

The evaluation team at Acumen Assessments utilizes scientifically-based and empirically validated psychological/neuropsychological tests as one component of the overall evaluation process.

Psychological testing methods are used to examine cognitive and neurocognitive status, psychological disposition, and personality configuration. The specific psychological tests administered are determined based on the referral question and/or the nature of an individual's circumstances. The instruments available to the assessment team provide the ability to answer most questions of professional impairment and psychological fitness, and include standardized tests of intellectual ability, executive function, social/emotional perception and regulation, and other specific domains of neuropsychological function.

The psychologists at Acumen Assessments are specially trained in these psychological assessment methodologies, and possess expertise in utilizing testing in both clinical and forensic contexts with a population of highly intelligent professionals with sophisticated/complex psychological defense configurations. The comprehensive nature of the testing process helps enable the team to provide differential diagnoses in complex, unusual, and multifaceted cases. The evaluation team integrates test data and interpretations in a sophisticated manner into multidisciplinary summary in a highly personalized, straightforward manner.

Fee arrangements, payment, and policy

Financing an assessment for a client when making a fitness to practice determination is unethical given that it introduces a conflict of interest and dual role relationship whose motivations are, by definition, at odds with one another; that is, we cannot be objective evaluators of fitness and be creditors at the same time. Assessment clients are required to pay the fee in full prior to the commencement of the evaluation process. All major credit cards and certified checks are accepted.