

## **What is Neuropsychology?**

Clinical Neuropsychology is a sub-specialty of Clinical Psychology that specializes in the assessment and treatment of clients with brain injury or disease, specific learning disabilities, and age-related decline. A Clinical Neuropsychologist holds a Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology and has completed advanced training in clinical neuropsychology. What distinguishes a Clinical Neuropsychologist from Clinical Psychologists is specialized knowledge of the brain, including an understanding of areas such as neuroanatomy and neurological disease. The discipline involves the application of standardized measures in the study of brain behavior relationships.

Clinical Neuropsychologists focus on a range of neurocognitive, learning, social and emotional problems, learning disorders (such as dyslexia), attentional disorders (such as ADHD), memory disorders, cognitive deficits associated with medical problems (including traumatic brain injuries, seizure disorders and genetic disorders), and Autism spectrum disorders and emotional disturbances.

Neuropsychologists often work with clinics or hospitals in close succession with Neurosurgeons and Neurologists. They often work closely with rehab centers to provide care for those who suffer from neurological disorders in order to maximize the benefits of brain-specific treatments. These particular doctors will often specialize in the effects and research surrounding the differences between neurologically based symptoms or those caused by emotional issues.

As Neuropsychologists are specifically trained to understand and identify issues in the communication between brain and behavior, they are often called in to study cases of stroke, tumor or other brain based illnesses to decide the most effective course of action as treatment. In order to avoid misdiagnosis or treatment, Neuropsychologists are also required to have a broad base knowledge of mental health symptoms and general knowledge of health conditions. They are familiar with the use of brain scanning equipment and the proper interpretation of neuroimaging results. Neuropsychologists may also be useful in court cases built around severe head injury or trauma as indicated by behavioral changes.