

Autism Diagnostic Qualifications

As the only mental health therapist in the valley specializing in adult autism, I provide diagnoses for teens and adults. These diagnoses are used to obtain accommodations at school or work, or simply to provide insight and understanding for the client.

My diagnoses are informed by:

- **Previous work in an autism clinic**
- **18 years experience as an educator working with individuals on the autism spectrum**
- **Extensive autism research throughout a master's degree in education**
- **Extensive autism research throughout a master's degree in mental health counseling**
- **Attendance of autism conferences and trainings**
- **DSM-V training / ASD diagnostic tool research**

Evaluations are conducted using both the DSM-V criteria, and the (modified for adults) Checklist for Autism Spectrum Disorders created by Susan D. Mayes, Ph.D. Evaluations consist of 20 open and closed ended discussion questions which fall into one of three categories of assessment: social interaction and communication; sensory issues; and restricted interests and repetitive behaviors. Severity of presentation is assessed and childhood data is gathered. Clients are encouraged to bring a friend or family member to the evaluation to provide outside perspective. Differential diagnoses such as ADHD, OCD, anxiety, depression, hearing issues, etc. are considered. Female vs. male presentations of autism have been extensively studied and are taken into account.

As a registered intern with the state of Oregon, my diagnoses are discussed with my supervisor, Maria Connolly, LPC #C1762. Please don't hesitate to contact me and/or my supervisor with any questions you may have. I'd love to share my knowledge of autism with you.

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