



# User's Guide

for the Score and Clinical  
Interpretive Reports

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Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory®-3 (MMPI®-3) User's Guide for the Score and Clinical Interpretive Reports

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# Introduction

This guide provides information about and directions for using two computer-generated reports for the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory®-3 (MMPI®-3). The MMPI-3 Score Report (described in Chapter 2) provides raw and standard T scores for the 52 scales of the instrument along with item-level information about unscorable, critical, and user-designated responses. The MMPI-3 Interpretive Report for Clinical Settings (described in Chapter 4) includes all the information in the Score Report, supplemented by an automated interpretation of the results. An optional feature of both reports allows the user to plot data from one of numerous standard comparison groups or user-generated customized comparison groups along with the test taker's results. This feature is described in detail in Chapter 3. Instructions for interfacing with Pearson's scoring systems and generating MMPI-3 reports are provided in Chapter 5. The present chapter includes a review of the advantages of automated scoring of the MMPI-3 and a discussion of user qualifications.

## Automated Scoring

Automated scoring requires that the test taker's responses to the test be input into the scoring system that is used to generate the MMPI-3 reports (see Chapter 5 for details). This can be accomplished by keyboard entry of the test taker's responses, by scanning the answer sheet, or by on-screen administration of the test. On-screen, computerized administration is the most efficient. It is appreciably faster than using a booklet and answer sheet to record the test taker's responses. Individuals with normal-range cognitive functioning and reading skills can typically complete a computer administration of the MMPI-3 in 25–35 minutes, whereas a booklet and answer sheet administration typically requires 35–50 minutes. Another advantage of on-screen administration is that the report can be generated as soon as test administration is completed because the test taker has already entered her or his responses to the test items into the scoring and reporting system.

Scanning is available from Pearson's mail-in service or with an on-site scanner. In addition to taking less time than keyboard entry, scanning eliminates the possibility of errors that may be introduced when the test taker's responses are entered by keyboard. Allard and Faust (2000) found that when keyboard entry was done in a loud, distracting environment, errors occurred in approximately one-third of the protocols they studied. However, double-entry, a repeated entry of the responses, all but eliminated these errors. Such an option, in which the consistency of the two entries is checked and the user is prompted to enter the correct response when any inconsistencies are found, is available with the Pearson scoring and reporting systems and is recommended for use when MMPI-3 responses are entered by keyboard. (For specific directions, access the Help menu within the Pearson scoring and reporting system.)

Even the most time-consuming mode of response entry (double-entry by keyboard) requires considerably less time than does hand scoring the 52 MMPI-3 scales. An experienced user or clerical assistant can typically double enter an MMPI-3 protocol in 10–12 minutes. Hand scoring by an experienced user or assistant typically requires 25–30 minutes. Moreover, research has shown that hand scoring is error-prone (Allard & Faust, 2000; Simons et al., 2002). On the other hand, as just noted, the only error possible when

using automated scoring involves keyboard entry of item responses, which can be all but eliminated by using the double-entry option as just described.

The accuracy advantage afforded by automated scoring is, of course, contingent upon the accuracy of the scoring system. Allard and Faust (2000) found substantial scoring errors in several software systems used at the clinical settings in which they collected their data. Further, the creation and use of unauthorized computer scoring programs is illegal. The MMPI-3 scoring algorithm included in Pearson's scoring system is rigorously checked for errors, and it is the only authorized, commercially available system for computer scoring the MMPI-3.

## User Qualifications

Users of the MMPI-3 reports must be qualified to use the test. As described in the *MMPI-3 Manual for Administration, Scoring, and Interpretation* (Ben-Porath & Tellegen, 2020a), the requirements for use of the MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory) instruments adopted by the publisher, the University of Minnesota Press, and the distributor, Pearson, are:

User has a license to practice psychology independently, or user has completed a doctoral (or in some cases master's) degree program in one of the fields of study indicated for the test that included training (through coursework and supervised practical experience) in the administration and interpretation of clinical instruments, or completion of an APA-approved workshop or other approved course. If neither of these qualifications is met, users must provide proof that they have been granted the right to administer tests at this level in their jurisdiction.

Ben-Porath and Tellegen (2020a) note that in addition to these minimal qualifications, competent use of the MMPI-3 requires: graduate-level training in psychological testing and assessment with a specific emphasis on basic psychometrics; graduate-level training in the areas of personality and psychopathology; graduate and/or continuing education training in the use of the MMPI instruments; supervised experience in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of the test; and familiarity with the current professional literature on the instrument. Competent use of the MMPI-3 reports requires similar knowledge and experience.

Users of these reports should also be thoroughly familiar with material in the two manuals for the MMPI-3. The *MMPI-3 Manual for Administration, Scoring, and Interpretation* provides an overview of the instrument, information about the intended uses of the test and user qualifications (just described), a description of the normative data and the method used to derive standard scores, procedures for administering and scoring the instrument, and detailed guidelines for interpreting scores. The *MMPI-3 Technical Manual* (Ben-Porath & Tellegen 2020b) includes discussion of the rationale for developing the test, a description of the methods used to construct the instrument, and detailed psychometric findings including reliability, validity, and descriptive data on MMPI-3 scores in a variety of settings in which the test is intended for use.