The Work Disability Functional Assessment Battery (WD-FAB)
Brief Description

In collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA), the National Institutes of Health and Boston University developed a comprehensive and efficient work disability functional assessment battery (WD-FAB). The WD-FAB is a 15-20-minute individualized assessment of functional activity that selects test items from a large pool of items to measure self-reported functional ability related to work. The instrument provides scores in the following eight scales across two domains:

Physical Functioning	**Mental Functioning**
➢ Basic Mobility	➢ Communication & Cognition
➢ Upper Body Function	➢ Resilience & Sociability
➢ Fine Motor Function	➢ Self-regulation
➢ Community Mobility	➢ Mood & Emotions

- Basic Mobility includes the ability to assume, maintain, and transfer among various body positions and the ability to move around from one place to another
- Community Mobility is defined as using transportation, including public transportation and driving
- Upper Body Function includes reaching, lifting, pulling, pushing, and carrying
- Fine Motor Function includes manipulation of objects requiring dexterity
- Communication & Cognition includes aspects of function such as organizational skills, attention, following instructions, oral and written communication
- Resilience & Sociability includes aspects of function such as handling stress, accomplishing goals, and learning from mistakes
- Self-regulation includes aspects of function such as controlling temper, respecting others, following rules, and social abilities
- Mood & Emotions includes aspects of function such as emotional stability, depressive feelings, and anxiety

The WD-FAB was developed for use in the SSA disability determination process, and it has several advantages over other disability inquiry approaches:

Advantages

- User-friendly
- Time efficient
- Comprehensively captures "whole person" function
- Systematic and consistent approach to the assessment of function
- Scores trackable over time
- Instrument precision may be adjusted
- May be translated into other languages
- Multiple administration modes (in-person, phone, web-based)
- Item pools are not static and may be replenished and updated
- Reliability and thresholds for minimal detectable differences are established
- Scores may be examined to identify anomalous response patterns

The WD-FAB uses Item Response Theory, along with computer adaptive testing, allowing the items most relevant to the respondent to be asked, selecting items based upon prior responses and eliminating less relevant items. Item-based scoring means respondents do not need to answer all items or the same items to obtain comparative scores and scores are obtained in a highly efficient manner. On average, WD-FAB respondents may only answer 6-8 items per scale to obtain a scale score.

Development of WD-FAB began in 2009 and followed a scientifically rigorous process. The WD-FAB specifically targets the assessment of functioning premised upon the activity domains included in the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). Hundreds of potential instrument items were developed, informed by literature, content experts and existing instruments. Following cognitive testing, calibration studies were conducted involving thousands of SSA claimants and a normative sample of working-age adults. The WD-FAB includes over 300 items across the eight scales of functional activity.