



EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

A Non-Profit Vocational Center & Animation Studio
For Young Adults On The Autism Spectrum

Exceptional Minds Admissions Policy Regarding Behavior

EM accepts students with a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's or related disorders, who have demonstrated ability and/or strong motivation to work in the field of graphics, digital arts and animation. EM assesses each student's personal work in these fields, as well as their initial learning, work readiness, social and interpersonal skills. In addition, information is collected on each student's behavioral profile and needs. EM is committed to providing the instructional and behavioral supports and accommodations needed by individual students due to their autism in order to assist them in learning, work training and participation in all other aspects of the program.

At the present time, EM is not equipped with the staffing or facilities necessary to help students who have extreme behavioral challenges succeed in the program. Extreme behavioral challenges are those that are severe in nature, high intensity or which occur very frequently. Students who have such behaviors currently, or have had them within the last year, cannot be accepted by EM. Examples of specific behavior problems which would result in no acceptance to the program are threatening other people with bodily harm, harming other people, property destruction or vandalism, physical fighting, violent outbursts, lengthy tantrums which disrupt class and criminal behavior (i.e. stealing, drug use, stalking and/or sexual assault, etc.)

Information will be collected during the Intake and Admissions process via questions on the EM Application form. In addition, EM will conduct a review of records and talk with other schools and professionals who have worked with the applicant in the past, or are currently working with the applicant, subsequent to the Release of Information and Permission to Consult forms being signed as part of application to the program. Applicants are encouraged to be completely honest about any psychological issues or behaviors they may have had, or currently have, so that the appropriateness and suitability of the EM program for them can be accurately determined, and to allow EM the opportunity to consider whether the program could be adapted with specific services and supports so that it would be a match for the applicant's needs.

As stated previously, each student's needs and behaviors will be considered individually. In some cases, EM may make acceptance "conditional", meaning that the student may be accepted and enrolled, if the student could be successful in the program with additional specific services and supports, and they can be provided at additional expense to the student, parent or conservator.

EM makes all decisions regarding student admissions. Students, parents and/or conservators may submit information or ideas to be considered, but EM makes the final decision.