



# EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

Academy and Studio

For Visual Effects Artists & Animators with Autism

## **Exceptional Minds Admissions Policy Regarding Behavior**

Exceptional Minds 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. Exceptional Minds 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. Exceptional Minds 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, Exceptional Minds 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, will not be accepted by Exceptional Minds. 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 Exceptional Minds Application form. In addition, Exceptional Minds 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 Exceptional Minds program for them can be accurately determined, and to allow Exceptional Minds 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, Exceptional Minds 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.

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