



FIRST PLACE® AZ TRANSITION ACADEMY QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Qualifications of a First Place Transition Academy Participant

First Place participants have a range of abilities and disabilities. They must also share the common goal to live independently, in their own home. A participant must demonstrate a combination of motivation and interest in independence and basic living and safety skills, as well as a willingness to participate in instruction, employment and clinical programs. The family must also commit to supporting the participant in their independent living pursuits and allow for the benefits of natural consequences and important life lessons.

The First Place Transition Academy accepts individuals who meet the following criteria:

- 1) Age 18 years or older and completion of high school or learning resource program.**
- 2) Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.**
- 3) Completion of basic self-care needs, including:**
 - Can dress and bathe themselves without physical prompting
 - Can complete personal hygiene tasks without physical prompting
 - Can feed themselves without physical prompting
 - Has independent toilet skills and no nighttime enuresis
 - Can take and manage medication with oversight
- 4) No current or chronic history of addiction or serious mental illness.**

The Transition Academy does not have the clinical expertise to support treatment for addiction or a serious mental illness. Individuals experiencing addiction or mental illness should have an established and supported treatment plan prior to applying to the Transition Academy.
- 5) Ability to participate and learn in a small-group setting.**

Participants receive one-on-one teaching sessions weekly. If a participant requires significant one-on-one support in various settings and situations, other clinical services would be recommended prior to applying to the Transition Academy.
- 6) Ability to communicate wants, needs and discomfort/illness.**

Ways to communicate can vary, but the ability to state wants, needs and discomfort/illness is required for participation.

7) No recent history (within the past 12 months) of severe aggression toward self, others or property, including self-injurious behaviors.

A history of truancy, arrest or probation will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis when evaluating acceptance into the program. Staff are not able to support the needs of individuals with severe, challenging behaviors. We take the safety of all participants very seriously. If a history of these behaviors is not disclosed at the time of application and is later identified, or if such behaviors develop after acceptance into the program, it may be grounds for discharge from the program.

8) Skills to safely function in their apartment and in the community without direct supervision during non-structured times.

- The Transition Academy does not provide 24-hour supervision.
- Participants spend time in the privacy of their own homes and must possess basic emergency/danger recognition skills.

9) No interfering behaviors requiring intensive, one-on-one intervention.

The Transition Academy is not designed to provide intensive one-on-one support.

10) Expressed desire and willingness to participate in instruction, employment and clinical programs, and to include parents/guardians in communication regarding progress.

- The Transition Academy is a rigorous program requiring a commitment and the ability to participate in daily educational, employment and clinical programs and activities.
- Parents/guardians must express a commitment to support participation in this program while supporting a shift in responsibility to the participant.