

Talisman Academy

(Emotional Growth Boarding School)

CONTACT

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PROGRAM OUTLINE

Gender: Coeducational
 Ages: 12 to 24
 Grades: 7 to 12, + transition
 Enrollment: 55
 Duration: 1 to 4 years
 Founded: 2007



NATSAP

Member Since: 2011



Airport: Asheville, NC

Talisman Academy is a boarding school for adolescents and young adults in grades 7-12 with Asperger's Syndrome, Nonverbal Learning Disorder, and similar spectrum disorders.

Our mission is to offer our students a compassionate and structured environment that allows them to cultivate the foundations for lifelong personal development, academic performance, community membership, and environmental stewardship. We focus on improving social awareness and interaction, independence, and academic self-motivation. On and off campus, students practice independent living skills and group dynamics, and engage in focused social skills groups.

Talisman's academic program utilizes small classes, personalized learning plans, multi-sensory teaching methods and appropriate accommodations allow students to reach their academic potential. Talisman is SACS accredited and follows the NC Standard Course of Study.

Social skills development is integrated into the program on a daily basis. In addition to the structured curriculum of the social skills class during the school day, group living offers many teachable moments on cooperative living, age-appropriate communication, and problem-solving. Program staff lead insight-oriented group discussions to work through daily issues. Students also learn budgeting, scheduling, nutrition, healthy living and personal responsibility.

The residential program includes week-long learning trips, community service projects, physical education, clubs, and participation in many community events. Students live in dorm rooms of 2-6 per room, with boys and girls on separate floors. A comprehensive parent education program and transition planning are offered through our Family Services department. Individual, occupational, physical, and speech therapy are available by contract providers.

Talisman Transitions is a program within the academy that provides comprehensive preparation for college/vocational programs and independent living for young adults between the ages of 18-24. Transitions students live and study in a beautiful Victorian mansion just outside of downtown Hendersonville, NC. Transitions students may attend Blue Ridge Community College as part of their career-preparation curriculum.

Individual Psychotherapy Available: Yes

Accreditation, Licensure: SACS/AdvancEd, CARF

Professional Affiliations: NATSAP-Full Member; National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camping, Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, and Autism Society of NC