

A photograph showing a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, gently touching the face of a brown horse. The horse has a white blaze on its forehead. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a stable or outdoor setting with some foliage.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

CLINICAL PROFILE

Some form of neurodevelopmental disorder

- Autism or closely related symptom cluster
- Learning disorders or Nonverbal Learning Disorder
- Other Neurodevelopmental Disorder Unspecified
- Average to high IQs (80+) but may have lower Processing Speeds or Working Memory
- ADHD

Many students have secondary mood or dysregulation issues

- Generalized Anxiety or Social Anxiety
- Persistent Depressive Disorder
- Executive Functioning Deficits including impulse control issues
- Easily overwhelmed or dysregulated, trouble with self-regulation

Usually has a social/emotional deficit involved

- Has trouble making and keeping friends, not knowing how they fit in
- Difficulty taking the perspective of others
- May be diagnosed with PTSD or Reactive Attachment Disorder
- May have some form of gender dysphoria or sexual questioning

History of maladaptive coping strategies (intense fight/flight/freeze responses)

- Self-harm
- Elopement
- Addictions including sexual and technological
- Anger
- Defiance
- History of eating disorder or disordered eating
- Suicidal intent, threats, or attempts
- Lacks ability to appropriately self-advocate

Conditions Restricting Admission

- Younger than 7th grade or older than 17.5 years of age.
- Pervasive patterns of aggression or violence toward others.
- Sexually aggressive, predatory, and/or grooming behaviors
- Excessive history of elopement
- Requires living in home with the gender opposite of birth sex
- Medical problems or eating disorders requiring full-time medical supervision
- Physical handicap restricting normal physical activity for programmatic purposes
- ASD Level 2
- Acute Psychotic Disorders

Send inquiries and information to SparkAdmissions@heritagertc.org