

Why is the length of stay at ECA 12—18 months?

Our length of stay is not an arbitrary number in which students are “serving time.” Our goal is not superficial behavior modification. Rather, our approach is based on a dynamic five-stage process called the **lifeleaf**[™] system. It provides a structure for goals, benchmarks, and maturity indicators leading to a transformation of heart.

How do I know if the school is right for my teen?

Our school is structured with the Christian family in mind. The profile ECA student has come from a successful Christian home, but may have recently struggled in her spiritual relationship with God. Most ECA students have a history of demonstrating great potential. Most have been involved in church, youth group, and may have even gone on mission's trips or other outreaches. Their history of success is usually overshadowed by current choices and behavior problems. Parents enroll their daughter to take action *before* the problems become more serious. Some problems are given DSM-IV diagnoses such as Major Depression, ADD, ADHD, Bi-Polar disorder, and other mood or learning disorders. The problems can take on different forms, but a key factor is that the outward behaviors are symptoms of an internal struggle. We encourage you to submit an application for admission for a free evaluation of your particular circumstances.

How often can parents visit, call, or write?

Even though students from across the nation attend ECA, our school has a high level of parent involvement. Parents have a regular weekly phone calls with their daughter. Letters are welcomed without limitation. Students have the opportunity to e-mail their parents weekly through the ECA private intranet. Parents may visit or plan home trips as often as they choose, but the **lifeleaf**[™] structure provides therapeutic guidance for visits.

Can my teen graduate high school at ECA?

Yes, we offer three diploma options. Students may work toward a vocational, standard, or college-prep high school diploma. Our school is approved by the Louisiana Department of Education division of non-public schools. Academic credits earned are also accredited by SACS and CITA through a third party. We incorporate career coaching and higher education planning into academic goals.

I think my teen may be misdiagnosed and on the wrong medications. Can ECA help?

Evangel House Academy is accustomed to seeing teens with complicated clinical histories. It is not uncommon for students to have been misdiagnosed in the past. Our therapeutic process includes a psychosocial evaluation, psychological testing, and (when needed) a psychiatric assessment. Students with psychiatric medication needs have the benefit of long-term medication evaluation within a professional environment.

Does my teen have to be voluntary to attend ECA?

Not in all cases. Most students begin in a "semi-voluntary" mindset. ECA is a highly structured program, but it is not a lock-down facility. In some cases, we coordinate with a short-term wilderness program or other intervention to help students realize their need to get help. Our staff can help you determine if our level of care is appropriate for your situation when you submit your application for admission.

Are there grants available for those who cannot afford the tuition?

ECA qualifies for financial aid in the form of long-term, low-interest student loans. There are no grants or scholarships available. We offer *The Program Guidebook for Searching Parents*™ to assist families who cannot afford the tuition in finding alternative options.

Does medical insurance help with any of the costs associated with the school?

Medical insurance plans can help cover the costs of outpatient medical, prescription, and dental needs that occur while your student attends ECA. Our psychiatrist is an outpatient provider, so his services are typically covered by your medical insurance. ECA tuition does not qualify for health insurance reimbursement.