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MEXICO PEOPLE

### [Mexican graduates in psychology at age 16](#)

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Mexico City, Aug 19 (EFE).- Mexican teenager and child prodigy Andrew Almazan Anaya has graduated in Mexico City in psychology at 16, an age when students here are usually still in high school.

Almazan Anaya, who is in the final semesters of his second major, medicine, feels "satisfied" to have achieved one of his goals in life.

"I feel very good about finishing my psychology course, it's very satisfying, and naturally! I consider it a great accomplishment because now I have achieved one of the goals I set for myself when I was little," he told Efe after receiving his diploma.

Accompanied by his parents and sisters, Andrew, who started college at age 12, said he was "very moved, because it's not every day we graduate," and added that with this step he concludes the first stage of his chosen profession.

He said he will continue with his medical studies, will take a postgraduate course in neuropsychology and will persist with his research on highly gifted children and diabetes.

Almazan, whose accelerated professional learning has amazed the country, graduated this Thursday from Valle de Mexico University surrounded by classmates, family and similarly gifted friends.

"As parents we feel very proud about his academic achievements, but proud of him also as a human being because he is a model of a young man," his father Asdrubal Almazan told Efe with great emotion, adding that one of his two daughters is about to enter university.

The father of the young psychologist said that love, communication and togetherness have helped the kids develop in the best possible way.

"We're a very close family, we converse a lot and do a lot of sharing, but I do admit that at first Andrew was hard work because we didn't know how to deal with him or if overstimulation would be bad for him," he said.

Already at his young age the graduate has received such honors as the 2009 Youth Prize in the category of "academic, scientific and professional activities" awarded by the Mexico City municipal government, which he won over hundreds of young competitors between the ages of 14 and 29.

He currently directs the Attention to Talent Center, which he founded together with his parents, and where he works with exceptionally gifted or "severely" gifted children.

The center has seen 250 children, many of whom suffered from being misunderstood and segregated at school

According to official data, some 3 percent of the juvenile population is exceptionally gifted, which would mean about 1 million Mexican children - but 94 percent of them are never diagnosed and lose their precocious talent, the center's Web site says.