

## Our Mission

To encourage and foster self-confidence, self-advocacy, and growing independence; To understand students' strengths and weaknesses and help them learn and apply skills and strategies to successfully navigate the communication, planning, and problem solving demands of college life.

## Our Approach

Structured supports, scheduled guidance, skill-teaching, individualized coaching, peer and graduate mentors, fostered independence and accountability.

## Contact Us

Phone: 217-581-6361

Email: [step@eiu.edu](mailto:step@eiu.edu)

Director: Jill Fahy  
[jkfahy@eiu.edu](mailto:jkfahy@eiu.edu)

Program Specialist:  
Beth Harvey  
[bharvey@eiu.edu](mailto:bharvey@eiu.edu)

Website: [www.eiu.edu/step/](http://www.eiu.edu/step/)

Visit: 1311 Klehm Hall  
2010 7th Street  
Charleston IL 61920

# STEP at EIU

Services for College Students with Autism

**FULL PROGRAM: All students start in Full STEP and may shift to Maintenance as they develop skills and strategies necessary to maintain success with greater independence.**

**Early Move-In & Orientation:** Early move-in dates facilitate settling in, navigating campus, locating buildings and classrooms; social events and extended orientation.

**Strategic Schedules:** Color-coded schedules include the student's academic classes, STEP services, other daily obligations or routines; frequently updated to reflect level of need.

**College 101:** Weekly small group for new students supporting acclimation to college routines and tasks (e.g., email etiquette, reading a syllabus, selecting study skills, preparing for advisement meetings or office hours, locating services on campus, etc.).

**Individual Weekly Meetings:** One-on-one coaching to anticipate, prioritize, organize, and monitor; academic and problem-solving guidance; self-appraisal and strategy use analysis.

**Structured Study Tables:** Goal-oriented, supported study times in quiet, small group environments (6 hours weekly required)

**Academic Engineering:** Weekly small group work to facilitate more reliable and independent grade monitoring, syllabus/due date checking, assignment analysis.

**Procedural EF Group:** Weekly class targeting foundational executive function skill development, particularly time estimation, strategic planning, task initiation, and task monitoring.

**EF Coaching Group:** Weekly class facilitating increasingly independent use of executive function skills and strategies; emphasis on analysis, reflection, anticipation, and decision-making.

**Social Navigation Group:** Weekly small group practice initiating and adapting social interactions; application of perspective-taking and flexible social thinking for college environment.

**Academic Exploration:** Guided discussions to assist students determining majors or minors; support preparing for academic advising meetings and course selection

**Work-Life Transition Group:** Support developing resumes, identifying internship possibilities, preparing for meetings with career services professionals, developing communication for interviews

**Monthly Social Events:** Structured, monthly gatherings to foster social interaction with peers and mentors.

**Peer Mentors:** Trained undergraduate students paired with your student for the academic year; weekly informal interactions provide support, encouragement, guidance.

**Parent Communication:** Written reports twice per semester convey student's strengths, areas of need, development of self-regulation, academic progress; individualized goals and recommendations for the next academic term are identified. Phone calls and/or emails are also utilized to maintain communication.

**Education & Advocacy:** Support addressing unexpected or high-stress situations; outreach and collaboration with offices across campus to facilitate success as students work to meet university requirements.

**Clinical Analysis & Referrals:** Record review and assessment of executive functions, social communication, and/or language/reasoning skills; referral for therapy as appropriate at the EIU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

**FULL PROGRAM Fees: \$3,000 per semester**

