

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

Director: Jill Fahy
jkfahy@eiu.edu

Program Specialist:
Beth Harvey
bharvey@eiu.edu

Website: www.eiu.edu/step/

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

STEP at EIU

Supports & Services

for College Students with Autism

Students' Transitional Education Program



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

MAINTENANCE PROGRAM: For students who are ready to undertake more self-direction while still successfully meeting academic requirements and and collegiate life goals. Students in Maintenance demonstrate relatively good self-monitoring, have reliable insight into their strengths and challenges, and are making more frequent and increasingly independent use of skills and strategies. Students in Maintenance continue to require and benefit from structured supports as they practice self-advocacy and real-time decision making.

Early Move-In & Orientation: Early move-in dates facilitate settling in, navigating campus, locating buildings and classrooms; social events (optional for returning students)

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.

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 *(2 hours weekly strongly suggested for students in Maintenance).

EF Coaching Group*: Weekly class facilitating increasingly independent use of executive function strategies; emphasis on analysis, reflection, anticipation, and decision-making *(students in Maintenance may not need this group, or may phase out of it as skills evolve).

Social Navigation Group*: Weekly small group practice initiating and adapting social interactions; application of perspective-taking and flexible social thinking for college environment. *(students in Maintenance may not need this group or may phase out of it as skills evolve).

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 * (students in Maintenance are strongly encouraged to attend all social events, but they may also have developed their own social connections and obligations).

Parent Communication: Written reports each 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 speech-language therapy as appropriate in conjunction with the EIU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

MAINTENANCE PROGRAM Fees: \$1,500 per semester

