

Our Mission

To encourage and foster self-confidence, self-advocacy, and growing independence in college students with autism; 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.

STEP PROGRAM AT THE AUTISM CENTER

Eastern Illinois University
Klehm Hall
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Student Programs, Room 1325
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STEP—MAINTENANCE Program

Supports & Services for College Students with Autism

STEP—MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:

SERVICES and SUPPORTS:

Early Move-in Dates (optional for returning EIU STEP students)

Check-in during Move-in Weekend for returning EIU STEP Students

Jumpstart Meeting First Week of Classes for returning EIU STEP Students

Strategic Schedule Support—assistance creating strategic planners for the semester

Weekly Support Meetings—One-on-one academic and problem-solving guidance to track projects, performance, goal-setting, goal-execution, and self-awareness skills (weekly)

Study Tables—Goal-oriented, mentored study-table times (2 hours strongly encouraged; access to more)

Social Events—Structured, monthly gatherings to foster social interaction (optional but encouraged)

Peer Program—Invitation for returning STEP students to serve as a peer mentor with a new STEP student

Parent Report—End of the semester summary and update re: the student's developing independence, task/time management, task initiation/prioritization, novel problem solving, situational/social awareness, social navigation, self-appraisal, and self-advocacy skills

Academic Major Decision—Supported analysis of interests, options, aptitudes, and opportunities

Vocational and Career Exploration—Facilitated exploration of career interests, job skill development, resumes

Life Assignments—Guided development of personal independence and confidence (e.g., setting up appointments, initiating communication with offices or employers, revising resumes, joining organization or clubs,)

Hi-Stress Support—Touchstone communication to foster confidence, self-advocacy, complex problem-solving

Safety Net Monitoring—Integrated communication and monitoring of student's additional needs (e.g. referrals for counseling or evaluations of social/executive function/language)

Clinical Therapy Services – We may recommend therapy to support development of communication (e.g., language processing/language disorders), executive functions, social perspective-taking skills, etc.). Services in collaboration with, and provided by, graduate clinicians in the Department of Communication Disorders & Sciences at EIU, under supervision of licensed speech-language pathologists.

Maintenance Program Fees: \$1,500 per semester

