

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.

**STEP PROGRAM
AT THE AUTISM CENTER**

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STEP—FULL Program

Supports & Services for College Students with

FULL PROGRAM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS:

- Early Move-in Dates (optional for returning EIU STEP students)
- Move-in Orientation and Personalized Campus Tours for new students
- STEP Check-in during Move-in Weekend for returning EIU STEP Students
- STEP Jumpstart Meeting First Week of Classes for returning EIU STEP Students
- Strategic Schedule Support—assistance creating strategic planners for the semester
- STEP WEEKLY Meeting – One-on-one academic and problem-solving guidance to track projects, performance, goal-setting, goal-execution, and self-awareness skills (weekly)
- STEP Study Tables – Goal-oriented, mentored study-table times (6 hours weekly required)
- STEP Class – Weekly one-hour 'class' teaching executive functions (e.g. strategic planning, task organization and prioritization, time management and task initiation, self-monitoring, self-direction); executive function coaching services to guide development of self-appraisal and successful strategy use; social perspective taking and situational appraisal skills; use of social communication skills (required)
- STEP Social Events – Structured, monthly gatherings to foster social interaction (required)
- STEP PEER Program – Invitation for returning STEP students to serve as a peer mentor with a new STEP student
- Parent Report: Academic Status – Inquiries and summaries of professors' observations regarding the student's academic performance in classes (at Weeks 4, 8, and 12)
- Parent Report: Skill Development and Emerging Independence – Summaries and updates 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 (Weeks 4, 8, and 12)
- STEP RADAR – Integrated communication and monitoring of student's additional needs (e.g. referrals for counseling or evaluations of social/executive function/language)
- Diagnostic Evaluations – 'mini-diagnostic' evaluations of executive functions and social perspective taking skills, for new STEP students, completed in conjunction with the EIU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.
- 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.
- Full Program Fees: \$3,000 per semester

