

STEP Entrance Procedures

- During the student's junior year, local staffing teams identify students who may meet the enrollment criteria for STEP.
- During the student's senior year, a multi-disciplinary IEP staffing is conducted and a decision is made as to the appropriateness of STEP for the student.
- In compliance with IDEA Legislation, Individual Educational Plans are written for each student and annual reviews are conducted.

Please refer to the current Southeastern Community College catalog at www.scciowa.edu for a list of available educational programs.

Additional STEP information and forms can be found under the Services tab on the Great Prairie AEA website, www.gpaea.org

Students may attend either the West Burlington or Keokuk campus of Southeastern Community College.



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Secondary Transitional Education Program



STEP is a support program designed for secondary students who have been receiving special education services while in high school.

Program Description

Secondary Transitional Education Program (STEP) was established in 1983 as a joint agreement between Southeastern Community College, Great Prairie Area Education Agency and participating local school



districts. STEP was designed as a support program for secondary students who have been receiving special education services while in high school. Continued special education support and instructional services provide students an opportunity to develop career or occupationally specific skills. STEP is approved by the Iowa Department of Education.

Eligibility

STEP currently serves special education students from school districts in Des Moines, Henry, Louisa and Lee counties who have completed high school academic requirements for graduation and wish to pursue a college education. Successful students are those with acceptable high school attendance, work completion and grades, socially responsible behavior, and independent living skills. Students shall show a desire and motivation and parents shall demonstrate support and a willingness to cooperate and communicate with the STEP staff.

Referral Process

STEP is usually discussed during the student's junior year in high school as a transition option. Referrals to the program are made through the local school district and the IEP staffing team. The staffing team shall agree that the student can meet with success when enrolled in a career or vocational program with STEP support services at Southeastern Community College.

Services Provided

In compliance with IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), students will continue to have an IEP while in the program. The high school special education teacher and STEP coordinator work together to develop a new IEP with goals and accommodations for college. It's important to remember that colleges are not expected to provide modifications to course curriculum. All students are required to complete the same assignments and assessments, so prospective students must be capable of doing college level work. STEP can however arrange reasonable accommodations in addition to providing one-on-one assistance with coursework, time management, study skills training and self-advocacy skills practice. Typical accommodations include having tests and assignments read, a distraction free testing location and extended time for testing.



Funding

Students in STEP remain enrolled in their school district and the district continues to receive special education weighted funds. These state funds are redirected to cover the cost of tuition, textbooks and individualized supports. The student's diploma is held by the high school until the student completes STEP. Students enrolled in STEP are not eligible to receive federal financial aid (FAFSA). However, students may apply for and accept scholarships from private organizations.



Length of Program

Exiting a student from the program is determined by completion of the goals and objectives outlined in the IEP, or by reaching the age of 21. A student may remain in STEP for as long as they remain eligible for special education services and maintain satisfactory academic performance and regular attendance in classes and tutoring.

After STEP

As students prepare to exit STEP, they are transitioned to support services offered in the community and at the college. Students are referred to Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and to Southeastern Community College's disabilities coordinator.