

STEP

Student Transition into Educational Programs

An Academic Support Program
for College Students with
Learning Disabilities and ADHD

STEP Student Transition
into Educational Programs



VINCENNES
UNIVERSITY

In STEP at VU

Student Transition into Educational Programs

Vincennes University offers an academic support program providing comprehensive services for students with learning disabilities and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). STEP is designed to help students be more successful in their college courses.



Student strengths, rather than deficits, are the emphasis. Compensatory techniques, rather than remediation, are the thrust.

Admission to the program is based on completion of the application process, determination of student eligibility, available funding, and space remaining. Space in the program is limited. Early application is important.

Benefits Available in STEP

- LD specialists for individualized tutoring or remediation
- Professional and peer tutoring
- Specialized remedial or support classes
- Weekly academic progress monitoring
- Professional and peer mentoring
- Provides access to assistive technology software and devices
- Early class registration with STEP advisors
- Additional tutoring available

Cost

The STEP fee is \$430 per semester in addition to VU tuition. Application to VU is made separately. To apply for admission to STEP, send all information requested and the completed application. Once accepted in the program, a \$105 deposit will be required to reserve a place in the program. The \$105 deposit will be applied to the first semester fees. If the student chooses not to enter the program, the full deposit will be refunded if a written request is received within 30 days of the beginning of each semester.

Financial Aid

Students are advised to contact Vocational Rehabilitation in addition to any other financial aid resources. VU has a Financial Aid Office staffed with professionals willing to assist with any questions.

For information call toll free 1-800-742-9198

STEP Classes

SSTP 020, 021 – STEP Tutorial I & II

SSTP 111 – STEP I

SSTP 112 – STEP II

SSTP 113 – STEP III

SSTP 114 – STEP IV

SSTP 116 – Independent Academic Improvement

Faculty

Co-Director and Professor Ranell Locke joined the STEP faculty in the 2004-2005 school year after teaching Special Education for nine years. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and three Special Education Teacher Certifications from Eastern Illinois University. Her Master's Degree in Education is from Indiana Wesleyan University. She is the chair of Study Skills and teaches STEP/Study Skills classes.

Co-Director and Professor Angie Crabtree joined the STEP faculty in the 2012-2013 school year after working at Vincennes University for ten years. She holds degrees from Vincennes University, Indiana State University, and a Master of Science from the University of Evansville. She has worked with individuals with learning disabilities, support groups, and the Knox County community. She teaches STEP and Study Skills classes.

Professor Ann Herman joined the STEP faculty in 2013 after teaching Special Education for thirteen years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Evansville and a Master of Science Degree from Indiana State University, both degrees are in the field of Special Education. She teaches Study Skills and STEP classes.



Self-Awareness, Study Skills, and Social Skills: Elements for College Success

Post-secondary students with learning disabilities must have self-awareness, good study skills, and appropriate social skills to improve their academic performance and to develop strategies for independent learning. As part of Vincennes University's STEP program, students are required to enroll in STEP I-IV which focus on essential skills for students with learning disabilities success. In addition to directly teaching the requisite self-awareness, study skills, and social skills, the class serves as a support group for students

by providing opportunities for interaction and group learning.

VU's STEP program is designed to provide students with learning disabilities the opportunity to develop their own unique abilities and to achieve their highest academic potential. STEP classes serve as a cornerstone to the program. Students develop a sense of self-worth and the skills needed to function and to learn independently in college. By developing their own capabilities and emphasizing their strengths, students are more successful as they make the transition from high school into college.

Throughout the four semesters enrolled in the STEP classes, students develop academic proficiencies by engaging in more appropriate levels of self-awareness, study, and social skills. The classes are team-taught in a workshop/seminar format and meet once weekly in the afternoon or evening. The curriculum is practical and emphasizes active thinking, independent learning, student accountability, and the acquisition of specific strategies proven to improve the academic performance of college students.



STEP Classes

STEP I addresses self-advocacy, compensatory techniques, coping, adaptation, stress, socialization, and other topics relevant to the beginning college student. In addition, through in-class activities, students begin developing the organizational skills vital for academic success. STEP I students will interact with a third semester mentor.

STEP II emphasizes socialization and metacognitive skills. Through group interaction, students explore the areas of listening, conversation, asking questions, non-verbal communication, expressing feelings, respecting the feelings of others, self-control, assertiveness, criticism, and change.

Students also develop skills using intensive computer programs. Areas covered include how to read college level textbooks and to use the Master Notebook System.

STEP III gives all third-semester STEP students the opportunity to further develop their social skills and solidify their study skills by serving as mentors to first semester students. The areas of responsibility and accountability are shifted to the students as they assume more control of their academic lives. In-class activities are focused on self-exploration.

STEP IV is a more individualized class emphasizing career planning, job search, resume writing, interviewing skills, and social skills. It is taught in two components with the first one taking place in the classroom. The second component involves a required retreat on a weekend in the spring.

STEP Assistive Devices

- Dragon Naturally Speaking
- Franklin Spelling Aces
- Kurzweil 3000 System
- Texthelp
- Zoom Text
- Livescribe Smartpen

Definition of Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities are hard to understand. Some definitions are printed below.

The federal government has defined learning disabilities in Public Law 94-142 (The Education of All Handicapped Children Act) as follows:

“Specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction,

dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include children who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, mental retardation, emotional disturbance or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.”



Definition of ADHD

Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a mental health condition exhibited by difficulty maintaining attention, as well as hyperactivity and impulsive behavior. Adult ADHD symptoms can lead to a number of problems, including unstable relationships, poor work or school performance, and low self-esteem.

ADHD always starts in early childhood, but in some cases it's not diagnosed until later in life. It was once thought that ADHD was limited to childhood. But symptoms frequently persist into adulthood. For some people, adult ADHD causes significant problems that improve with treatment.

Student Requirements

- Attend all classes
- Declare General Studies as major the first semester at VU
- Enroll in four STEP classes - SSTP 111,112,113, and 114
- Enroll in Study Skills - SSKL 103
- Maintain at least a "C" average - if not, will be placed on STEP Academic Probation
- Register with the Office of Disabilities
- Maintain a college level appropriate attitude of respect, maturity, and responsible behavior
- Practice excellent self-advocacy by:
 1. Initiating contact with instructors to explain disability
 2. Requesting accommodations if and when needed

The logo for STEP (Student Transition into Educational Programs) features the letters 'S', 'T', 'E', and 'P' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letter 'E' is stylized with three horizontal bars extending to the right, creating a sense of motion or a staircase.

Student Transition into Educational Programs

Interested Students send the following

1. Vincennes University application and high school transcripts to the VU Admissions office.
2. Application to STEP (can be completed online at www.vinu.edu/step).
3. Psychological testing (preferably completed in the last three years) OR older psychological testing accompanied with Summary of Progress (SOP).
4. Vincennes University Placement Test scores (www.vinu.edu/assessment-center). For testing accommodations contact Office of Disability Services (www.vinu.edu/disability-services) .
5. Two letters of recommendation-one letter of recommendation should be from your high school LD teacher and the other from a guidance counselor, high school teacher, or coach, etc.
6. Upon receipt of all completed materials, we will review the materials to determine your status in STEP. We will notify you by mail of our determination.

STEP Does Not

- Exempt students from class - students with a learning disability attend classes with other students.
- Exempt students from class requirements - students with a learning disability must prove they have mastery on an acceptable level of required class material, even though they may demonstrate their knowledge differently.
- Provide taped books, readers, and note takers.
- Disclose program participants.

Mail STEP application and information separately

STEP College of Humanities

Vincennes University

1002 N. First Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Email application and information

step@vinu.edu

NOTE:

For application to Vincennes University, go to www.vinu.edu/apply-now, call 1-800-742-9198, or speak to a high school guidance counselor.

Mail VU applications and high school transcripts to Vincennes University Admissions Office.

Vincennes University Indiana's First College

Vincennes University, Indiana's first college, is now embarking on its third century of providing top quality education to undergraduates pursuing 2-year and 4-year academic programs of study in the state of Indiana. Vincennes University distributes more than \$1 million in scholarships and grants for students each year.

VU is situated on the banks of the Wabash River, the 160-acre VU campus includes more than 30 modern buildings, including the 1803 home of VU's founder, William Henry Harrison. VU provides students over 200 majors offering one-year certificates, two-year associate degrees, two-year transfer programs, and select baccalaureate degrees.

Vincennes is situated approximately 120 miles southwest of Indianapolis at the junction of U.S. highway 41 and 50. Vincennes is midway between the cities of Evansville and Terre Haute.



VU is accredited by the North Central Association of colleges and schools.

We encourage campus visitation on special "Pre-VU Days" but individual visits are always welcome.

STEP

Phone: 812.888.4214 Fax: 812-888-5531
step@vinu.edu

STEP

College of Humanities
Vincennes University
1002 N. First Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Admissions Office
812.888.4313
800.742.9198

