



## STEPP Program

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**The Walter & Marie Williams**

# STEPP Program

**SUPPORTING TRANSITION and EDUCATION  
through PLANNING and PARTNERSHIPS**

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# ABOUT US



## OUR MISSION

The STEPP Program's mission is to provide access to a college education for students with learning disabilities who demonstrate the potential for postsecondary success. By partnering with students, their families, and a variety of educational communities, STEPP's innovative model fosters a network of opportunities, resources, and supports designed to equip and empower students at East Carolina University® and across the nation.



## FAST FACTS

STEPP is a comprehensive support program serving college students with documented specific Learning Disabilities (LD), such as Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia.

The STEPP Program:

- offers academic, social and life-skills support to a select number of motivated and committed students who demonstrate the potential to succeed in college.
- provides intensive supports well beyond the services legally required at the university level.
- accepts 10 new students each fall semester. Both true freshman and transfer students are welcome to apply.
- does not limit a student's choice of major or charge additional fees for service.

## ADMISSION

STEPP's application process considers traditional admissions criteria and additional indicators which help us predict college success for students with LD. Students who are a good fit for the program demonstrate a readiness for college, as well as the need for and willingness to use comprehensive and specialized services for their learning disability.

## EXTENDED PROGRAM

STEPP participants take a reduced course load during their first few semesters. The program's design allows most students to complete a bachelor's degree in five years and includes optional summer support for those who desire to accelerate their timeline.

## SUPPORT NETWORK

The STEPP Program connects students with a network of professionals across ECU's campus. This support system includes advisors, mentors, tutors, counselors, professors, specialists, and other experts.

## TRANSITION

During the year between admission and entry to the university, STEPP staff partner with families and schools to help incoming students plan for the transition to college life. Prior to graduation from ECU, STEPP staff assist students in preparing to transition to a career or graduate school.

## PARALLEL CURRICULUM

In addition to their ECU coursework, participants take a series of STEPP seminar courses to help equip them with the skills necessary to succeed in college. Courses for this parallel curriculum are scheduled during key transition points during the college experience, and focus on practical strategies in areas including time management, leadership, organization, study skills, goal setting, workforce readiness, and campus resources.

## CAMPUS LIVING

Placement in a designated residence hall helps first-year students cultivate campus connections and provides opportunities to meet students outside of the STEPP Program.

