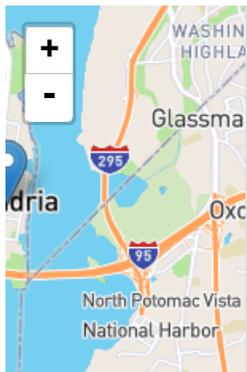


## College Steps (Virginia) <sup>[1]</sup>

### College Steps

College Steps is a non-profit organization that partners with colleges and universities to support students with social, communication, or learning challenges (including but not limited to students with significant learning disabilities, autism, developmental, or intellectual disabilities), ages 16-26, with their college pursuits. COLLEGE STEPS NOVA PROGRAM LOCATIONS: Alexandria, Annandale and Loudoun Campus' The mission of College Steps is to expand supports for young adults with the functional skills sufficient to transition to a college environment, but who remain challenged to succeed and thrive in this adult learning setting without additional supports. College Steps is committed to transition services, and specializes in preparing students for meaningful careers, higher education, and autonomy after graduation. We place strong emphasis on inclusion, self-advocacy, employment, and independent living skills and aim to provide high quality educational support for students who are interested in pursuing a college primer experience during their transition year(s) in high school. In addition to the high school transition model, College Steps also offers contracted support hours for college students enrolled at participating colleges and the option of a two-year certificate program for students (ages 18-26) interested in receiving a college experience and job training on a college campus. Our students are supported by one of our full-time program coordinators and are mentored by fully matriculated college students. The majority of the day-to-day support students receive is through their work with the peer mentors, which allows for a truly inclusive environment and is one of the features of our model we are most proud of. College Steps students typically spend 25 hours per week on campus, take 1-2 courses per semester, and would be considered tuition paying non-matriculated students. College Steps is able to partner with virtually any college or university that emphasizes inclusively and is interested in opening its doors to this unique and novel supportive learning model. Our program is offered at no cost to our collegiate partners and offers a wonderful opportunity for matriculated students to take part in a valuable mentoring experience. Finally, a small class size of up to 10 students per year allows our staff to fully meet the needs of the scholars. College Steps is currently partnered with twelve colleges and universities across New England and the Mid Atlantic and is sustainably developing at least two new partnerships per year. If you feel there is a need in your community that has yet to be filled or if you are interested in one of our existing programs, please reach out to us. Brya Emery, Director of Admissions [admissions@collegesteps.org](mailto:admissions@collegesteps.org) <sup>[2]</sup>

Alexandria, VA 20871  
United States



**Program Contact:**

Brya Emery

**This program supports only transition students from certain districts.:**

No

**Program Email:**[admissions@collegesteps.org](mailto:admissions@collegesteps.org) <sup>[2]</sup>**Email:**[admissions@collegesteps.org](mailto:admissions@collegesteps.org) <sup>[2]</sup>**Phone:**

1-888-732-1022

**Website:**<http://www.collegesteps.org> <sup>[3]</sup>

## General

**Public or private::**

Public

**Type of school::**

2-year community college or junior college

**Is this program a federally funded TPSID program?:**

No

**Students in this program::**

Have graduated or exited from high school

Are still enrolled in high school

**Number of students::**

35

## Requirements

**Accepts out-of-state students?::**

Yes

**Deadline to apply to this program::**

Rolling admissions

**Link to admissions process::**<https://www.collegesteps.org/admissions> <sup>[4]</sup>**Please indicate which disabilities students in this program have::**

- Intellectual disability
- Autism
- Executive functioning deficits

## Acceptance, Retention, and Completion Rates

**Program length::**

Varies from student to student

## Cost

**Is this program able to provide federal financial aid as a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP)?:**

No

**Students pay for the program in the following ways::**

- Private pay (student and family)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Funds
- Scholarships
- Adult intellectual/developmental disability state agency funds

- Local School District funds
- Federal Financial Aid
- Medicaid Waiver or Day Habilitation funds

Academic

**Students enrolled in this program take the following types of inclusive courses (with students who don't have disabilities):**

Typical college courses for credit

Typical college courses for audit

**Do students earn a credential of any kind when they complete this program?:**

Yes

**Credential(s) students earn upon completing the program::**

College Steps certificate of completion

Employment

**Other career development activities are::**

- Internships
- Volunteer work
- Community Service
- Work Study

Housing

**Housing is provided to students::**

No

Extracurricular

**Students participate in student organizations on campus::**

Yes

**Students have participated in these social/extracurricular activities and organizations::**

Various

**Facebook:**

[link to program Facebook page](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

**Program serves students who have left high school?:**

Yes, all of our students have left high school

**Admission criteria (select all that apply):**

Age range (enter ages below)

**Criteria for admission:**

<div class="item-list"><ul><li class="first last">Age range: 16-25</li> </ul></div>

**Is the credential IHE-approved?:**

Yes, this credential has been through a formal approval process at the IHE

**Regular H.S. diploma required?:**

No, an IEP/non-standard diploma/certificate of attendance is accepted

**Please indicate which disabilities students in this program have:**

Intellectual disability

Autism

Other disabilities

**Does this program have a working partnership with VR to provide funding, supports and/or services to students in the program?:**

Yes

**Are students in this program able to access support services through your IHE disability services office?:**

Yes

**Instructions:**

In the form below is the information that is currently listed on our website for your program. Please click on each green tab, look over all fields and change any information that needs to be updated. There is no need to save after completing each tab, but you **MUST** click Save at either the top or bottom of this form after going through and making any necessary changes. You can save at any time and you may save and leave and return later to make additional changes or add new information. Green check marks will appear in the tabs on the left when you have filled out all questions in a section. Please make every attempt to answer all questions--but if you can't, the form will still save and we will use the information you can provide to create your updated record.

**Date program information submitted:**

2021-03-25 10:27:00

## Contacts

*Institute for Community Inclusion  
UMass Boston  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
Phone: (617) 287-4300  
Email: [thinkcollege@umb.edu](mailto:thinkcollege@umb.edu)*

## Links

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Team Members](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [Connect With Us](#)
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## About

Think College is a national initiative dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving research and practice in inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability. It is based at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston.

## Social

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email Think College](#)



@ document.write(new Date().getFullYear()); Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

[ABOUT](#) | [ACCESSIBILITY](#) | [CONTACT](#)

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**Source URL:**<https://thinkcollege.net/programs/college-steps-virginia>

**Links**

[1] <https://thinkcollege.net/programs/college-steps-virginia> [2] <mailto:admissions@collegesteps.org> [3] <http://www.collegesteps.org> [4] <https://www.collegesteps.org/admissions> [5] <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeStepsProgram/>