

College Steps Massachusetts ^[1]

American International College

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. 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.

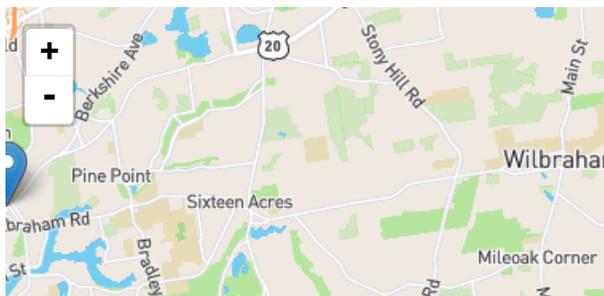
Our students are supported by one of our full-time program coordinators and are mentored by fully matriculated college students. The majority of the day-to-day support students receive is through their work with the peer mentors, which allows for a truly inclusive environment and is one of the features 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 seven 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.

This program supports only transition students from certain districts.:

No
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Springfield, MA 01109
United States





Program Contact:

Brya Emery

Program Email:

admissions@collegesteps.org [2]

Email:

admissions@collegesteps.org [2]

Phone:

1-888-732-1022

Website:

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

General

Public or private::

Private

Type of school::

4-year college or university

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::

70

Affiliates

School district or agency partner::

School districts: Chicopee, Frontier Regional, Hampden-Wilbraham, Northampton, Smith Vocational, Somers, Ware, Belchertown

Requirements

Accepts out-of-state students?::

Yes

Deadline to apply to this program::

May 1st

Link to admissions process::

<http://www.collegesteps.org/apply/> [4]

Requirements for admission to this program::

- College Steps offers college support for students living with social, communication, or learning challenges. We offer programs for three primary categories of students: 1. High school seniors, ages 16-22, interested in gaining a college primer experience during their senior year in high school. 2. Enrolled college students who are entering into, or already operating within, the college setting but for whom navigating college is challenged by social, academic, or independent living barriers. 3. Returning college students under the age of 26 years, interested in earning a two-year Certificate in higher education.

Please indicate which disabilities students in this program have::

- Intellectual disability
- Autism
- individuals living with social, communication, or learning challenges (e.g., significant learning disabilities, autism, developmental, or intellectual disabilities)

Acceptance, Retention, and Completion Rates

Percent of students applying who are admitted::

99%

Retention rate::

79%

Program length::

Varies from student to student

Cost

Cost of the program::

\$25,930 for two credited courses or \$23,800 for two audited courses and support services for the academic year.

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)
- Tuition Waivers
- Vocational Rehabilitation Funds
- Scholarships
- Adult intellectual/developmental disability state agency funds
- Local School District funds
- Grant Funding
- Medicaid Waiver or Day Habilitation funds

Academic

Students take these types of "typical" courses (with students who don't have disabilities)::

Typical college courses for credit

Typical college courses for audit

More about course access::

No two learning styles are the same. Therefore, academic support is customized to the student's preferences and needs. The College Steps team first works closely with each student and family to understand and identify areas of academic challenge and then collaboratively creates an individualized academic support program perfectly calibrated to respond.

Tangible Skills - Areas may include in-classroom support with note taking, group participation support, study skills sessions, time management guidance, test taking strategies, and homework support.

Mentor Model - Via College Steps' model of peer-based support, much of the academic enrichment College Steps provides is offered through College Steps' award-winning peer mentor system.

Campus Connection - On each of the campuses in which we partner, College Steps also works in close collaboration with Student Support Services, Disability Services, Academic Advising and Campus Tutoring to ensure optimal supports are in place and seamless communication occurs.

Time spent only with other students in this program::

Less than 25% of the time

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

Yes

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

Certificate of Achievement in Higher Education

The credential(s) is/are::

Approved by Institute of Higher Education

Employment

Percent of students in this program have paid work while attending the program::

55%

Other career development activities are::

- Internships
- Volunteer work
- Community Service

Percent of students in this program that had paid work after exiting the program::

85%

Housing

Housing is provided to students::

No

Extracurricular

Students participate in student organizations on campus::

Yes

Proportion of time spent only with other students in this program::

Less than 25%

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

For many students, the prospect of cultivating new social connections in college can feel intimidating. Yet social and extracurricular involvement in college is shown to be a key element of student overall success and happiness.

Peer Mentors - College Steps offers students the support of our peer mentor network. Peer mentors are there to lend a hand and help College Steps students feel more comfortable as they navigate the college social network. Peer mentors are carefully selected, trained, and closely supervised by College Steps' professional staff ^[5].

Social Inclusion - The peer mentor network is central to College Steps' natural support model and has proven to be a vital component in helping guide College Steps students through the nuances of social life on campus, including forging friendships and encouraging involvement in new social activities. Peer Mentors help link College Steps students to the social element of college life via introduction to new clubs, activities, social groups, extracurricular events, and weekend activities.

Social Support - College Steps also incorporates more structured social learning opportunities via an evidence-based curriculum focusing on the advancement of social cognition, social awareness, and social thinking.

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.

Contacts

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Links

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About

Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability.

Social



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

Links

- [1] <https://thinkcollege.net/programs/college-steps-massachusetts>
- [2] <mailto:admissions@collegesteps.org>
- [3] <http://www.collegesteps.org>
- [4] <http://www.collegesteps.org/apply/>
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