



August 29, 2017

WHAT IS COLLEGE STEPS?

The mission of College Steps is to provide support to students who are cognitively and academically qualified to attend college, but may lack the social and communication skills that are necessary for their higher education experience. College Steps helps students prepare for meaningful careers and autonomy after college.

PEER MENTORS

Peer mentors are NOVA students who are paid employees of College Steps. Their role is to support College Steps scholars in and out of the classroom. Faculty makes the final determination as to whether a peer mentor may join a College Steps scholar in the classroom.

WHAT PEER MENTORS DO:

- Space permitting, accompany College Steps students to class to provide appropriate supports.
- Assist the student with appropriate social engagement within the classroom and on campus.
- Facilitate communication between College Steps students, faculty, and their peers.
- Model appropriate classroom etiquette.
- Support student in advocating for accommodations as indicated on their Memorandum of Accommodations (MOA).
- Assist with executive functioning skills: organization, time management, study and test taking skills, and use of assistive technology.
- Help student identify and take advantage of campus resources.
- Help student employ self-advocacy skills that will advance their participation in class and overall performance.

WHAT PEER MENTORS DO NOT DO:

- Serve as a note taker.
- Assist the student with taking exams.
- Complete assignments on behalf of the student.
- Communicate with faculty, staff or students on behalf of the student.
- Communicate with faculty, staff or students about the student without the student present.

STATEMENT OF RELEASE OF INFORMATION

All students enrolled in College Steps sign a release of information, allowing College Steps administrators and NOVA faculty and staff to share relevant academic data in support of the student. A copy of the signed release form is available from the Program Coordinator upon request.

COLLEGE STEPS PROGRAM COORDINATORS

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