Project STEPP
Transition Curriculum
Background

- Comprehensive program for students with learning disabilities
- Wrap-around support with strong emphasis on preparing for the transition to college
- Lessons learned from students’ experiences with transition have allowed us to develop and refine our incoming transition support component
Project STEPP’s Transition Support for Incoming Students

- Full year of guided preparation to bridge the gap between high school and college
- Individual consultation with students, families, and schools
- Assistive technology loans & support
- Monthly newsletters & web resource
- Pre-college “Boot Camp”
History of Curriculum Project

• Idea for a transition curriculum grew out of Project STEPP’s transition supports

• Began as a small-scale, “spare time” project within our office

• Funding from the Oak Foundation enabled the development of the curriculum materials in their present form
# Development of the Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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</table>
| Prior to Summer 2012 | • Three sample modules developed  
• Sample modules vetted with small group of high school teachers |
| Summer 2012 | • Two faculty members hired to develop structure, initial content, and outlines for all modules  
• Adjustments made based on early feedback about sample modules  
• Full-day focus group provided extensive feedback from high school and college educators and parents |
| Fall 2012 | • Former teacher hired to integrate focus group’s feedback, ensure uniformity across modules, and build additional content  
• Editor hired to provide objective read and make formatting and writing changes |
| Spring 2013 | • Program staff made final pass through materials before publication  
• High school teacher used modules and provided feedback  
• Session attendees reviewed three modules and provided feedback at NCDCDT conference |
| Summer 2013 Onward | • Complete curriculum posted online in May 2013  
• Session attendees reviewed selected materials and provided feedback at College STAR Conference  
• Curriculum to be presented & distributed at upcoming conferences/events; feedback sought for ongoing revisions |
Sources of Curriculum Content

- Project STEPP transition newsletters (both student & parent versions)
- Transition-oriented materials and research literature
- Web resources
- Input from current college students
- Input from educators and parents
Curriculum Overview

• A package of resources intended for use by teachers and families supporting transition to college for students with learning differences

• Originally designed for use in Curriculum Assistance class environment to support college-bound students with learning disabilities

• Teachers are encouraged to adapt materials as needed for their setting and student population
Curriculum Features

- Fully developed lesson and activity plans designed to help students prepare for college one step at a time
- PowerPoint slides with detailed teacher lecture notes to accompany each lesson
- Student worksheets and handouts with teacher answer keys
- Guided notes for students to accompany each module
Notes on Using the Curriculum

• Modules, lessons, and activities can be used as a cohesive curriculum or piecemeal

• The order is generally not critically important, except
  – Module 1 contains a lot of foundational information necessary to get the most out of later modules
  – A few lessons and activities build on previous lessons/activities; this is noted in the plans where it occurs

• Most lessons/activities designed to take about 30 minutes
  – Many can be broken up into smaller segments if needed
  – Some require minimal in-class introduction and can be completed independently outside of class time
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  – adapt and modify the materials.

• Provided that you…
  – attribute the source of the materials (see next slide).
  – do not use the materials for commercial purposes.

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Citing Curriculum Materials

Please use the following citation when distributing Project STEPP Transition Curriculum materials:


If you modify the materials, please use the same citation and add “Adapted from:” before the citation.
Accessing Curriculum Materials

**Flash Drive**
- Materials on flash drive are current as of today
- Check the website to download updates

**Website**
- Materials on website will be updated as they are revised
- News about updates will also be posted

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-accad/stepp/curriculum.cfm
Navigating the Website

PROJECT STEPP TRANSITION CURRICULUM

These resources are intended to be used by teachers and families supporting transition to college for students with learning differences. These materials are available at no cost thanks to generous funding support from the Oak Foundation and can be downloaded from this website. We only ask that you (1) appropriately reference materials that you distribute to students and others and (2) provide feedback after using the resources. We will soon be adding a link to this site so you can send comments, additional materials, and ideas to the curriculum developers for expanding/refining the resources. We hope to continually revise these curriculum materials based on ongoing feedback.

CURRICULUM FEATURES

- Fully developed lesson and activity plans designed to help students take one STEPP at a time to get ready for college
- PowerPoint slides to accompany each lesson with detailed teacher notes included
- Student activity handouts with teacher answer keys
- Student guided notes for each module

USER NOTES

- Lessons and activities are designed to take approximately 30...
Navigating the Website

- Materials available both as a single complete PDF of each module and individually
- Individual items are .PPT or .RTF files and can be edited
- Click the links within the parentheses to download files

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**CURRICULUM MATERIALS**

**Module 1: High School vs. College**

(PDF of Complete Module 1)

- **Module 1 Overview**
  (M1 Overview)
- **M1 Lesson 1 - High School vs. College Part I: General Overview**
  (Plan) (PowerPoint) (Worksheet)
- **M1 Activity 1 - Developing a College Transition Notebook**
  (Plan) (PowerPoint)
- **M1 Lesson 2 - High School vs. College Part II: Classes & Instructors**
  (Plan) (PowerPoint) (Worksheet)
- **M1 Activity 2 - Note-Taking**
  (Plan)
- **M1 Lesson 3 - High School vs. College Part III: Studying**
  (Plan) (PowerPoint) (Tree Map Worksheet) (Sample Schedule Handout) (Blank Schedule Worksheet)
- **M1 Lesson 4 - High School vs. College Part IV: Grades & Testing**
  (Plan) (PowerPoint) (Worksheet)
- **M1 Activity 3**
  (coming soon)
- **M1 Guided Notes for Students**
  (Notes)
Transition Curriculum Modules

1. High School v. College Comparisons
2. Planning for Academic Success
3. Technology
4. College Resources
5. Developing & Maintaining Healthy Routines
6. Finances
7. Communication
8. Campus Living
High School v. College

- Comparison and contrast of differences between high school and college, including:
  - General differences
  - Classes & Instructors
  - Studying
  - Grades & Testing

- General academic information and vocabulary

- Note-taking skills

- Developing a college transition notebook
Planning for Academic Success

- Goal-setting for college
- A “big picture” perspective of college life
- Finding and maintaining an appropriate balance between academics and social life
- Developing a balanced daily schedule by using long- and short-term planning tools
- Academic integrity
- Calculating grades in college courses
- Choosing a major
Technology

• Introduction to technology use in college

• Technology tools for postsecondary education, including assistive and instructional technologies

• Online learning

• Basic computer skills in keyboarding and formatting

• Responsible use of technology and social media; online safety
College Resources

- Campus resources, support services, and sub-communities
- Creating a campus resources directory
- Disability support services in college
- Discussing and disclosing disabilities
Developing & Maintaining Healthy Routines

- Campus safety
- Personal wellness
- Stress management
- Basic cooking
- Developing independence in following through on commitments
# Finances

- Key financial topics for college students
- College costs
- Financial aid and the FAFSA process
- Developing a budget for college living
- Using credit responsibly
- Money management tips from college students

![5 Steps to Creating Your Own Budget](image)

## Budget Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category/Item</th>
<th>Fixed Expenses</th>
<th>Flexible Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dollar Amount</td>
<td>Time Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Day, Week, Month, Semester, or Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Wellness, &amp; Personal Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Transportation</td>
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</tbody>
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Communication

- Informal and formal communication styles
- Sending appropriate emails in college
- Receiving and learning from constructive criticism
- Dressing for success in the college setting
- Writing thank-you notes
- Behavioral expectations in college classrooms
Campus Living

- Introduction to living on campus
- Types of housing options
- Living with a roommate
- Essential “packing list” items for college students
- Diversity on college campuses
- Conflict management
Engage with Curriculum Materials

- Hard copies of selected materials will be distributed
- Engage with materials of your choice in small groups
- Rotate through multiple modules or engage with one in more depth
- Potential discussion prompts within your groups
  - Within this module’s topic, what challenges do your students face in transitioning to postsecondary education?
  - What resources within the curriculum may help address those challenges?
  - What else should the curriculum include to address those challenges?
  - How can Project STEPP make this curriculum a more useful tool for you and your students?
Questions & Feedback

• Please feel free to ask questions about the curriculum materials

• Your feedback is critical to this project! We continue to refine and revise the curriculum based on feedback.

• Please use the handouts provided to share any thoughts you have at first glance as you engage with the curriculum materials

• We are especially interested in your comments about the curriculum’s content, formatting, and features.
Ongoing Feedback

• If you use the curriculum with your students...

• After completing each module, please consider sharing
  – edits you made or materials you added
  – challenges you or your students experienced while using the materials
  – questions you or your students still have about transitioning to college

• How to share feedback
  – Via email to Sarah Williams or Emily Johnson
  – Through the feedback form on the website
  – In hard copy by mailing it to Project STEPP (address on website)
Thank You!

Please feel free to contact Project STEPP anytime with questions about the curriculum.

Emily Johnson
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252-737-2275
Project STEPP Transition Curriculum: At-a-Glance Feedback

Please share your feedback on the curriculum materials you have engaged with today. Please feel free to use some of the following questions as a guide or to share any other comments or suggestions you have. Thank you very much for helping us to refine this resource!

**Content**
Which topic(s) do you think will be most helpful to you and your students?

What topic(s) or information would you like to see added?

**Format**
What do you like about the curriculum’s format?

What would you change about the curriculum’s format?

**Features**
What features and/or lesson-support resources would you likely use most or find most helpful?

What features and/or lesson-support resources would you like to see added?

**Other/General**
What questions do you still have about the curriculum?

How can Project STEPP make this curriculum a more useful tool for you and your students?

Other Comments and Suggestions