What is STEP?

The Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) is a unique opportunity for second-year students to explore their academic, personal and professional goals under the guidance of a Faculty Mentor. Through engagement in small-group cohort meetings and other specialized programming, students will develop skills in financial literacy, career exploration and wellness. Over the lifespan of the program, STEP has enhanced student retention and has propelled students’ development as individuals, scholars and aspiring professionals.

Six Areas of Education-Enriching Signature Projects

By fulfilling the program requirements, students are eligible to receive a fellowship of up to $2,000 to use towards a STEP Signature Project they might otherwise not be able to do. The project areas are:

- Creative and Artistic Endeavor
- Internship
- Leadership
- Service-Learning
- Education Abroad
- Undergraduate Research

“STEP connected me to a wonderful faculty member, new friendships, and parts of the world I never thought I’d get to explore.”

- STEP Student

Data for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Faculty Mentor Count:
185 (Columbus) +
8 (Regionals) = 193

STEP Student Count:
2,738 (Columbus) +
107 (Regionals) = 2,845

97.6% of STEP alumni would recommend STEP to a current Ohio State student.
(2023 Alumni Assessment survey)

99% of STEP students return for their third-year at Ohio State, compared to 94.3% of students not in STEP.
(2022–2023 cohort)