

## **The Sterling Teacher Education Program (STEP)**

The Sterling Teacher Education Program (STEP) offers a professional studies curriculum for students seeking education licensure to teach K-6, 6-12, and PreK-12 within major subject areas. Endorsements in High-Incidence Special Education for K-6, 6-12, and PreK-12 levels are also offered. All Students seeking teaching licensure must first declare their intentions by completing the **Declaration of Candidacy** packet. The **Declaration of Candidacy** submission date determines program requirements for the teacher candidate.

### **Acceptance to STEP**

Candidates must complete the following requirements to be accepted to STEP.

- 1. Declare Candidacy**  
Complete the packet – available from STEP’s Administrative Assistant
- 2. Demonstrate Pre-Professional Skills**  
Option 1: ACT Test (minimum scores: Reading 22, English 21, Math 20)  
Option 2: ACT Composite of 22 or higher  
Option 3: SAT Composite of 1120 or higher  
Option 4: Post baccalaureate GPA of 3.00 or higher
- 3. Complete Level I Professional Coursework with a C or higher**
- 4. Maintain a GPA of 2.8 or higher in 24 hours of college credit**
- 5. Present portfolio to Teacher Education Advisory Committee (TEAC)**

### **STEP Program Progression and Retention Policy**

To remain in the Sterling Teacher Education Program (STEP) as an education candidate, a candidate must achieve the following standards:

1. Receive a minimum grade of C in all professional education courses.
2. Maintain a 2.80 minimum overall GPA.
3. Maintain a 3.00 minimum GPA in both major and professional coursework.
4. Show progress through fieldwork and learning over time.
5. Perform all duties assigned to the best of one’s ability.
6. Show a professional attitude and character in all areas of education, both academic and clinical.
7. Display appropriate IDEAL Attributes as evaluated by both professors and public school teachers.

Should a candidate, in the opinion of Teacher Education Committee (TEC), fail to achieve these standards, an official letter from STEP will be sent, indicating dismissal from the program. Dismissal from the program means a candidate will not:

1. enroll in further education classes,
2. participate in future field work or clinical practices,
3. be a program completer eligible for licensure.

Should the candidate wish to appeal a dismissal decision, he or she may follow the stated appeal process.

Any questions concerning the program should be directed to:

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