

STEPS Forward

BC INITIATIVE FOR INCLUSIVE
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Guide for New Students



For more information visit: www.steps-forward.org or email info@steps-forward.org

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WHAT IS STEPS FORWARD ?

STEPS Forward is a non-profit organization that has staff to support you to be a successful student at your local campus and in co-op employment. Staff support you to meet people, take courses, do assignments and to become involved in campus activities that you are interested in. This part of the program is called STEPS Campus. Your student classification would be as an auditing student who participates in their course work. As a participatory auditing student you would complete coursework, do assignments, complete a concentration of studies in a specific field over 4-5 years, and receive a certificate of completion; the same way credit students do when they study towards a degree.

As a student, you will go to university or college from September until April. In addition, from May to August staff are there to support you to find a summer job and to become successful at that job. This part of the program is called STEPS Co-op.

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

As a college or university student,
STEPS Forward staff will support you to:



- Pick the courses you want to study.
- Meet new people, and make new friends. Making friends takes time so be prepared to be patient and wait for it to happen as you become more involved on campus.
- Use your student card so you can sign up to do interesting things on campus like sports, art, clubs, fitness activities, dance or hobbies.
- Explore what kind of career you want by working at a summer jobs that you will be paid for.

There are many different types of students at university or college. The type, or category, of student you will be is an **auditing** student. Students choose to be auditing students for many different reasons. Students supported by STEPS Forward do more than just audit courses, they participate in them.

To be a participatory auditing student means that you will go to classes, do homework, and complete assignments and exams. The class work will be modified to your level of comfort and understanding. You will not have your work or exams marked, or graded, by the professor or TA but they will let you know how you are doing.

- TA stands for teaching assistant. They teach the smaller sized classes. The professor decides what will be taught and teaches the larger lectures.

When we talk about doing course modifications or exam modifications what we will be doing is taking this material and making it so that it is easy for you to understand. If you find the material too hard or confusing then talk to us about how we can change it to make it easier for you to understand.

WILL I BE ON MY OWN?



Steps Forward staff are on campus to support you:

- ☑ Learn what about your campus and what courses are offered so you can choose the ones you are interested in and want to take.
- ☑ Support you to understand the class work, assignments and exams
- ☑ Find things to do on campus that you are interested in trying (ie. Sports, clubs, hanging out with other students).
- ☑ Meet other students on campus.

It is the job of staff to support you to learn how to make **your own** decisions. As a student, you will have to make decisions about classes, activities, and other things, like who you want to hang out with and when, and how you will spend your free time on campus. Staff will do their best to make sure you have all the information you need to make the choice you feel is best for you.

It is the job of staff to support you to meet people, to make friends, and to work with you to find activities you are interested in trying.

Sometimes staff will walk with you to classes until you feel comfortable finding the classroom on your own. At other times, a staff member will show you how to get to an event on campus

Staff will not stay with you during class, or other campus activities.

Steps Forward staff want to make sure that your experience at university or college is a good one. It will not always be easy. Sometimes you might feel too busy, nervous, stressed out, tired, or confused. These are some of the feelings **all** students have at one time or another. Staff want to make sure that they support you when things are good, and when things are not so easy. They will support you to learn new things in your classes, have new and interesting experiences, meet new people, and to learn your job when you become employed.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

- To go to class and tutorials or labs

- Be willing to do things on campus like sports, fitness activities, or join clubs.

- Meet with staff regularly and have discussions with staff about how things are going

- Work with staff on homework and assignments

1ST YEAR STUDENTS

Most first year students start by taking two classes. Staff will support you learn about what courses are offered and support you to choose the classes you would like to take.

After your first year, you may want to take more classes or you may decide that two is enough.

As a first year student you will also be encouraged to choose one or two activities you would like to try. Some students choose to try yoga, workout in the fitness centre, play drop-in basketball, or join clubs like the Dance club, or Film Society. Staff will support you to find something you are interested in and then support your participation in it.

If you sign up for a class or an activity and you decide you do not enjoy it, staff members will support you to either find out why the class or activity is not working out for you or make changes that work better or will support you to find different classes or activities that you will like better.

SAMPLE OF STUDENT SCHEDULE

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:00 AM					
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM	HISTORY 211		HISTORY 211		HISTORY 211
9:30 AM		Meet with staff		Meet with staff	
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM	Meet with staff		Meet with staff		Meet with staff
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM		English 301		English 301	
12:30 PM	Library		Dance Club		
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM		Swimming		Swimming	
2:00 PM	Radio Station				
2:30 PM					
3:00 PM			Toastmasters		
3:30 PM					
4:00 PM					
4:30 PM					Film Club

STEPS CO-OP EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

During the summer you will have the chance to find paid work.

Some types of jobs you might be working in are theatre, accounting firms, food co-ops, sports equipment stores, museums, etc.

In the spring, staff will talk to you about what sorts of work you would like to do and where you might like to work. Together you will start applying for jobs and going for job interviews.

Staff will also support you to learn how to do the job once it starts. When you feel comfortable and confident at work, and you are able to do the job on your own, staff will no longer meet you at your workplace and you will work on your own.