STEP at The Ohio State University

Program Overview
Ohio State’s Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) was developed as a continuation of the university’s effort to redefine the student experience. STEP is designed to focus on student success and development and will allow students the opportunity to engage in activities that cater to their individual interests and needs. Through interaction with faculty, students will be able to develop tools for life and build essential network connections. By fulfilling the program requirements, students will be eligible to receive a fellowship of up to $2,000 to use towards one of 6 experiences that will enhance their academic program. The experiences include: undergraduate research; study abroad; service-learning/community service; internship; creative and artistic endeavors; or leadership development. In 2013-2014, 1,000 second-year students were a part of STEP during a pilot year. In 2014-2015, approximately 1,200 second-year students are a part of STEP.

Faculty Engagement and STEP Faculty Member Expectations
Faculty engagement is a centerpiece of the Second-year Transformational Experience Program. Research shows that interaction with faculty, both formal and informal, is a predictor of student success, thus STEP has made it a priority to create an environment at Ohio State in which faculty and students develop meaningful academic and intellectual engagement. STEP matches students with select faculty members. Faculty members are asked to:

♦ Attend 2 day-long STEP Faculty Retreats in May and in August before classes begin
♦ Guide 20 second-year students through an exploration of personal development and education-enhancing experiences through weekly or bi-weekly small group meetings during Fall Semester
♦ During Spring Semester assist these students in the development of projects focused on one of the 6 experiences mentioned above
♦ Through thoughtful conversations and programming within cohort meetings, increase students’ awareness of their own identity, evidence and reflection-based decision making, and global citizenship in order to assist them in choosing a life path
♦ Interact with students one-on-one and provide advice and mentoring that will assist students in their transition from OSU student to globally-minded professional

STEP Student Expectations
♦ Students must attend and actively participate in weekly, scheduled meetings with their STEP Faculty Member throughout the academic year
♦ By the 1st of April, attend and submit a reflection on at least three co-curricular programs found at http://step.osu.edu/programs/calendar/
♦ By the 1st of April, participate in a two-part required financial literacy program through the Student Wellness Center
♦ Develop a written proposal and budget for how they will use their fellowship to support their participation in study abroad, research, internships, creative/artistic endeavors, service-learning and/or leadership to be approved by their STEP Faculty Member
♦ In addition to completing these requirements, in order to be eligible for the fellowship of up to $2000, students must also be in good standing with the university and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA
Practicum Opportunities with STEP
STEP welcomes practicum students from the Higher Education & Student Affairs program. Opportunities include, but are not limited to:
♦ Assistance with program management
♦ Planning and implementing events
♦ Tracking student project progress and reading STEP reflections
♦ Assessment
♦ Exposure to faculty
♦ Assistance with training faculty
♦ Experiencing a campus-wide project that is a true collaboration of student affairs and academic affairs

Contact
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