



Eligibility Requirements

Primary Disability

Students must have an Intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) that significantly interferes with academic performance, social development, independent living skills and/or adaptive living skills.

Link to [Federal Definition of Intellectual Disability](#)

Link to [Federal Definition of Developmental Disability](#)

Age

Students must be between 18 and 26 years old when applying for ASTEP.

IDEA Eligible

Students must be currently or formerly eligible for special education under [IDEA](#). Students may have an unsigned diploma (social graduate) or have a signed diploma (high school graduate) to attend ASTEP.

If a student attends ASTEP and is still enrolled in high school or dually enrolled, ASTEP will coordinate with the student's IEP team to develop and implement the student's person-centered plan.

ACT or SAT Testing Recommended

Taking the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#) test is recommended but not required. No minimum score is required. Students interested in taking college courses for credit will need to have completed the ACT or SAT test regardless of score, prior to enrollment in ASTEP.

Contact your high school in the fall of the student's junior year, if possible, to discuss taking the ACT or SAT test and consider possible [testing accommodations](#) that may be available.

Adaptive Skills

Students must be able to do the following activities independently or with minimal support from an outside agency:

- Manage health-related issues
- Take required medications
- Manage specialized dietary or allergy needs
- Manage personal care needs and maintain healthy hygiene
- Demonstrate safety skills in unsupervised settings

Students may qualify for Developmental Disability (DD) Services to assist with these criteria. ASTEP does not provide 24/7 supervision or supports.

University Policies

Students must follow the university Student Policies as well as the Residence Life Policies if living in campus housing.

[MSU Student Handbook](#)

[MSU Residence Life Handbook](#)

Literacy Skills

Students must have the ability to read and write at a basic level with or without adaptations.

Outside Services

Prior to enrollment, students will be referred to North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services if they are not current VR clients.

Link to [ND Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Offices](#)

ASTEP Expectations

Students must:

- Be accepting of supports from program staff, mentors, faculty and other university professionals,
- Agree to participate in all courses, sessions, internships and employment training; and
- Demonstrate the desire to attend college and be enrolled in the ASTEP program at Minot State University.

Please note:

- It is *not* required that ASTEP students be eligible for [Developmental Disabilities \(DD\) services](#); however, prior to determining a student's program eligibility, verification of eligibility for DD services may be requested if additional supports are determined necessary. This information will be considered when deciding if a student can be supported appropriately while enrolled in the ASTEP program.

How is program eligibility determined?

- Review of the student's most recent IEP and relevant assessments,
- Face to face interview with the student and parent(s)/guardian,
- Review of three letters of recommendations for the student from non-family members; and
- Consultation with the student's IEP team, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Developmental Disabilities Program Manager or other service agencies.

For more information please contact ASTEP at:

Main & TTY: 701-858-3580

Toll Free: 800-233-1737

Email: astep@minotstateu.edu