

# Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)



**Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP) is a program designed to further the USPTO's mission of delivering intellectual property information and education to external stakeholders.**

The program falls under the third pillar (*Pillar 3, "Excellence in Customer Service"*), of the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI), which places focus on improving the customer experience throughout the patent process. STEPP was developed to increase transparency with respect to how an application is examined at the USPTO.

## Program Description

The STEPP program provides unique, day-in-the-life, experiences to those attending training. Material used within the program is derived from training delivered to patent examiners and other USPTO employees. In addition, training is delivered by USPTO trainers.

## What does STEPP Cover?

Training delivered through STEPP focuses on the life of an application after the application is placed on an examiner's docket until the application is allowed.

## Why Participate?

STEPP is designed to provide perspective by detailing what an examiner considers in preparing an office action. Training focuses on how an examiner is taught to use the MPEP to make patentability determinations and write an office action. Gaining perspective of an examiner's point of view will increase your situational awareness which can aid in compact prosecution.

**Payment and Credit** Currently, there is no cost to attend a course in the STEPP program.

The USPTO is currently in the process of determining whether CLE credits will be provided for attending a course within STEPP.



**Please visit the STEPP website for more information:**

<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-stepp>

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