



**DO·IT**

# *Scholars*

A program to prepare high school students with disabilities for college, careers, and leadership



**Disabilities  
Opportunities  
Internetworking  
Technology**

## **DO-IT** Scholars

The *DO-IT Scholars* program prepares young people with disabilities for college, careers, independent living, and leadership roles in society.

### *DO-IT Scholars:*

- experience college life on a university campus in the summer.
- explore careers and the world of work.
- learn to select and use adaptive technology, software, and Internet resources.
- learn about reasonable accommodations at school and in the workplace.
- network with peers and working professionals with disabilities.
- gain requisite knowledge to enter and succeed in college and challenging careers.
- participate in leadership opportunities that promote accessible environments, worksites, and community activities.

Consult the Research to Practice Brief at <http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=1168> to learn how the *DO-IT Scholar* program components are grounded in research. These research-based strategies include:

- computer and Internet access,
- peer support,
- mentor support,
- college preparation, and
- work-based learning.



### **Application Process**

Washington State high school students with disabilities are encouraged to apply on or before January 10th to be considered at the first meeting of the Advisory Board. Priority is given to students in their sophomore year in high school, followed by students in their junior year. After January 10th, applications continue to be accepted and reviewed until all available openings are filled.

Only complete application packets are reviewed by the Advisory Board. They include:

- Student Application
- Parent/Guardian Recommendation and Consent
- High School Teacher, Administrator, or Counselor Recommendation
- Student's Current Grade Report/Transcript
- Grade Report/Transcript Request Form

The *DO-IT Scholars* program consists of three phases. After graduating from high school and the third phase, *Scholars* become *DO-IT Ambassadors*. At the end of each phase, *Scholars* are asked to evaluate their experiences.



## **Phase I Scholars**

(Through first Summer Study session)  
Phase I *DO-IT Scholars* participate in the following activities:

**Internetworking**—*DO-IT Scholars* learn to use computers to enrich their education and to explore academic and career interests using the Internet. They communicate with mentors and other *DO-IT* participants using computers and, if necessary, special adaptive technology. *DO-IT Scholars* who do not have the necessary technology are loaned equipment and software while they participate in program activities.

**Mentor and Peer Support**—Frequent electronic communications and personal contacts bring *Scholars* together with *DO-IT Mentors* to facilitate academic, career, and personal achievements. *Mentors* are college students, faculty, and other professionals, many with disabilities themselves.

**Summer Study I**—During a two-week, live-in summer program at the University of Washington in Seattle, *DO-IT Scholars* participate in academic lectures and labs; live in residence halls; and practice skills that will help them be successful in college and careers.

## **Phase II Scholars**

(Through second Summer Study session)  
Phase II *DO-IT Scholars* are supported with information about college application procedures, entrance requirements, and additional tips and resources to help them prepare for their transition to college. Additionally, Phase II *Scholars* participate in the following activities:

**Projects**—*DO-IT Scholars* apply their interests, skills, and knowledge to design and complete independent and team projects. *DO-IT Mentors* and staff act as resources.

**Internetworking and Mentoring**—*DO-IT Scholars* develop and practice communication and leadership skills by acting as peer mentors for incoming Phase I *DO-IT Scholars*. Communication occurs in-person during the Summer Study program and online throughout the year.

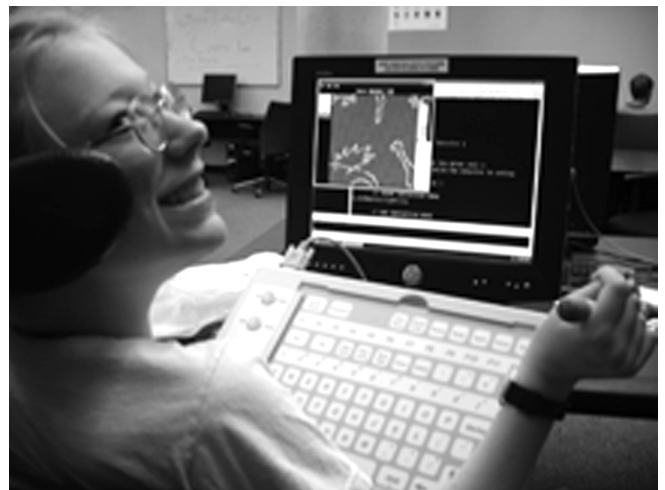
**Summer Study II**—*DO-IT Scholars* return to the University of Washington campus for a one-week, live-in summer program to create and complete projects of personal interest with other *DO-IT Scholars*, faculty, and professionals.

## **Phase III Scholars**

Phase III *Scholars* (through high school), complete high school and transition to college. Throughout the year, they participate in e-mentoring and other *DO-IT* activities. Some become *Interns* at *DO-IT Summer Study* and participate in other work-based experiences.

## **Ambassadors**

(After high school graduation), a *DO-IT Ambassador* participates in helping with e-mentoring and other *DO-IT* activities. They engage in making their colleges, worksites, and communities more welcoming to people with disabilities.



## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is previous experience working with computers required?  
No. However, an interest and willingness to develop computer skills and participate on the Internet is essential.
2. Are *DO-IT Scholars* charged for instructional materials, housing, meals, activities, and accommodations such as sign language interpreters?  
No.
3. Can I apply for funding to assist with the costs associated with travel and/or hiring personal care assistants?  
Yes.
4. What does the Advisory Board look for when reviewing application packages?  
The Board considers an applicant's interest and aptitude in college studies, motivation to participate in DO-IT, contribution to the diversity of the program, and perceived benefit from program offerings.
5. When will applicants be notified of the Advisory Board's decisions?  
Most applicants are notified between March and June.
6. When are the Summer Study sessions held?  
Phase I Summer Study typically occurs during the last two weeks of July. Phase II Summer Study typically occurs during the last week of July.
7. Who do I contact with my questions?

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<http://www.uw.edu/doit/>  
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888-972-DOIT (3648) (toll free voice / TTY)  
206-221-4171 (FAX)  
509-328-9331 (voice/TTY) Spokane

## About DO-IT

DO-IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) serves to increase the successful participation of individuals with disabilities in challenging academic programs such as those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

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