

Appendix H: Mentor Guidelines and Application



Shape the future . . .

be a *DO-IT Mentor*.

The DO-IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) electronic mentoring community provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to communicate via electronic mail and during program activities with *Mentors* and other students with disabilities. Your role as a *DO-IT Mentor* is a mix of friend and teacher. Your goal is to inspire and facilitate personal, academic, and career achievements in the DO-IT participants for whom you mentor. These protégés are college-capable students with disabilities pursuing challenging academic and career fields.

Do you have what it takes to be a *DO-IT Mentor*?

The relationships you develop with your protégés become channels for the passage of information, advice, challenges, opportunities, and support. *DO-IT Mentors* offer protégés the following:

- **Information**
Mentors share their knowledge, experiences, and wisdom.
- **Contacts**
Mentors provide valuable opportunities by facilitating academic, career, and personal contacts.
- **Challenges**
Mentors stimulate curiosity and build confidence by presenting new ideas, opportunities, and challenges.
- **Support**
Mentors encourage growth and achievement by providing an open and supportive environment.
- **Goal Setting**
Mentors help protégés discover talents and interests and define and attain their goals.
- **Advice**
Mentors guide protégés in reaching academic, career, and personal goals.
- **Role Models**
By sharing stories of achievement with protégés, *Mentors* can become role models.

Who are *DO-IT Mentors*?

DO-IT Mentors are college students, postsecondary faculty, and professionals in a variety of challenging academic and career fields. Many of the *Mentors* have disabilities themselves. The *Mentors* support high school and college students with disabilities as they transition to college and careers.

How do *DO-IT Mentors* and protégés communicate?

Mentors and protégés communicate primarily through the use of electronic mail. Email eliminates the challenges imposed by time, distance, and disability that are characteristic of in-person mentoring. Frequent email communication, combined with personal contact at



DO-IT sponsored events, facilitates personal, academic, and career achievement.

DO-IT Mentors are subscribed to several electronic discussion lists. These lists include

- *doitsem*—a public forum for discussing STEM issues pertaining to individuals with disabilities
- *doitchat*—a forum where DO-IT protégés and *Mentors* interact
- *mentors*—a discussion list for *Mentors*
- disability-specific lists—forums where *Mentors* and protégés each participate in one of five special interest groups to discuss issues related to a specific disability area

For more information about DO-IT's mentoring community, consult *Opening Doors: Mentoring on the Internet* at <http://www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/Technology/doors.html>.

AccessSTEM Teams

As part of a special project, DO-IT is inviting *Mentors* with academic and/or professional backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields to participate in *AccessSTEM* mentoring teams. This effort is part of DO-IT's Northwest Alliance for Access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, funded by the National Science Foundation (Cooperative Agreement #HRD-0227995). Each mentoring team links students together with *Mentors* who are studying, teaching, and working in a STEM area similar to those the protégé is interested in pursuing. Ideally, each *AccessSTEM* mentoring team is composed of at least one high school student, one college student, and one STEM professional. These *Mentors* participate on the *AccessSTEM*, *mentors*, and *doitsem* discussion lists; they have the option of joining *doitchat* and disability-specific lists.

Applying to become a Mentor

As a *DO-IT Mentor*, you must have access to email and the Internet. To apply to be a *DO-IT Mentor*, complete the attached application.

Because safety is of particular concern for young people using the Internet, this position requires successful completion of a criminal history background check. All *Mentor* candidates are asked to complete and return the University of Washington Conviction/Criminal History Information form. This form will be mailed to you once we receive your completed application.



DO-IT Mentor Application Form

Complete the form below, attaching additional pages if necessary.

Name: _____ Postal Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Email: _____

1. Are you currently a college student? If yes, what institution do you attend? What are your year in school and field(s) of study?

2. What is your occupation? Are you currently employed? If so, who is your employer? What is your position?

3. Please list any postsecondary degrees you have completed.

4. Have you ever been a mentor before? If so, please describe your experience(s).

5. Have you had personal or professional experiences with disabilities that you could share with DO-IT participants? If yes, please describe.

6. Please indicate any special interest or background in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics. Are you interested in joining an *AccessSTEM* Team?

7. Do you have any hobbies or special skills that you think will benefit DO-IT mentees?

8. Do you speak a language other than English? If yes, please list.



9. Mentoring a young person is a big responsibility and can change the lives of both the mentor and the mentee. What do you hope to gain from the experience? What do you hope the mentee will gain?

References: Please list names and contact information for three references.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please note that, on occasion, *DO-IT Mentors* are featured in DO-IT printed and web-based materials such as *DO-IT NEWS* and in other publications. As a *DO-IT Mentor*, you agree to allow DO-IT and DO-IT project partners to publish information including, but not limited to, your first and last name, email address, city and state of residence, name of school, employer, disability, age, and interests. This information is used for program reporting and data analysis. As a *DO-IT Mentor*, you also waive any right to inspect or approve the finished publication or the eventual use for which it might be applied.

(Optional) Permission to use Photographs and Video: Many DO-IT events, such as the yearly mentoring luncheon, are photographed and/or videotaped. If you attend any of these events, you may be photographed and/or videotaped. Sign below if you give DO-IT and DO-IT project partners permission to copyright, distribute, sell, broadcast, duplicate, exhibit and/or use film, audiotape, photographs, printed information, and/or drawings of yourself without limitation for general education, information dissemination, and research purposes in videotapes, DVDs, audiotapes, online streaming videos, and printed publications, and on the Web. You waive any right to inspect or approve the finished publication or other product in which your image/information might be used.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read and agree to the expectations listed for *DO-IT Mentors* as indicated above. I authorize DO-IT to contact my references and process a background check.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

[Note: For the most current *DO-IT Mentor* application form, consult http://www.washington.edu/doit/Stem/mentor_app.html.]