



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(from Admitted Students)

[globalleaders.iit.edu](http://globalleaders.iit.edu)

Congratulations on your admission to the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program! As you consider this opportunity, we encourage you to review the following FAQs and responses, as well as our website: <http://globalleaders.iit.edu>/ Please contact Luke Chitwood, Program Manager for the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program, at [jchitwoo@iit.edu](mailto:jchitwoo@iit.edu) or 312.254.6532, with any additional questions.

**En español:** Annie Senior, Program Director, [asenior@iit.edu](mailto:asenior@iit.edu), 312.502.3509

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### Why should I participate in the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program?

The Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program provides high-achieving students from Chicago-area high schools with the valuable opportunity and essential resources to:

- ▶ Expand their intellectual and professional options by advancing their knowledge of STEM majors and careers
- ▶ Build positive relationships with renowned IIT faculty, staff, and students from multiple disciplines, as well as with other outstanding high school students
- ▶ Collaborate with Scholars and mentors to create solutions to real problems in the real world
- ▶ Develop and demonstrate their academic excellence, sense of innovation, leadership and teamwork skills, and preparation for success in a college-level learning environment—all of which can strengthen their applications to selective colleges like IIT
- ▶ Navigate the college selection, admission, and financial aid processes with guidance from program staff
  - ▶ Of Scholars in the Class of 2015, 97% matriculated at a four-year university in fall 2015; the remaining 3% enrolled at two-year institutions with intent to transfer.

Students may receive an official letter of participation recognizing their completion of the program. Students may also receive, at their request, letters of recommendation from staff regarding their individual progress and performance in the program.

### When — and where — do we meet?

This year's Summer Session will run weekdays (Monday-Friday) from **June 27th - July 22nd**, from **10am-5pm** most days. We will also meet on one Saturday. Most activities take place on Illinois Institute of Technology's Main Campus in Chicago.

### What is the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program?

Now entering its fifth year, the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program is a free, two-year academic enrichment program that inspires high-achieving Chicago-area high school students to make a difference in their communities through STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and to pursue higher education.

We do this by offering:

- four weeks of intensive, project-based STEM programming each summer
- workshops, field trips, and career exploration opportunities during the academic year
- guidance and support in developing leadership grant projects (junior year)
- college advising and application assistance (senior year)

Our program places a strong emphasis on fostering community and valuing participants' voices.

Enrolled Scholars make a **two-year** commitment to the program. We serve approximately 100 total juniors and seniors at a time.

### **Is the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program really FREE?**

Yes! Thanks to generous grants from the Boeing Company and The Brinson Foundation, the Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program is an entirely free program for participants. All lunches, field trip costs, and project materials are included. Transportation to and from campus at the beginning and end of each day is not included. Depending on families' financial situations, some funds are available to help students pay for Public transit (CTA, PACE, or Metra).

### **Who are the other Illinois Tech Global Leaders?**

Each year's class of Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program includes approximately 100 high school students (rising juniors and seniors) from dozens of Chicago-area schools. Scholars reflect the broad diversity of Chicago-area youth, and each possesses a unique and rich set of experiences, perspectives, skills, and interests.

While you will get to know all 100 Scholars in some capacity over the course of the program, your most in-depth, daily interactions during the Summer Session will be with other students in your "cluster." Each cluster is comprised of 15-17 Scholars who work together under the direction of their Program Instructor.

### **What will I learn and do during the summer?**

The Summer Session focuses on increasing access and exposure to STEM fields, solving complex problems, addressing big ideas of relevance to local high school students, and helping students develop skills in leadership and collaboration. Our 2016 Summer Session's theme is **Stem Frontiers: Near & Far**. In June, we will provide a detailed schedule for each day.

While each day of the Summer Session is structured slightly differently, a typical day might look like:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 9:30-10am | Check-In   |
| 10am-Noon | All Scholars together — i.e. an Issues Forum or Workshop |
| Noon-1pm  | Lunch in The Commons (IIT's main Dining Hall)            |
| 1-5pm     | Project time*, plus a break                              |
| 5pm       | Check-Out  |

\*There are three types of projects in our curriculum. Students' progress from **Project Challenges**, to **Serving through STEM Projects**, to **Community Innovation Projects**, and move from classroom-based learning to the real world, using STEM skills to make a positive impact on the world.

### **What if I have to miss a few days this summer?**

**We expect that students will attend every day of the Summer Session.** If they must miss a couple of days, they must discuss this in advance with program staff to get the absences formally approved as “excused.” Additionally, we ask that, in advance of any known absence, tardiness, or early dismissal, you notify your Program Instructor and all members of your team.

### **How should I dress for program activities?**

Unless noted otherwise, daily attire is casual (shorts, jeans, t-shirts) and comfortable (we will be moving around a lot). We will notify you in advance when alternate dress is recommended or required (i.e. “Business Casual” for our College Fair).

Please remember that, at all times, you represent yourself, your high school, and your home community. You should be conscious about the message that your clothing and behavior sends. We expect students to maintain modesty in dress as well as in action.

### **Will there be homework? Do I have to take tests?**

We may ask you to think or reflect on a topic in preparation for a day's activities, but we do not assign homework to our Scholars or make them take exams. When students start developing their long-term projects, working on their college applications, or filling out a survey about their experience in the program, they may need to do additional work outside of program hours.

### **Can I receive college credit for participation?**

The Illinois Tech Global Leaders Program is not an IIT “course,” and we do not grant college credit for its completion.

### **What if I can't make a two-year commitment to participate in the program?**

If you know now that you will be unable to make a two-year commitment to the program, we encourage you to contact program staff to discuss your availability and interests.

### **(Parents/guardians) Can I contact my student during the program day?**

Please note that students will be required to turn off their cell phones during the summer program day so as not to disturb activities or distract fellow participants. Students will only be allowed to check their phones during breaks, and are encouraged to focus at all times on team building and social development with other students. If you must reach your child immediately, you may call a staff member's cell (Luke Chitwood: 312.254.6532; Charlie Lindquist: 312.350.5591; Annie Senior: 312.502.3509) and we will excuse your child from activities to speak with you.

### **Who are the instructors and staff?**

As an Illinois Tech Global Leader, your most consistent daily contact during the Summer Session is with a team of Program Instructors (IIT graduate students and upper-level undergraduates from a variety of STEM disciplines), all of whom are leaders and role models in our campus community. While Program Instructors do “instruct” Scholars, their relationship to their cluster is more “coach-team” than “teacher-student.”

Each day of the summer program, Illinois Tech Global Leaders also interact with a range of IIT faculty members and other industry professionals. During the summer and academic year, numerous other faculty members and professionals contribute their time and expertise as guest speakers, job shadow hosts, and Project Mentors.

The Program Director and Program Coordinators are full-time IIT staff members who work with students throughout the summer and academic year.

## What happens during the Academic-Year Session?

Scholars are expected to continue their involvement throughout the academic year (August-May) by attending **at least two program events** (e.g., workshops, field trips, job shadows) in addition to CIP and college preparation work each semester. A sampling of past activities can be found on our website: [globalleaders.iit.edu](http://globalleaders.iit.edu)

As part of these activities:

- **Juniors** continue their work developing and implementing their Community Innovation Projects (CIPs), guided by Project Mentors. During your junior year, you are required to:
  - Attend a Community Innovation Project workshop once a month (typically on Sunday afternoons)
  - Communicate with your CI Project group weekly
  - Communicate CI Project group progress updates to program staff
- **Seniors\*** apply to college with support from program staff. During your senior year, you are required to:
  - Apply to at least five colleges, with the assistance and guidance of a program coordinator, by mid-September as part of the Chicago Scholars Onsite Admission Forum.
  - Participate in Mock-Interview, Scholarship, and Financial Aid workshops.
  - Attend 1-2 individual meetings in the spring semester to work on scholarship/financial aid applications and compare financial aid packages.
  - Update program staff on the progress of college and scholarship applications, college acceptances, financial aid award packages, and the final decision of where you've decided to enroll in college.

Juniors must demonstrate active engagement throughout the Academic-Year Session, as described above, to be invited to continue on with the program during their senior summer and academic year.

## Acknowledgements

In addition to the generous support provided to this program by the Boeing Company and by IIT, we are grateful for partner organizations—such as Chicago Scholars and the University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program—with whom we collaborate to enhance our work. While IIT has a long history of hosting academic summer programs, we would like to acknowledge the leadership and/or inspiration in these areas that other universities—particularly MIT, the University of Chicago, Rutgers, and Johns Hopkins University—have provided. We celebrate our shared work with youth.