OUR PROGRAM

The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Boeing Scholars Academy 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 (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 school year
• guidance and support in developing leadership projects (junior year only)
• college advising and application assistance (senior year only)

We admit students during their sophomore year for participation during their junior and senior years (enrolled Scholars make a two-year commitment to the program). We serve 100 total juniors and seniors at a time.

Founded in 2011, the IIT Boeing Scholars Academy is generously supported by a grant from the Boeing Company.

admission.iit.edu/boeingscholars

“Illinois Institute of Technology is committed to preparing the next generation for undergraduate and advanced degrees in STEM fields. Students who excel in these fields will be tomorrow’s leaders in improving and advancing the human condition.”

—Alan Cramb, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, IIT
WHAT WE OFFER

IIT Boeing Scholars gain valuable exposure to majors and careers in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, mathematics—as well as guidance along the path to college, through participation in the following components of the annual program:

FOUR-WEEK SUMMER SESSION (NON-RESIDENTIAL)
(in 2013, weekdays Monday, July 1–Friday, July 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

- All 100 juniors and seniors come together to engage in a variety of hands-on group projects, lectures, labs, and field trips oriented toward an interdisciplinary theme, like “Local Action, Broader Impact” (2012) or “Cities of the Future” (2011). Scholars investigate STEM problems in a social context, and are asked to consider both quantitative and qualitative factors when proposing solutions. Past projects have addressed such diverse topics as food deserts, mercury emissions, diabetes treatment, renewable energy, natural disaster response, sustainable land use, and the role of science in policy-making. Through projects and dedicated workshops, Scholars develop essential problem-solving, communication, team-building, and leadership skills.

ACADEMIC-YEAR SESSION (AUGUST–MAY)

Scholars continue their involvement with the program throughout the academic year by attending at least three program events (e.g., workshops, field trips, job shadows) each semester. In addition:

- **Juniors** collaborate in teams to develop and implement Leadership Grant Projects (LGPs) of their own design. Guided by Project Mentors, Scholars are empowered to create opportunities in their communities through LGPs.
  - LGPs developed in 2011-12 involved starting school recycling programs; documenting ways that local organizations use rainwater; mobilizing peers to tutor, teach, and volunteer; and celebrating STEM professionals from minority groups.
  - Juniors who demonstrate active engagement throughout the academic year continue on to the senior program.

- **Seniors** apply to college with support from program staff, participating in essay workshops, mock-interviews, a “live” admissions event with partner organization Chicago Scholars, and more.
  - Of Scholars in the Class of 2012, 98% matriculated at a four-year university in fall 2012; the remaining 2% enrolled at two-year institutions with intent to transfer.

OUR APPROACH

Our program places a strong emphasis on fostering community and valuing participants’ voices. We conduct brainstorming sessions and focus groups to ensure that our projects and themes are relevant and exciting to Scholars. By addressing the “so what?” (real-world problems and their significance to teens) before focusing on the “what” (STEM content and skills), we engage Scholars’ existing knowledge, inquiry, and motivation, as well as help them find their way forward (“now what?”) and develop a sense of purpose.

On our end-of-year survey, 98% of Scholars indicated that the program was overall a rewarding experience.
CURRENT SCHOLARS SAY:
The IIT Boeing Scholars Academy:

■ “helped me to believe that I can accomplish anything.” — Juliana Perez, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science High School

■ “taught me skills that are undoubtedly necessary to success in life, and taught me not only what I can do, but also what I should do to better society.” — Katie G., Walter Payton College Prep

■ “provided me with access to individuals working in the fields that I want to go into. Through this exposure I was able to better evaluate what certain jobs entail way before I have to make major decisions that put me on a career path. I believe the effect is I will end up in a job I will be happier with.” — Karol Przybyszewski, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School

■ “not only educates you on what is possible through the STEM fields, but also empowers us as students to go out and change our world around us today.” — Shuya Gong, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School

■ “is an opportunity full of opportunities. By involving yourself in it you will be opening more doors that lead to your success.” — Shakira Burks, 21st Century Charter School

PARENTS SAY:

■ “Sign them up! The program has ultra extraordinary staff and instructors that are committed to helping the students achieve their goals and dreams. Juliana has a stronger sense of self-confidence and higher self-esteem.” — Julia Salgado-Fernandez, mother of Juliana Perez, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science High School

■ “The program provided excellent role models, demonstrated science could be ‘cool,’ and really helped Katie mature and grow intellectually.” — Stephen G., father of Katie G., Walter Payton College Prep

■ “The Academy has lit a fire in my child, in terms of realizing his career possibilities.” — Jennifer Tucker, mother of Jaylon Tucker, Lindblom Math and Science Academy

“We believe that the IIT Boeing Scholars Academy represents an ideal opportunity to introduce first-generation college students and students from underrepresented populations to the fields of study and professional opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as architecture, business, and psychology.”

—Gerald P. Doyle, Vice Provost for Student Access, Success, and Diversity Initiatives, IIT

HOW TO APPLY
Applicants to the IIT Boeing Scholars Academy should:

■ be current sophomores (class of 2015) at Chicago-area high schools

■ have demonstrated strong performance (As and Bs) in a college prep curriculum

■ be on track to take pre-calculus or higher by senior year

First-generation college students, women, and students from populations underrepresented in STEM fields are especially encouraged to apply.

To be considered for participation in the program, students must submit the program application form, two recommendation forms, and their official high school transcript (including fall 2012 grades) by Thursday, February 14, 2013. Students selected as finalists are invited to attend an interview at IIT. For full details, see admission.iit.edu/boeingscholars.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR
During the admissions process, we consider each applicant’s academics, personal characteristics, and fit for the program. Questions guiding our evaluation include: Will the student enjoy, excel in, thrive in, and contribute to the program? Will they take advantage of the opportunities we offer and benefit from them? Will they extend the program’s impact and get others involved?

Any student who knows they will be unable to actively participate in the IIT Boeing Scholars Academy’s two-year program is encouraged to visit summer.iit.edu to learn about summer-only programs offered at IIT.
WHY SHOULD STUDENTS PARTICIPATE?

Our program provides high-achieving high school students 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 and students from multiple disciplines, as well as with other outstanding high school students
■ Develop and demonstrate their academic excellence, sense of innovation, leadership and teamwork skills, and motivation 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
■ Collaborate with Scholars and mentors to create solutions to real problems in the real world

“IIT’s COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Illinois Institute of Technology is a community that values and respects its members. We appreciate that our faculty, staff, students, alumni/ae and trustees come from many backgrounds and many parts of the world. We embrace the contributions that differences offer. We are committed to providing a working and learning environment in which all students and all members of the faculty and staff are able to realize their full potential.

TO LEARN MORE:

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