What is the Information Technology Academy (ITA)?

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM. The number one mission of the program is to prepare students for competitive university admissions. As such, ITA scholars spend a significant amount of time on college-prep & academic topics, such as study skills, ACT test prep, leadership and career development skills.

A TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM. ITA is one of only a few technology outreach programs for high school students in the State of Wisconsin. Students learn a variety of IT and multimedia skills that give them an advantage in school and in the workplace.

A RESOURCE FOR LEARNING & GROWTH. ITA’s professional mentoring & tutoring components allow students opportunities to talk with college students and UW staff about their academic progress, school & career options, and many more issues.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. The IT Academy encourages students to use the skills they learn in the program to help others. Students are given the opportunity to work with community nonprofits on a number of tech projects.

What is the ITA Tribal Technology Institute (TTI)?

TTI is a branch of ITA that serves Native American communities of Wisconsin. Currently, we are working with the Oneida and Lac du Flambeau Chippewa nations, but we hope to expand to many other communities in the future. Students enrolled in TTI receive many of the same services that Madison-enrolled ITA students do, however, courses are delivered via a mixture of face-to-face and distance learning methods.

What is the Cost to Students?

Nothing, except time & hard work!

What is the Commitment?

TTI is a 3-year program and requires a strong commitment on the part of students and their families. Students enter the summer between their freshman and sophomore year in high school, and continue through their senior year.

What are the Benefits?

The benefits are too numerous to list completely, but here is a partial list of the benefits students receive:

- Valuable technology skills (software, hardware, programming, digital audio & video, etc.) taught by professionals with state-of-the-art equipment
- One-on-One academic counseling & guidance
- Group and individualized tutoring (as needed)
- College-prep academic skills (study habits, test prep, etc.) taught by qualified instructors
- Work experience
- A network of people and resources who will help students to achieve their goals
- An in-state undergraduate tuition SCHOLARSHIP to the UW-Madison!!

Yes, it’s true. Students completing all four years of the program, including the residential 7-week bridge program during the summer before their freshman year in college, and who are admitted to an undergraduate degree-
What are the Program Requirements?

ITA requires students to maintain a 90% attendance and completion rate for ITA meetings, training sessions, and assigned work. In addition, students are expected to maintain a 2.75 GPA while in high school. Should grades drop below that level, tutoring will be required. A positive attitude, respectful nature, and a strong work ethic are all also desired.

What happens during the summers?

Summers 1 & 2: Rising Sophomore and Junior summer institutes meet for 2 weeks from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday, and students will be in computer lab for half of the day. The other half of the day will be spent in various activities, including team building exercises, group meetings & academic classes. These institutes will take place at locations within the Oneida and Lac du Flambeau communities.

Summer 3: Rising Seniors will participate in a 2-week residential Capstone Institute with ALL ITA program participants from Oneida, Lac du Flambeau, and Madison. During the program, students will attend computer labs for half the day, and spend the rest of the time in science labs, college prep activities, group meetings, campus tours, and team building exercises. This institute will take place on the UW-Madison campus.

Summer 4: Finally, students who enroll at the UW-Madison immediately following high school will participate in the Summer Collegiate Experience (SCE), a 7-week residential program, in which they will take college coursework for credit in preparation for their freshman year and get a head start transition into college life with their cohort. Participation in SCE is a requirement to receive the tuition scholarship offered to ITA graduates. All tuition, books, room and board expenses are paid by the UW, so there is no cost to students to attend. SCE takes place on the UW-Madison campus.

What happens during the school year?

There are several required activities that will happen during the school year. Some are face-to-face meetings, and some are online activities. Senior year includes work experience via internship placements.

• **Fall & Winter Cohort Meetings:** Twice in the Fall (beginning of the fall semester for the “fall kick-off” and late fall semester) and once during Winter, there will be a 2-day group meeting scheduled where the entire cohort will meet with TTI staff who will travel up to see you from Madison. It is very important that you attend these meetings. They will include academic progress check-ins, as well as instructional time. A schedule will be provided to you well in advance.

• **Online Assignments:** TTI students will be enrolled in 3 courses during the school year: an academic/skills course, a technology course, and a community course. Students are expected to log in to these courses on a regular basis and keep up with their work assignments. Like their Madison counterparts, TTI students should count on spending about 12-15 hours per month on their TTI courses.

• **Spring Conference:** Every Spring, TTI students from Oneida and Lac du Flambeau will go to Madison for a 4-day Spring Conference. The timing of this conference aligns with the UW-Madison Spring Pow-wow. Topics for the conference will relate to leadership, diversity, culture, and career development, among other things. Attendance is mandatory for all students unless you are a Silicon Valley Ambassador.

• **Silicon Valley Study Trip:** Every Spring, a few students who show exemplary leadership skills are nominated to be Silicon Valley Ambassadors and attend a Study Trip to this famous region in California to learn more about the computer industry.

How do I apply?

Applications will be available after December 18th from your school guidance office, or you can download one from the ITA website at [http://ita.wisc.edu](http://ita.wisc.edu). You will need to submit your grades, a teacher recommendation, and an essay along with the application. ALL applications will need to be RECEIVED by our office no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, February 19th!!

For more information, please contact:
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