Frequently Asked Questions

Do I really need a mentor?
Yes! A mentor will provide what you can’t: guidance, grading and expertise!

How do I find a mentor?
Look for a mentor with expertise in the area you are studying: a parent, teacher, or tutor.

How long should it take to complete my course?
With TIP courses you can work at your own pace. Your mentor can help you create a schedule that suits you. An average course takes six to twelve weeks to finish.

Is course credit available?
If you’d like to pursue course credit for your work, parents must negotiate with school officials. We strongly suggest making these arrangements before beginning the course. See “Additional Links” for more information.

What are the required textbooks?
Where do I buy them?
Visit: www.tip.duke.edu/IL/textbooks for a full list of required textbooks and where they can be purchased online.

Can my teacher use Independent Learning materials in the classroom?
Yes! Visit www.tip.duke.edu/IL/classroom for information on how your teacher can use your Duke TIP materials in the classroom.

What is a learning contract?
A learning contract is an agreement between you and your mentor that details your expectations of each other, your schedule for completion of assignments, and an agreement about when and where you will meet. See “Additional Links” for more information.

Duke University
Talent Identification Program
1121 West Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
919.668.9100
www.tip.duke.edu

Additional Links

Ordering Textbooks
www.tip.duke.edu/IL/textbooks

Seeking Credit
www.tip.duke.edu/IL/credit

Establishing a Learning Contract
www.tip.duke.edu/IL/learningcontract

Ordering New TIP Courses
www.tip.duke.edu/Independent_Learning

TIPs for Teachers
www.tip.duke.edu/IL/classroom
Thank you for purchasing this Independent Learning course. This brochure will guide you through this exciting adventure.

1. **Find A Mentor** Parents, teachers, and tutors make great mentors! Their job is to help guide you through challenging activities. Your mentor should be someone who understands the subject, can answer your questions, and can grade your work.

2. **Order Additional Texts** Some courses require additional textbooks. A list of required textbooks and where they can be ordered is available at: www.tip.duke.edu/IL/textbooks.

3. **Develop a Plan** You, your parents, and your mentor should meet before you begin your course. Decide on a timeline for completion of assignments and establish a learning contract.

4. **Meet Regularly** Meet with your mentor on a regular basis. During these meetings your mentor can provide guidance on challenging assignments and give feedback on assignments you’ve finished.

5. **Ask for Help** Remember, a TIP course is supposed to be challenging! Don’t forget to ask for help. If you are struggling with any concepts, your mentor can provide ideas for additional practice. Your mentor can also adapt the course to meet your needs.

6. **Finish** You made it! Finishing a TIP course is a big accomplishment. Find a way to celebrate your achievement. Also, we’d love your feedback. Tell us what you think at: www.tip.duke.edu/LOYO/student. Send your mentor to: www.tip.duke.edu/LOYO/mentor.

7. **Explore New Challenges** Are you ready for something new? We’re always developing new courses. Learn more at: www.tip.duke.edu/independent_learning.