I to I: Introduction to Independence Summer Program

The Introduction to Independence Program is a 7-week summer work/study program for students aged 16 to 22+. Students work half a day and take classes Monday through Thursday, and receive a stipend for their internships. Friday is designated as Travel Day. Students will travel with staff via mass transit to various places of interest using strategies they have learned in class. I-to-I and VIP occupy five buildings on the southernmost part of NYIT’s Central Islip campus.

Support for each student:
- Vocational Counselor
- Social Counselor
- Financial Advisor
- Job Coach and Independent Living Skills Coach (if necessary)

For detailed information on our programs or to book a tour, please contact:

**Kelly Imperial**
Associate Director of Admissions & Development
631.348.3139
vipadmissions@nyit.edu

300 Carleton Ave.
Central Islip, NY 11722

nyit.edu/vip
A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND HIGHER FUNCTIONING AUTISM.

Associate Degree Support Program

QUALIFIED STUDENTS can earn an Associate’s Degree in business administration or communication arts at NYIT in three years.

Support for each student:
- Academic Counselor
- Vocational Counselor
- Social Counselor
- Financial Advisor
- Independent Living Skills Coach (as needed)

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Pre-Degree Program

SPECIFIC COMPONENTS of our curriculum are geared toward preparation for core college courses. Freshmen participate in the same VIP curriculum as vocational concentration students with access to NYIT credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing courses offered at Old Westbury campus. Includes individual study and support programs and personal counseling.

Support for each student:
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SERVING THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY SINCE 1987
Vocational Independence Program

Transition and Post-Secondary Residential Program for students with learning disabilities that focuses on independent living, academic success, and vocational exploration. Freshmen participate in the same VIP curriculum as vocational concentration students with access to NYIT credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing courses offered at the Old Westbury campus. Includes individual study and support programs and personal counseling.

Training, Field Placement, and Coursework

- **Vocational Areas:** Secure field placements to begin developing and identifying vocational goals and mastering basic skills necessary for entry-level employment in their chosen career area. Students focus on their vocational area through coursework taught by professionals in their field.

- **Field Placement:** Internship experiences continue to increase in subsequent years, focusing on skill development, work ethic, and consistency of performance. Placement opportunities are individually designed to give each student the ability to rise to the highest level of performance. Students continue to receive guidance and support via vocational counseling and on-site supervision. VIP stresses a cooperative education approach, engaging more than 50 businesses and organizations within the community.

- **Vocational Curriculum:** The curriculum includes interviewing skills, resume development, networking, and job search techniques. Students gain an understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), personnel practices, and procedures, along with heavy emphasis on self-advocacy and vocational independence. Students are given the tools they need to secure and retain competitive employment.

Support for each student:

- Academic Counselor
- Vocational Counselor
- Social Counselor
- Financial Advisor
- Job Coach and Independent Living Skills Coach (if necessary)

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SERVING THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY SINCE 1987
Residence LIFE

THE VOCATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM is one of the few college based programs that offers both vocational training and the opportunity to live in a college residence hall. This unique opportunity affords students with disabilities the chance to experience a college living environment while practicing their independent living and social skills under the supervision of specially trained staff.

The residence hall at VIP is a place for relaxation and learning.

- Staffed by paraprofessional resident advisors who live in the building. The resident advisors are trained in working with people with disabilities, first aid, CPR, and the use of AEDs
- Monitored by NYIT Security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Nightly activities planned and organized by the residence life staff
- Weekly coffee house activities including karaoke, open mic nights, music and more!
- Organized weekend trips to sporting events, concerts, cultural activities, and Broadway shows on Long Island and NYC
- Licensed Nurse Practitioner office in the residence hall
- Television, exercise, and game rooms available 24 hours a day
- Free Wifi
- Laundry facilities and a laundry lab on site
- Teaching kitchen
- Single rooms for freshmen* (Based upon timely enrollment and availability)
- An all-you-can-eat meal plan that includes 19 meals a week (Monday – Friday: breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Saturday & Sunday: brunch and dinner)
- A Student Activities Center featuring game rooms, a gymnasium, swimming pool, and exercise rooms
- A spacious 400+ acre campus on suburban Long Island
- A 9-hole golf course that is free of charge to NYIT VIP students with a valid NYIT student ID during off peak hours

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SERVING THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY SINCE 1987
Independent LIVING SKILLS

As one of the few college-based transition programs in the country that offers both vocational training and a residential component to the program, Vocational Independence Program VIP students gain valuable opportunities and skills to increase their independence. The curriculum and campus experience are designed to maximize a student’s sense of independence.

Courses include:
- Budgeting and Banking
- Health and Nutrition
- Apartment Living
- Practical Cooking Classes
- Travel Training

Supports to promote independence:
- Daily early morning check-ins at the beginning of each semester and as needed
- Weekly meetings with a budget and banking advisor
- “Design time” evening appointments with resident advisors to review room organization and laundry skills
- If necessary, the assignment of an independent living skills counselor
- Evening check-ins to review laundry, scheduling, and hygiene issues (as needed)
- Laundry lab in the residence hall to teach laundry skills and other organizational skills
- Scheduled weekly room inspections by staff
- The use of smart devices to create reminders
- Medication management training by a licensed nurse practitioner
- Occupational therapy intern support

Social Skills Training & Support

Many students with neurologically based learning disabilities struggle with the multiple demands of the social setting at college. The Vocational Independence Program has a staff of dedicated master's-level counselors and social workers who provide support, training, and referrals to all of the students in the program. Generally, the student meets weekly with the social counselor to review adjustment issues to the program. However, these meetings are tailored to the student's individual needs.

The Social Counseling Team:
- Leads the “Dare to Care” Program – an empirically based positive school-wide expectations program known as the “Bears Code”
- Meets with students individually on a weekly basis to discuss program-related issues
- Teaches social communication, relaxation, self-advocacy, goal setting, and relationship skills
- Organizes coffee house nights
- Facilitates the fitness electives as well as the dean's lecture series and pedometry challenge
- Mediates student issues
- Monitors student participation and engagement in social activities
- Supervises student clubs
- Trains residence life staff in active listening skills, and crisis management
- Identifies and mentors students to become student ambassadors for the program
- Refers students to therapists and other health care providers for evaluations, medication reviews, and on-going psychotherapy

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