

YES Program FAQ's

What if I don't think I'll have enough time to complete the field placements for YES 300 and YES 301?

We encourage our students to look at their field placements as internships for job experience. Although these pre-professional placements require some extra time in your schedule (field work for YES 300 is 20 hours and YES 301 is 30 hours) students are able to--and nearly always do!--include these on resumes and grad school applications, which will set you apart from other employment seekers. Our recent grads have frequently obtained jobs directly from field networking. Our alumni contact us years later and say that their work in YES was some of the best educational and career experience they ever had.

These field placements are particularly useful for students whose majors do not include professional field work, as they speak to real-world experience. For those whose majors do include field, many of the organizations we work with offer a radically different approach to working with urban youth: asset-based, empowering, humanistic.

Lastly, we do our best to match your field placement with your civic or professional interests. The more flexibility you have in your schedule, the more we can do that. Some students initiate their own placements and then contact the office to gain approval for them--we encourage these new connections.

How do I obtain the required clearances for my placements?

The YES office is here to assist you in obtaining your clearances. The YES GA will send you an email during the fall semester with instructions on how to obtain your PA Criminal Record Check, Child Abuse Check, FBI Fingerprints, and TB Test. If you need additional assistance, the YES Graduate Assistant can meet with you individually to help you complete the clearance process.

By law, these clearances must be up-to-date to work in the field with youth; students who do not have clearances by November of the previous semester (e.g., if you are enrolled in YES 300 and/or 301 in Spring 2020, you should have up to date clearances filed with us by November of 2019) run the risk of being asked to unenroll from those courses.

What if I don't have a car or money to afford transportation to my field placement?

Although a car makes getting to your field placement easier, it is not required for the minor. We do our best to pair students who do not have transportation to get to their placements with a student who has a car. When this is not possible due to the organization's needs or scheduling, many of our placements are accessible by bus.

If bus fare or gas money is a concern, the YES office has some “last dollar” transportation grants for those who need it. Note: Except in emergencies (when we will arrange small loans), those must be reimbursed (students must plan to lay out the funds and save receipts and get reimbursed). Just ask!

A final note on funds: we rarely ask students to lay out large amounts for books; your fields are central “texts” of the course. Please think about what you might have spent on books and set aside that amount for transportation.

What if I have been struggling academically or socially?

The YES office offers individualized support for our students.

- We offer tutoring assistance such as help with writing papers or other school assignments.
- Faculty offer intensive advising on social, career and academic questions.
- Our office doors are always open when a YES Program faculty or staff member is in. Please feel free to use the YES office to study or chat at any time throughout the year--Main 109-110!