



HIGHLIGHTS

- Year 1** Engage with the community
- Year 2** Take the foundation course and declare CYES
- Year 3** Design your praxis project
- Year 4** Research and implement your praxis project

Introduction to the Major

“Justice is what love looks like in public.” — Dr. Cornel West

CYES is an interdisciplinary major that bridges community development, critical youth studies, and education studies. Majors and minors engage in social justice praxis. Social justice praxis is a commitment to action for social change, grounded in critical analysis, strategic planning, and learning from mistakes. The aim of CYES is to prepare students for engaged scholarship and leadership in the 21st century, working for social justice across a range of educational, cultural, institutional and linguistic boundaries and borders.

CORE COURSES

The major requires a series of 11 courses from the departments of education; geography, history; international development, community, and environment; psychology; and sociology. These courses will guide you to critically interrogate your world, examine your social location within that world, and actively engage in social change. The curriculum includes:

- One foundation course
- Three theories of understanding courses
- One participatory research methods course
- Three elective courses
- Three courses that support the praxis project and portfolio development

“The CYES major has challenged me to examine my own identity and place in the world, and how that relates to my role in challenging the injustices around me.”

— MICKY STRACHOTA '19



COMMUNITY, YOUTH, AND EDUCATION STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts



DESIGN
YOUR
JOURNEY



**Explore
and navigate
Clark curriculum**



**Connect
and engage
with communities**



**Discover
and pursue
your passions**



**Develop
professional
skills**



**Reflect,
design
and plan**

YEAR

1

YEAR

2



□ **Curious about CYES?**

Stop by the Education Department to learn more about the major and introduce yourself to faculty and staff. Consider a First-Year Intensive (FYI) course connected with CYES.



□ **Explore campus**

Check out events at the Center for Gender, Race, and Area Studies. Consider joining a campus club such as All Kinds of Girls, Main Idea, Splash, or others that work with youth and community members.



□ **Seek out resources**

Build your writing skills through the Writing Center. Get involved in a faculty member's community-engaged research project. Visit the Career Connections Center to learn about the resources available to you.



□ **Get involved**

Visit the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteering to learn about ways to get involved in social justice work in Worcester. Attend a rally or protest, or join a community cultural event. Connect with the Worcester Cultural Coalition.



□ **Expand your horizons**

Visit the Study Abroad Office to explore opportunities for community-engaged learning in other countries and within the U.S.



□ **Reflect on what sparks your interest**

What new interests have you discovered? What do you want to try? Who have you met that you want to talk to and learn from in the future? Start a career journal.



□ **Explore the major**

Attend a CYES information session. Meet with program faculty and staff to talk about your interests and whether CYES would be a good fit. Take the CYES foundation course, Complexities of Urban Education.



□ **Start networking**

Create a ClarkCONNECT profile and connect with alumni in fields of interest. Log in to Handshake to find an internship, job, or research opportunity. Consider joining the Alumni Job Shadow Program to test-drive different career options.



□ **Attend a CYES event**

Each year CYES holds forums with program alums who talk about their experience after graduation.



□ **Take a Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) course**

Choose a Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) course that fulfills a CYES requirement.



□ **Develop a professional resume**

Check out the Career Resources Library for help with resumes, cover letters, interviews, and more. Upload your resume to Handshake for review and feedback or visit the Career Lab for help.



□ **Pursue another point of view**

Take a CYES course in a different department to explore the major from a new perspective.



□ **Reflect on your experiences**

What new interests have you discovered? What career options are you now considering? Add your thoughts to your career journal.



□ **Declare your CYES major**

Submit your two induction essays for the first CYES gateway (declaring the major) and attend the induction session.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Graduates may enter fields such as counseling, youth work, teaching and law. More significantly, students are prepared to be able to adapt to a dynamic world and to become change agents.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

CYES majors often pursue graduate programs in Teaching, Education, Social Work, Law, Community Development, Public Health, Urban Planning, and more.

YEAR 3



Complete your foundation and methods courses

Take the remaining theories of understanding courses and participatory action research methods course to fulfill major requirements.



Plan for senior year and beyond

Are you considering graduate school, pursuing a master's in teaching (MAT), or teaching in public schools? Connect with your career adviser to strategize and plan.



Find a praxis site

Based on your experiences so far, select a community site where you want to engage in your praxis project. Build relationships there and begin to establish trust.



Design your praxis project

In the spring of the third year, all CYES majors begin the three-course praxis sequence to support them in designing, implementing, and writing about their community-engaged research project.



Get out of here

Study abroad or away. CYES majors should study abroad in the spring of their sophomore year or the fall of their junior year.



Share your knowledge and give back

Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA). Lead a discussion section for an introductory course.



No regrets!

What's on your Clark bucket list? Reflect on your interests and what excites you. Where do you still need to build experience and skills? Where are you confident and where do you need more clarity?



Explore!

Venture out into part of the City of Worcester you have yet to explore. Attend a meeting in City Hall or a community organization in the city.

YEAR 4



Complete your praxis project

In the final two praxis courses, you will implement your project, gather and analyze your data, and write up your final thesis.



What's next?

Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation. Attend career-related events through the Career Connections Center to meet recruiters and learn about opportunities.



Showcase your work

Share your passions and your work by presenting at ClarkFEST or another conference featuring CYES students.



Develop your life philosophy

Cultivate your understanding of social inequity, identity, and positionality, and integrate them in a holistic philosophy of how you will live as an agent of social change.



Create your digital portfolio

Throughout the major you will be guided to develop and share your digital portfolio, showcasing your work and your development as a community-engaged learner.



Get ready to launch

Update your professional profiles including ClarkCONNECT and LinkedIn, finding ways to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and initiative.



Ask yourself the big questions

What have you learned that you value? What have you excelled at? What action steps do you need to take this year to finish strong?



AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!

In CYES the world is your classroom and experience your greatest teacher.

The CYES major is designed to help you learn outside the classroom and find ways to put your passions into practice. You may participate in cocurricular events such as Difficult Dialogues seminars and CYES student symposia. As a CYES major, you will engage with the world not only in our community-engaged classes, but beyond them in schools, community centers, summer camps, unions, political campaigns, and more. In all these endeavors, CYES majors embrace the humility necessary for learning.

CONNECT WITH US!

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Advising

We are here to support your academic and personal journey.

In your first year at Clark, you will be assigned an adviser to help you select your courses and programs. Once you declare your major, CYES faculty will advise you.

CLARK
UNIVERSITY



Challenge Convention.
Change Our World.

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