

COMMUNITY, YOUTH, AND EDUCATION STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts



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, collaboration, and learning from uncertainty. 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 contexts. All CYES majors undertake an original, student-led research project.

Highlights

The CYES major is designed to help you learn outside the classroom and find ways to put your passions into practice. 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.



"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



What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Students are well prepared for a career in teaching, as well as school administration, corporate training, public administration, library science, museum work, social work, and more. More significantly, students are ready 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.

Foundational Courses

The major requires a series of 11 courses from the departments of education, geography, history, international development, psychology, and sociology. The curriculum includes:

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

Find out more at clarku.edu/programs/major/community-youth-and-education-studies-ba/

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose



Cultivate Your Communities



Engage Locally & Globally



Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1



Explore the department and campus

Stop by the Education Department to learn more about the major and introduce yourself to faculty and staff. Check out events at the Center for Gender, Race, and Area Studies. Consider joining a campus club such as All Kinds of Growth, Splash, or others that work with youth and community members.



Get involved

Visit community engagement fairs 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.



Seek out resources

Build your writing skills through the Writing Center. Visit the Career Connections Center to learn about the resources available to you.

Year 2



Declare your CYES major

Submit your two induction essays for the first CYES gateway (declaring the major) and attend the induction session. Take the CYES foundation course, Complexities of Urban Education.



Start networking

Create a LinkedIn 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.



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.

Year 3



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.

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.



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.



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.

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