



Student Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to have a specific GPA to enroll in youth apprenticeship?

No, there are no requirements for GPA. As long as you are on track for graduation, your GPA will not be used as a determination factor for enrollment in youth apprenticeship. Students with varying GPAs have found success in the program. It is important to note that students involved in youth apprenticeship must pass their classes and remain on track for graduation. If a student that is enrolled in YA and is not passing their classes at grade checks per district, students can be pulled from their YA placement until they are passing their courses.

Is Youth Apprenticeship only for students going into the “Trades?”

No, there are opportunities available in a wide variety of career clusters. Youth Apprenticeship currently focuses on 11 Career Clusters including: Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Arts/AV and Technology; Finance; Health Science; Hospitality, Lodging & Tourism; IT; Manufacturing; STEM; and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Students in our program work in a multitude of positions within manufacturing, construction, health care, information technology, engineering, hospitality, auto technicians, vet technicians, and more. Enrolling in youth apprenticeship allows our team to work with you to determine your interests and help you network in your selected areas of interest.

Can students participate in youth apprenticeship if they are involved in extracurricular activities?

YES! Employers work with students to create schedules that allow students to fully participate in high school activities and maintain balance throughout the school year. Understanding of your availability along with your ability to communicate that to employers is essential for your success.

How do I determine what classes I need to take for my required related instruction?

Your School Based Coach and/or School Counselor can assist you in selecting the appropriate classes, whether through the high school, technical college, apprenticeship training centers, or

colleges to satisfy the requirements of youth apprenticeship. As mentioned above, you will need to maintain passing grades in your coursework to remain eligible for the YA program.

Can I use my current employment for my youth apprenticeship experience?

YES! If your position aligns to your career interests and/or you can acquire employability skills that are beneficial for your future career, your current job may count for a youth apprenticeship. To verify, you could connect with your School Based Coach to explain your job requirements and obtain approval. Your School Based Coach will connect with your current employer to explain the program requirements and ensure all parties understand their responsibilities.

Can I work for my parent/relative/friend that owns their own company?

Absolutely! As mentioned above, as long as your position aligns to your career interests and/or you can acquire employability skills that are beneficial for your future career, that position can count for a youth apprenticeship. Students should connect with their School Based Coach to explain their job requirements and obtain approval. Your School Based Coach will connect with the employer to explain the program requirements and ensure all parties understand their responsibilities.

What hours will I work as an apprentice?

Start dates and work hours are determined by the employer and the student. Students have flexibility to obtain release time from school to work during the morning or afternoon. If the student elects to work during the school day, the student should work with their School Based Coach and their school counselor to ensure that all graduation requirements can still be met. It is important to note that you can still participate in youth apprenticeship by working ONLY outside of the school day.

How many credits will I earn for completing a youth apprenticeship placement?

Credits earned on your high school transcript are determined by your high school. Students should connect with their School Counselor to verify the credits that will be awarded.

Does participating in youth apprenticeship require me to pursue that career after high school?

No, obtaining a certificate through youth apprenticeship does not require you to continue that pathway through college. Youth apprenticeship is a chance to experience career paths to determine whether you would like to pursue the career or education further. If you choose to pursue a different direction after high school, that is completely acceptable.

Can I still go to college if I participate in youth apprenticeship?

Youth apprenticeship is for ALL students. Regardless of your future plans, you can benefit from participating in the YA program. Youth apprenticeship allows you to connect in class learning to direct on the job experiences. Students can take college courses through Start College Now through their technical schools or college; along with transcribed courses through their high school. College applications have a section for youth apprenticeship. Students can also earn college level credits through the UW Admissions for some programs. Lastly, students can obtain industry recognized credentials which are viewed favorably by colleges and employers. These credentials provide you a step ahead of your peers.

What happens if I receive a placement and find out I do not enjoy it?

Youth apprenticeship students interview with employers ultimately make the decision on where they would like to commit for their placement. Employers commit a significant amount of time training and mentoring students and expect the student to provide the same level of commitment. Since you will be exposed to a variety of skills, it is important to realize that there may be portions of your position that are not as enjoyable as others. It is important to note that learning what you do not enjoy is sometimes just as valuable. It is important to communicate with your School Based Coach throughout your experience to keep them updated on how things are progressing and if any issues arise. Your School Based Coach can mentor you on how to handle a variety of workplace related situations.

Some careers have registered apprenticeship opportunities. How does youth apprenticeship fit into the registered apprenticeship process?

Youth Apprenticeship students can be bridged from their YA placement to a Registered Apprenticeship. Bridges between the programs can offer students a clear path to a skilled career.

A "bridged" Youth Apprenticeship program positions the YA graduate towards a tangible milestone in a related Registered Apprenticeship. Examples could include testing out of the first year of RA instruction, receiving credit for hours worked, or receiving higher placement on a waiting list.

Several programs in Youth Apprenticeship can serve as introductions to existing Registered Apprenticeship programs. When possible, DWD has created crosswalks between the two programs to help employers understand the similarities and differences. Crosswalks created by DWD are reviewed and approved by relevant Apprenticeship State Trade Committees, which also may make recommendations for credit awarded. Youth Apprentices completing their program may then have part or all of their work hours applied towards the requirements of the Registered Apprenticeship program.

Learn more about the [Bridging Youth to Registered Apprenticeship](#).