

We have all received help, assistance, and guidance from others to get to the places we are professionally. Take a moment and think back to when you were a high school senior transitioning into college and/or the workplace. Picture a person who influenced, assisted, and mentored you as you learned about yourself and the possible careers that were a good fit. Where would you have been without these mentors investing in you along your career journey? You now have an opportunity to serve as a mentor to someone seeking to learn about your career and job. The Young Professionals Academy in Dublin City Schools offers high school juniors and seniors a program that allows them to explore careers, develop professional skills, and learn through authentic hands-on learning and shadowing with professionals in Dublin and Columbus area hospitals, offices, schools, and businesses.

While enrolled in our YPA class this semester, students are instructed in career research and preparation, communication skills, problem solving, teamwork, and the soft skills many companies are seeking in their employees. After three weeks of onboarding and networking, students connect with potential mentors and arrange on-site, work-based, learning experiences that reflect their career interests, abilities, and availability. Throughout these experiences, students observe, shadow, talk with, and experience different activities in various departments, often interacting with several different employees while completing their six-week mentorship program. Here are some of the details around our student YPA mentorships:

- Six-week mentorship/shadow experience
- Students will present mentors with background checks, emergency forms, resumes, personal bios, and mentorship agreement documents prior to starting their educational partnership
- Students and mentors discuss their learning goals during the initial interview
- Mentors share individual and company expectations and opportunities with the student
- Mentors and students develop a schedule of 3-4 days per week, Tuesday through Friday, for approximately 5-7 hours per week. There is flexibility as the quality of the internship is more important than just achieving a total number of hours
- Mentors or company representatives are asked to sign a weekly time sheet
- This is an educational and non-paid learning opportunity; therefore, students are not considered employees in respect to worker's compensation or other fair labor laws as they are earning academic credits during this learning experience
- In some cases, the mentorship may be extended for another six weeks based upon mutual agreement between mentor, student, and YPA coordinator

As a mentor you offer the opportunity for our future leaders to better define their life's ambition through this real-life, hands-on learning experience. It is our hope that we can work together to provide a relevant experience for one of our YPA students that is mutually beneficial to all parties. Mentoring a student assists companies in learning more about the values, goals, and aspirations of the next generation. Please feel free to contact us at 614.718.8335 or ypa@dublinschools.net should you have any questions or need additional information in regards to forming this powerful partnership.

Dates for 2023 -2024 YPA Work Based Learning Experiences**1st Semester**

First Mentorship / Shadow Experience:

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 through Friday, October 13, 2023

Second Mentorship / Shadow Experience:

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 through Friday, December 8, 2023

2nd Semester

First Mentorship / Shadow Experience:

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 through Friday, March 8, 2024

Second Mentorship / Shadow Experience:

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 through Friday, May 10, 2024

Please note: Students are released from school during the times that they are scheduled for our Young Professionals Academy class. Students collaborate with their mentors to develop a schedule of times and days they plan to participate in their mentorship / shadow experience. At a minimum, students should plan to attend three days a week and arrange to go to their sites Tuesday through Friday during their scheduled YPA time. Students may be able to spend more time on a case-by-case basis. YPA classes are held each Monday during the semester and all students are required to attend class each Monday during their mentorship windows. Thank you for your consideration.