



PAVING A PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE

Young Entrepreneurial Scholars Program

The Young Entrepreneurial Scholars (YES) Program provides minority students with exposure to the accounting field and opportunities to carve a pathway toward higher education and eventual careers in business or accounting.

Founded in 1998, the YES Program is a collaborative endeavor between the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh, Division of Academic Support of Inclusive Excellence; the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Future Success Program; the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants Educational Foundation; and the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), Milwaukee Chapter. Its dual goal is to expand opportunities for minority students and increase diversity in the accounting profession.

YES provides exposure, opportunity, encouragement and mentoring to Milwaukee-area minority high school students interested in the accounting profession. Students in grades 9-12 who are eligible for free or reduced lunch and have at least a 2.0 grade point average may apply.

Here's how it works:

1. High school students are introduced to YES through career fairs, classroom visits or by meeting a YES alum. Interested students may choose from two different programs:
 - a. **UW-Milwaukee:** Part of UWM's Future Success Program, YES is an intensive 6-week experience that helps students improve study skills and offers tutoring and academic advising. The curriculum consists of Math, Science, English and STEM electives. Students commute daily to UWM and are provided with bus tickets.
 - b. **UW-Oshkosh:** The Young Entrepreneurial Scholars Residential Program invites students to live on campus for 2 weeks in July; take courses in English Composition, Mathematics, Accounting, Business Plan Development and Business Technology; and take part in college readiness workshops. Students must apply by April 15.
2. **Internships:** During the residential program, students can apply for a 6-week internship at a Milwaukee-area company.* Interns receive firsthand exposure to accounting and finance operations, learn how the business environment works and discover new career opportunities. Each intern has a mentor to guide and support them. Students are encouraged to do an internship every summer until they're in college.
3. **YES Seniors:** High school seniors who have been through one or more internships can have year-round support through the YES Seniors Program. They receive further encouragement to explore the accounting profession and are guided to create a pathway into college accounting programs.
4. **NABA Metro Student Chapter:** Once in college, YES Program participants are encouraged to join the NABA Metro Student Chapter, where they'll meet once a month to discuss college life, accounting and new opportunities. Participants receive additional resources, including guest speakers, volunteer opportunities and connections to various accounting organizations.
5. **YES Alumni:** After college graduation, YES alumni are invited to give speeches, assist with the intern selection and host YES events. Graduation events are held for high school, college and internship students who qualify.



Educational
FOUNDATION

The WICPA Educational Foundation has been a proud supporter of the YES program for over 20 years. To contribute, visit wicpa.org/EF or contact Tammy J. Hofstede, WICPA President & CEO at tammy@wicpa.org

To learn more about the program or inquire about sponsoring an internship, contact the YES Program Coordinator at Coleman & Williams, LTD: (414) 278-0170.

* Organizations that currently host and sponsor YES interns include: Quarles & Brady, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, Northwestern Mutual, the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC), Johnson Controls, Milwaukee Public Schools, Seaway Bank & Trust, the City of Milwaukee Comptroller's Office & Employees' Retirement System and Coleman & Williams, LTD.