



The Youth Development MEd program is committed to educating youth-dedicated professionals to foster the knowledge, skills, and passion for working with youth in urban contexts. Individuals will be prepared to help young people realize their full potential by creating spaces, programs, and organizations that support youth in meeting the challenges of developing their emotional, physical, social, and intellectual selves and in gaining a voice and place in society so that they can successfully navigate the transition from dependence to independence. The Youth Development MEd program at UIC has a specific focus on preparing professionals to work with youth in urban contexts.

PROGRAM FACULTY

The strength of the Youth Development MEd program faculty lies in their shared commitment to the development of healthy children and adolescents, not just academically but also socially and emotionally. Program faculty have been honored with prestigious awards for their teaching, research, and scholarship and have published numerous books and articles. Faculty are known for their expertise around issues of children and adolescents from multiple perspectives, including the importance of physical education, sexual orientation and gender expression, developing professional practice for urban youth, contextual and cultural factors when working with children and families, antioppressive education, social justice, and the connection between schools and communities.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Youth Development MEd program requires 32 semester hours of course work. Curriculum credits are dispersed across the developmental theory core (six credits), the research and methodology core (12 credits), the culminating experience (five credits), and electives (at least nine credits) that reflect the student's chosen area of specialization within youth development (i.e. arts, public health, race and racism, or media studies). Students choose between two strands—an applied strand aimed to develop practitioners to work in youth development/youth outreach or a research strand designed to prepare individuals for doctoral work in education, psychology, human development, and other fields.

SAMPLE SPECIALIZATIONS

- Race and Racism
- Gender and Sexuality
- Performing Arts
- Law and Justice
- Nutrition and Health
- Youth with Disabilities

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEATURES

The Youth Development MEd program at UIC is one of only a few programs in the nation that specifically focuses on preparing individuals to work with youth in out-of-school contexts and perhaps the only program with a specific focus on urban contexts. A central component of our program is our strong connections and relationships to the Chicago community. Through our connections to the network of youth service agencies throughout Chicago, students in this program will have opportunities to work in an array of diverse settings.

RESULTS

Students graduating from this program will go on to successful careers working with youth in a variety of positions, including:

- Community organizers
- Classroom teachers
- After-school coordinators
- College bridge program coordinators
- Public health professionals
- Community-based organization program directors/assistants

CONTACT INFO

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