



YDA Registration Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: How do I register for YDA as a 3-credit course?

A: Course registration starts by visiting the Mizzou Online course page for YDA and requesting instructor consent. Step-by-step instructions for registration are included in the YDA Course for Credit (PDF) document linked to the [YDA home page](#).

Q: What is the difference between the YDA non-credit and for-credit options?

A: Students have the option of taking YDA for-credit or non-credit. With the non-credit option, you attend the five-day Academy but do not complete coursework or receive a grade that affects your GPA. Instead, you receive 3.5 continuing education units (CEUs) or 35 school age care clock hours, which count as professional development toward your career. Non-credit students pay a \$499 program fee, but do not pay tuition and fees. For-credit students enroll in YDA just like any other MU course to receive 3 hours of academic credit from the MU College of Education. Tuition, fees, and coursework apply.

Q: Where and when is the Youth Development Academy held?

A: The Academy meets on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, MO, during the intersession period (before the regular semester starts). While the class meets for five days before the semester, some coursework and assignments are due after the semester starts, and grades are posted at the end of the semester.

Q: What is the YDA program fee? Does it apply to me? What is it for, and what are my payment options?

A: If you are an MU campus-based student (not enrolled in a distance/online program) and want to take YDA for credit, the program fee applies. Participating in YDA is like registering for a conference. The \$499 program fee covers the cost of all YDA books, course materials, supplies, certificate, and daily lunches during the five-day Academy. The fee can be paid by credit card, check, or with an MU departmental MoCODE.

Q: When is the YDA program fee due? Do I need to pay it right away, or can I pay it later?

A: The program fee can be paid at the time of registration, or after you register but before the final registration deadline. Check the YDA registration page for applicable dates. To pay at registration, choose the credit card or MoCode option. To pay later, click the "pay by check" option.



Q: Can I pay the YDA program fee with my financial aid? Can it be charged to my student account or can I add the fee to my myZou account instead of paying it directly?

A: The program fee is an educational expense and can be paid with financial aid. Payment can be made using any financial aid distribution you receive, or a balance left over after other expenses are paid. At this point, the fee is not directly charged to student accounts, but that option is under consideration.

Q: What are possible sources of financial assistance or support to help cover the YDA program fee?

A: Students are encouraged to explore sponsorship or scholarship opportunities with their campus departments, employers, internship sites, local youth-serving organizations, or outside sources for financial assistance. In some cases, groups may be willing to offer students financial support or sponsorship in exchange for their work with positive youth development programs before or after YDA. For more information, please visit: https://muis1.missouri.edu/precollege/summer_program.cfm

Q: If I am a distance student, or do not live near the University of Missouri, what lodging options are available?

A: YDA attendees are free to make their own lodging arrangements. A block of hotel rooms is available for reservation at Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia, MO, at the student's expense. There is no fee for YDA participants to stay elsewhere.

Q: Can I take YDA as a distance course, or 100% online?

A: At this point, the course is a blend of face-to-face interactive learning (5 days) and online assignments and discussion. Campus and online students and professionals find the hands-on experience to be very enriching and beneficial!

Q: What if I can attend most, but not all, of the five days of the Academy?

A: Because of the intensive nature of the program, YDA participants are expected to attend all five days of the Academy. However, students can miss up to one half day during the week without any effect on their grade.

Q: How far into the semester does the coursework finish?

A: The majority of the coursework is completed during the 5-day Academy. Students have one or two papers (graduate level) to complete after the Academy and before the end of the semester.