

Year Up

Intervention Report Snapshot | Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Topic Area

WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE™

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There is a growing divide between career opportunities for college graduates and those for young adults without postsecondary credentials. Young adults with no more than a high school credential earned 34 percent less than college graduates in 1980, 57 percent less in 1990, 71 percent less in 2000, and 78 percent less in 2015. Rising employer demand for skilled workers has driven efforts to better align occupational training programs to industry needs. *Year Up* is an occupational and technical education intervention that targets high school graduates to provide them with six months of training in the information technology and financial service sectors followed by a six-month internship and supports to ensure that participants have strong connections to employment.

This What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) report, part of the WWC’s Postsecondary Career and Technical Education topic

area, explores the effects of *Year Up* on short- and medium-term earnings and employment and on industry-recognized credential completion. The WWC identified two studies of *Year Up*. Both meet WWC standards. The evidence presented in this report is from studies of the impact of *Year Up* on young adults ages 18 to 24 with a high school diploma or equivalent—including Black and Hispanic individuals—in urban areas around the country.

Findings on *Year Up* from two studies that meet WWC standards are shown below. The table reports an effectiveness rating, the improvement index, and the number of studies and students that contributed to the findings. The improvement index is a measure of the intervention’s effect on an outcome.

What Happens When Students Participate in *Year Up*?

| The WWC found that implementing <i>Year Up</i> : | Effectiveness rating | Study findings | Evidence meeting WWC standards (version 4.0) | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | Improvement index (percentile points) | Number of studies | Number of students |
| Is likely to increase short-term earnings | Positive effects | +28 | 2 | 1,988 |
| May result in little to no change in short-term employment | No discernible effects | +7 | 1 | 143 |
| May result in little to no change in medium-term earnings | No discernible effects | +5 | 1 | 135 |
| May result in little to no change in industry-recognized credential, certificate, or license completion | No discernible effects | +2 | 1 | 143 |
| May result in little to no change in medium-term employment | No discernible effects | -1 | 1 | 143 |

Note: The improvement index can be interpreted as the expected change in percentile rank for an average comparison group student if that student had received the intervention. A positive improvement index does not necessarily mean the estimated effect is statistically significant.

FINDINGS ARE BASED ON:

2 studies with 2,002 students in 8 sites



STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

Race:
54% minority

Ethnicity:
32% Hispanic

What Does *Year Up* Cost?

Costs of implementing *Year Up* include salaries for *Year Up* instructors, advisors, social workers, and other support staff. *Year Up* has a national office and local offices in each

urban area site. It provides equipment and a weekly stipend to participants during the training phase. Employers provide participants equipment and a stipend during the internship phase. The operating costs of *Year Up* are primarily financed by employers and charitable contributions.

LEARN MORE



Read more about *Year Up* and the studies that are summarized here in the [Intervention Report](#). Contact [Year Up](#) for additional information on implementing *Year Up*.