Jumpstart Frequently Asked Questions

What does the time commitment look like?

- Generally, we ask that you commit at least **10-12 hours/ week**. Here’s a break-down:

  - **Jumpstart Sessions** → biweekly programming in the preschool classrooms
    - 2:30-5:30 pm Monday and Wednesday OR Tuesday and Thursday
    - 4 hours/ week for Jumpstart session
    - Include an additional 30 minutes before and after each session for transportation
  - **Individual Classroom Service** → Time spent aiding preschool teachers in your classroom
    - 2-4 hours/ week (amount depends on your availability)
  - **Individual planning** → Personal prep for weekly sessions
    - 2 hours/ week
  - **Team planning** → Two meetings (planned around your team’s schedule) to prep for sessions
    - 2 hours/ week

How do I get to 300 hours?

- You will receive frequent support from your Jumpstart coordinator as well as your team! There are plenty of opportunities outside direct service that will count towards 300 hours.
- All of the above time commitments are required hours. You can also count the following towards your 300 hours:
  - Training/ professional development sessions
  - Materials prep (creating materials on campus)
  - Attending lectures/events related to social justice, civic engagement, and/or education

Where are the preschools? How do you get there?

- Two preschools are located in Evanston (one west and one southwest of campus), and one preschool is located in Rogers Park (on the very north end of Chicago). All locations are accessible by CTA train/ bus within 30 minutes. Additionally, some teams may carpool.
- Jumpstart covers **all** transportation costs!

What if I have no experience working with children/this age group?

- That’s totally fine! Many Jumpstart corps members enter the position with little classroom experience. Well before you start working with the students, Jumpstart will provide all-team training to prepare you for reading groups, classroom activities, managing child conflict, etc. You also have a team of other Northwestern students that will collaborate together for Jumpstart sessions, so you aren’t entering the classroom on your own!

Do I have to be an education major to do this?

- Not at all! We have team members from all Northwestern schools (McCormick, Weinberg, School of Communications, etc.), from a vast array of majors and interests.