Year Up is a prestigious 1-year training institution that provides the opportunity for youth 18-24 to develop workforce skills in the tech industry, while earning college credits. Year Up has two strategically placed locations, where the tech industry is booming; San Francisco and Sillicon Valley. There are multiple tracks students can pursue: Quality Assurance, Project Management, Cyber Security, IT Support, and Networking. Every student gets an insight on each of these tracks by taking trainings, which ultimately leads to placement in a student’s appropriate track. Throughout the experience, students are coached and assessed to ensure that the workload and potential internship is well managed.

One of the tracks offered at Year Up Bay Area is Quality Assurance. QA consists of reviewing and maintaining a desired level of quality within a service or a product. This is usually done during the testing phase of a product, but can be applied during the development and throughout product. Quality Assurance doesn’t just apply to products; it can also be used to measure the quality of performance within the workplace. This can be very helpful to a company, to ensure employees are upholding company values.

Year Up consists of two phases; the L&D phase and the internship phase. The L&D phase is 6 months long and is divided into 3 modules. Module 1 is learning the basics of IT and web development. There are also consistent core classes including Pro skills, Business communications and Independent Learning. During module 2 students go deeper into learning Operational systems and networking, as well as planning and researching potential tracks. Module 3 is when participants get placed into a track of their choice, for YUBA class of 2016 these included: Cyber Security, Networking, Quality Assurance, IT trainee or Project Coordination. The second phase of Year Up is internship. The participants are placed in an internship where they are expected to apply every training learned and put it into practice.

As mentioned before, Mod III allows participants to learn more about their desired track. In the Software testing and Quality Assurance training, there have been many major topics mentioned to help develop each student for their internship.

White box/Black box testing

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Black Box Testing | White box testing |
| Static | Reading Documents (FSD) | Reading the code |
| Dynamic | Testing by using the software (test case) | Viewing the code executing specific parts of the code |

My name is Andrea Chavez and I am currently attending Year Up Bay Area as part of class 16. I am in the Quality Assurance track hoping to one day become a QA Specialist. What I find most interesting about the QA track is that it is one of the most important parts of creating a product, to ensure its success. Without QA, many products or software’s would not be able to function properly. Many bugs are found during the examination process and they allow the developers to go back and review. I also like the idea of being able to help out in a very important process.