NYU students are taking the lead in fields like social work, teaching, and policy making. Many students here dedicate their professional lives to giving back. NYU was the first American university to establish a school devoted to teacher education in 1890. Its nursing program was one of the first to recognize nursing as a science. And it became home to the first food studies major in the US in 1996. NYU’s urban locations enable students to explore a variety of field learning experiences. Nursing students gain clinical experience at hospitals such as Beth Israel Medical Center and Lenox Hill. Education majors student teach in the classrooms of New York City, Accra, and Shanghai. And global public health majors learn about emerging societal issues while interning at sites like Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the Uganda Village Project. >>>

Leading in the Helping Professions
- NYU social work majors gain three semesters, or 700 hours, of hands-on instruction at sites like Bellevue Hospital, the Children’s Defense Fund, and the LGBT Community Center. NYU’s location enables students to conduct fieldwork at more than 600 different New York City-based social agencies.
- Sophomore Johnathan Chen founded his own nonprofit organization, OneReasonRecordings (ORR), a record label that raises money and creates awareness for social justice issues around the world through music.
- NYU is one of the only US universities to offer global public health at the undergraduate level, with more than 10 majors that explore the field as it relates to disciplines like food studies, anthropology, and applied psychology.
A commitment to sustainability is part of the fabric of New York University. In 2007, the University accepted the Mayors Challenge to reduce greenhouse gas output by 30 percent by 2017, and it has already surpassed this goal. With seven LEED-certified University buildings, green roofs that conserve energy, and dining halls that serve locally sourced food, reducing environmental impact is a way of life for NYU students. In NYU classrooms around the world, students and professors utilize the latest technologies to study everything from climate change to urban ecology. At NYU’s Marron Institute on Cities and the Urban Environment, students and faculty dedicate themselves to helping global cities become more livable and sustainable. All of these initiatives establish the University’s important leadership role as a protector of our environment, now and in the future.

A Culture of Sustainability

- NYU awards Green Grants of up to $20,000 to students, faculty, and staff to develop ideas that reduce NYU’s impact on the environment.
- Launched in 2010 by a student-led Green Grant team, the NYU Bike Share is the first of its kind in New York City, providing 75 lightweight cruisers for members of the NYU community to borrow.
- Through the NYU Unplugged initiative, residence halls compete to reduce energy usage and win a prize. Each year during this weeklong challenge, students’ efforts reduce the University’s overall energy usage by approximately 5 percent.
- In a course called Studies in Coastal Urban Environments, NYU students in Abu Dhabi and New York use technology like video-conferencing and geographic information systems (GIS) software to share geospatial environmental data and compare their findings across continents.
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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
GIVING NYU

COMMUNITY
NYU students are giving back—and making good on the University’s promise to be “a private university in the public service.” Each week, hundreds of NYU students serve their community as volunteers, often launching their own service projects or embarking on fieldwork in the helping professions. They tutor reading and math in elementary schools and student teach in schools at all levels. They organize fund-raising events to build awareness of global public health issues and study to become public health advocates. And they’re finding creative solutions to reduce their impact on the environment, making use of both campus challenges and academic research initiatives.
When it comes to giving back, NYU students have an impressive track record. They can be found rehabilitating schools in Brazil through the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholars Program, which incorporates service and social justice into the curriculum. Students on the NYU Civic Team volunteer with organizations such as the Food Bank for New York City, Mentoring USA, and the Children’s Aid Society. With over 400 clubs and organizations, a service fair to explore volunteering options, and service learning built into many courses, community service is a way of life for students here.

Community Connections

- Each week, 800 NYU students travel across New York City to tutor children in reading and math through NYU’s America Reads and America Counts program, the largest chapter of the program in the nation.

- During 2012 Alternative Spring Break, 300 NYU students dedicated their time by teaching children English in the Dominican Republic, promoting women’s rights in Morocco, and building libraries for Mayan communities in Guatemala.

- Each fall, 75 freshmen arrive a week early to join New York City’s community service scene through Project Outreach. They organize projects like delivering meals to individuals with HIV/AIDS, painting elementary schools, or revitalizing a city park.
“As a public health consultant, I work on exciting initiatives that improve health care systems around the world. At the moment, my projects include managing a research study in Ethiopia on the effects of mobile phones on maternal health and organizing a data management system for an HIV and hepatitis C testing initiative at Mass General Hospital’s Charlestown Healthcare Center. I’ve lived in Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and the US, and my work has included activities like conducting surveys with mothers in rural villages and codesigning mobile health applications with community health workers. At NYU, I chose a major that supported my pursuit of a career in global public service. For example, working on my international relations thesis taught me rigorous research methods that I have been able to apply to issues I care deeply about, like HIV/AIDS.”

KATE OTTO

College of Arts and Science, 2008
KATE OTTO, who graduated from NYU with a B.S. in international relations, is now an independent public health consultant and the author of Everyday Ambassador. She has served on projects with international NGOs, the World Bank, and the US Agency for International Development. She also earned a Master of Public Administration degree at NYU’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and is part of several service-driven communities, including NYU’s Catherine B. Reynolds Program in Social Entrepreneurship.