





## About Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH was first developed in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital as a way to provide employment and educational opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities.

Ascension Project SEARCH is a business-led work training program for individuals with disabilities. It is a nine-month internship that runs from September through the end of May. It is targeted to young adults whose goals are to obtain competitive employment in the community upon program completion.

Total immersion in the workplace assists in the instruction and learning process. Interns receive continuous feedback and gain employability and competitive work skills. Each site has a certified instructor and job coach to work with the interns and the business.

## Program Objectives

Project SEARCH prepares interns for employment in the community. During this program, students will:

- Receive classroom instruction on employability and independent living skills.
- Participate in unpaid internship rotations and work with a teacher and job coach to learn how to perform internship tasks independently.
- Engage in job-seeking activities.
- Complete Project SEARCH with the skills needed to obtain a community job that aligns with their vocational goals.

## Ascension Mercy Hospital Project SEARCH Entrance Criteria

- Meet the required initial health screening which includes seasonal influenza immunization (flu shot), a drug screen, and a blood draw to test for TB and immunities to measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella (chicken pox), and tetanus, (Tdap). Applicants must pass a criminal and health care background check and sanction screen.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Completed high school credits necessary for graduation.
- Agree that this will be the last year of school and will accept diploma at the end of the school year.
- Meet eligibility requirements for Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).
- Family willingness to apply for long-term support/follow-along services.
- Have or are working toward independent personal hygiene and grooming skills.
- Have or are working toward independent daily living skills.
- Willingness to learn and display appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace.
- Ability to take direction from supervisors and change behavior to meet needs of the workplace.
- Have an adequate means of communicating with those around them (e.g. verbal, sign language, technical support through use of IPAD, pictures).
- Utilize public transportation where available and participate in travel training to ensure success in using the bus/city cab independently.
- Have previous experience in a work environment (including school, volunteer and paid work).
- **Have the desire, family support and plan to work competitively in the community after the Project SEARCH program.**



## How to apply

1. Complete a Project SEARCH application. Applications are provided through your school district Transition Coordinator and/or DVR counselor.
2. Ensure you meet eligibility requirements listed within brochure and application. All interested candidates should submit by deadline listed on application.
3. All applicants are required to participate in Project SEARCH assessment day in March. Date, time, and location can be found in the candidate application.
4. After attending assessment day you will receive notice of program acceptance from a member of the Project SEARCH team.

Intern selection will be made after assessment day. You will receive a letter in the mail if you have been selected for the program by the end of March.

## Contact Information

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