





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.

ThedaCare 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:

- Complete curriculum to further enhance employability and independent living skills.
- Participate in three, UNPAID internship rotations within the hospital.
- Receive training from instructor and job coach to learn how to perform internship tasks independently.
- Engage in job development activities to learn how to become a marketable job seeker.
- Complete Project SEARCH with the skills needed to obtain a community job that aligns with vocational goals. Intern will seek employment that is 16 hours per week or more.

ThedaCare Project SEARCH Entrance Criteria

- Complete the orientation process of ThedaCare including but not limited to: TB test, blood draw, flu vaccine (when available), provide copy of immunization records, and pass a criminal background check and drug screen.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have completed high school credits necessary for graduation or have a HS degree or equivalent.
- Agree that this will be the last year of student services and will accept diploma at the end of the school year (for high school students).
- Must be receiving special education services if currently a student.
- Meet eligibility requirements for Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).
- Family willingness to apply for long term support/follow along services if needed.
- Have or are working toward independent daily living, personal hygiene, and grooming skills.
- Willingness to learn and display appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace.
- The ability to take direction from supervisors and change behavior to meet the needs of the workplace.
- Have adequate means of communicating with those around them (e.g., verbal, sign language, technical support through use of AAC devices, etc.)
- Utilize public transportation when available and participate in transportation training, if needed, to ensure success in using transportation independently.
- **Have the desire, family support, and plan to work competitively in the community (paid, 16+ hours/week) at the conclusion of the Project SEARCH program.**



How to apply

1. Complete a Project SEARCH application. Applications are provided through your school district Special Education Case Manager 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 candidate application.

Intern selection is made after assessment day. Acceptance letters are sent via mail and can be expected by early April.

Contact Information

Sammie Michalski
Project SEARCH Instructor
Smichalski@cesa6.org
920-651-3500

Kailey Colwell
Project SEARCH Program Leader
Kcolwell@goodwillincw.org
920-581-8973