



# Project SEARCH Benefits

- 1 **Internship training** experiences
- 2 Competitive, transferable, and **marketable job skills**
- 3 **Increased independence, confidence and self-esteem**
- 4 **Individualized coaching** on the job and feedback daily
- 5 **Building** personal and professional **relationships**
- 6 Participation in a curriculum focused on **soft skills required to maintain employment** in addition to financial literacy, health and more

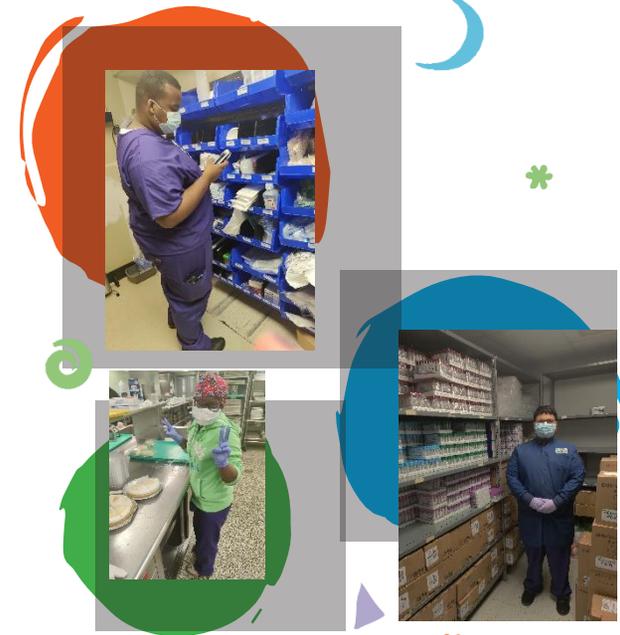


Project | SEARCH®

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Project | SEARCH®

A unique, school-to-work transition program for students with learning disabilities and autism

# What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a **one-year internship program** for students with disabilities. It is targeted for students whose goal is competitive employment in the community.

Opportunities are very diverse and include health care, universities, manufacturing facilities and more.

Students participate in **three internships to explore a variety of career paths.**

Each student works with a team that includes his or her family, an instructor, job coaches and host business mentors to **create an employment goal** and to support the student during the transition from school to work.



## The Project SEARCH Philosophy:

“People with disabilities have the right to choose a path toward education and employment. However, while the freedom of choice is given, the right to work is earned. Earning the right to work is dependent upon the student’s preparation.”

Stephen Simon, ADA Quarterly Fall 1998



## A typical day includes:

**9:00 to 11:00:** Classroom instruction in employability and independent living skills.

**11:00 to 2:00:** Unpaid internship at a facility or department

**2:00 to 3:00** Classroom time to discuss and debrief

**Interns have lunch with colleagues** during their workday and participate in meetings and social events.

## Core Components of Project SEARCH

- 1** Outcome goal is **full time, paid employment**
- 2** **True co-production across partners** is essential
- 3** Business-led program requiring **total immersion in the workplace**
- 4** Focus on serving young adults with significant learning disabilities who will need to receive **follow-on services to retain employment**
- 5** Partners must provide a **consistent on-site staff team**
- 6** Each site has a **licensing agreement** with Project SEARCH



“I have become more independent since I started Project SEARCH.”

2016/2017 Intern

