

Project SEARCH

Transitioning students with disabilities to work

Project SEARCH is a unique business-led transition program for students with disabilities. It provides students who want to work a chance to explore careers and develop transferable job skills. The ultimate goal: Independent adults working in a competitive environment.

Designed as an unpaid internship program, Project SEARCH places students in real-world situations where they learn all aspects of obtaining and maintaining a job. Large organizations – such as banks, hospitals, or universities – host the program. This process of immersion facilitates the teaching and learning of new work skills on-site.



Individualized job development and placement occurs based on the student's experiences, strengths, and skills. A series of internships lasting up to 10 weeks allow students to find positions that best suit their preferences. They receive support with accommodations, adaptations, and coaching by a skills trainer.

Students who have completed all requirements for graduation from high school may apply for enrollment in Project SEARCH. Participants may be 18 to 21 years old. Three elective credits can be earned for successful completion of the yearlong program.

Great Oaks provides Project SEARCH through a partnership with the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), and the host business sites which provide non-paid internship sites to develop competitive, marketable and transferrable skills.



Time required Full days for one school year

Grade levels Upon completion of high school credits, ages 18 – 21

Credits Up to three elective credits

Current Project SEARCH host sites

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, OH
513.636.5381

Fifth Third Bank George A. Schaefer Jr. Operations Center
Cincinnati, OH
513.358.0481

Xavier University
Cincinnati, OH
513.745.1057

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative assistant
Auditing support
Call center
Clinical sterilization
Distribution/stocking
Document preparation associate
Environmental services

Facilities maintenance assistant
File clerk
Food preparation
Grounds keeping
Imaging specialist
Information technology support

Kitchen steward
Lockbox clerk
Mail clerk
Patient assistant
Pharmacy assistant

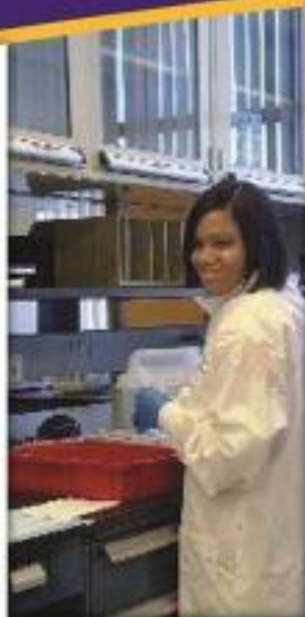
Physical therapy assistant
Retail clerk
Surgical room support

Learning works!



www.greatoaks.com/satellites

Project SEARCH



A typical day's schedule

School day: August through May, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- 8-9 a.m. – Students attend employability skills class at the job site. Lessons are based on daily living such as check writing, nutrition, and resume writing. Instruction follows an approved Ohio Department of Education curriculum.
- 9-11:30 a.m. – Students participate in non-paid job rotations throughout the location.
- 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Lunch
- 12:15-2 p.m. – Students return to job rotations.
- 2-2:30 p.m. – Students return to classroom for journal writing/reflection.

Job rotations

- Job rotations last about 10–12 weeks.
- Students are matched to the most appropriate job site based on interests and skills.
- Each student interviews for a job rotation placement.
- A job coach works with the student until the tasks assigned can be performed independently. The time and instruction is individualized.
- Students are evaluated by the job coach, the instructor, and the department supervisor.

Job placement

Job placement is the final goal of the program. Students can be employed at any time throughout the school year. The IEP team – which includes the student, family, Project SEARCH instructor, affiliated school representative, and vocational rehabilitation counselor – meets regularly to discuss progress and issues at work sites. The team assists each student in defining a career goal.

Eligibility criteria

- Is 18 – 21 years old
- Student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Student has met all academic requirements for graduation
- Student needs extended learning services to prepare for transitioning to employment while diploma is held by school
- Student qualifies for services with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)
- Student is able and willing to follow all host site employee guidelines
- Student is able to pass site background checks
- Student has updated immunizations per site requirements
- Designed for students in the last year of school services in order to lead to employment



A SAMPLING OF RECOGNITION FOR PROJECT SEARCH

- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Partnership Award 2013
- Included in 2013 "10 Best Practices in Employment Support for People with Disabilities" by European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities.
- Selected as an Innovative Practice in Disability and Employment by the Essl Foundation's Zero Project; 2013
- APSE National Best Practices Award; 2013
- Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Inclusion Champion; 2011
- Recognized as an Effective Program by VR Service Models for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder; 2012
- Department of Labor New Freedom Initiative award; 2004
- The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; Large Employer of the Year Award; 2004
- Inclusion Network Ninth Annual Leadership Award; Project SEARCH High School and Employment Programs at Provident Bank; 2003
- Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati Outstanding Leadership Award; 2002
- Division on Career Development and Transition; Project SEARCH / Children's Hospital: National Employer of the Year; 2001
- The National Association of State Directors of Vocational Technical Education, 2000



FOR MORE INFORMATION 513.612.3636