



WORK IMMERSION PROGRAM



The Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU) and UPMC West Shore have partnered to create a work immersion program, which aims to enhance employment outcomes for students with disabilities.

Students entering the work immersion program will spend their full final school year immersed in UPMC departments, partnering with co-workers, mentors, and program staff to learn duties, explore career interests, and successfully contribute to UPMC business needs.

A typical day includes 1.5 hours of classroom instruction and 5 hours of internship experience in hospital departments.

1 How it Works

- Total workplace immersion for a full academic year
- Employability Curriculum
- Learn skills that are transferable to in-demand community employment
- Individualized skill building and employment planning
- Long-term job coaching

2 Who can Apply

- Individuals with an IEP with intellectual or developmental disability
- At least 18 years of age by the start of the program
- Completed all high school credit and graduation requirements
- Last FULL year of high school eligibility preferred
- Has agreed that the Work Immersion Program will be their last year of school
- Desire to achieve competitive employment

3 Benefits to Participants

- Acquire competitive, transferable, and marketable skills
- Participate in 3 internship rotations within UPMC for employment readiness and career exploration
- Gain increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- Individualized skills training, instruction and feedback
- Assistance with applying for jobs and onboarding if acquired

4 Classroom Instruction

Functional Academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills

- Using and applying technology
- Developing self-advocacy skills
- Participating in travel training
- Working responsibly
- Communicating effectively
- Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills
- Social Skills Development
- Planning and managing a career
- Money management