

### What is Project SEARCH?

The Project SEARCH Transition Program is a unique, community collaborative business led partnership. The program provides real-life work experiences, combined with instruction in independent living and work skills, to assist young adults with disabilities in transitioning from school to employment. The one year program follows the school calendar year. The interns are immersed into three 10-week work rotation experiences. The seamless combination of classroom curriculum instruction paired with workplace immersion provides interns with authentic work experiences to develop and acquire independent work skills. Skills trainers, in collaboration with the business department team members and the instructor provide the job coaching for the interns.

### Who is eligible to participate?

Prospective interns are 18-26 years old with a current IEP and have not received their high school diploma are eligible to apply for this unpaid internship opportunity. Prospective interns must:

- Demonstrate independent daily living skills, personal care, grooming and hygiene.
- Maintain appropriate social and behavior skills and be able to take direction and adjust behavior as necessary.
- Communicate effectively
- Obtain transportation to Project SEARCH.
- Pass all background checks and business site requirements including proof of current/updated immunizations, flu shot and TB test. COVID vaccine and booster are recommended.

The prospective intern must desire and plan to get a job working a minimum of 16 plus hours a week at the conclusion of Project SEARCH.

### What are the goals of Project SEARCH?

The goal of Project SEARCH is for each student intern to gain independent, competitive employment. The annual employment goal of Project SEARCH for each site is 70%.

## Program Contacts:

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**An Adult Transition Program  
in Oakland County**

Hosted by:

**HENRY FORD HEALTH**  
West Bloomfield Hospital



In Partnership with:





**What does it mean to be a Project SEARCH intern?**

Since 2010, Project SEARCH has served over 50,000 people with disabilities. Young adult students are referred to as interns and have been accepted into the program through an application and interview process. Interns demonstrate a strong desire to work, are punctual, and get along well with others. Interns embody the hospital's work culture, abide by all policies/procedures, and do their best to uphold the hospital vision and mission.

**If a student is interested in Project SEARCH, what should the student do?**

Students should contact their high school special education teacher, transition coordinator or district's special education director. They will provide you with information. Students should also open a case with Michigan Rehabilitation Services and begin an application for SSI benefits if they have not started this process, as well as OCHN – Oakland Community Health Network

**Why is this considered the student's last year of school?**

The goal of Project SEARCH is to provide interns with marketable and transferrable skills that lead to competitive employment in an integrated setting so the intern will be going to work.

**What is the Project SEARCH curriculum?**

In the Project SEARCH classroom, lessons focus on the following areas: team building, workplace safety, technology, self-advocacy, maintaining employment, financial literacy, health & wellness, preparing for employment, social and communication.

**Timeline for Prospective Interns**

<b>November, December, January &amp; February</b>	<b>Information- Open Houses</b> Program Overview
<b>March</b>	<b>Application Meeting</b> Application/Interview Process
<b>April/May</b>	<b>Interview/Skills Day</b> <b>Letters of Acceptance Emailed</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>New Intern Orientation</b>
<b>July/August</b>	<b>MRS Onboarding</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>IEP</b>
<b>August - June</b>	<b>Program – One School Year</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Program Completion Ceremony</b>



*Preparing young people with significant disabilities for success in integrated, competitive employment.*

Defining employment in an integrated setting is: working alongside co-workers with and without disabilities:

- Year-round work (not seasonal employment)
- 16 hours/week or more
- Minimum wage or higher

*Each Project SEARCH program site has a licensing agreement signed with Project SEARCH Cincinnati through Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.*

**What school calendar schedule will student interns follow with Project SEARCH?**

Interns participating in the program will follow the West Bloomfield School District school district calendar, closings and cancellations.

**How do student interns get to Project SEARCH each day?**

Interns are responsible for their transportation. Great opportunity to begin accessing community public transportation providers.

**Will my student be hired by the hospital?**

**No.** The hospital may hire an intern that is demonstrating outstanding work performance and would be an asset to the department if a position is available. Job development is a team effort by the intern, family and Project SEARCH team. A job developer will assist the student intern to search for employment within the intern's community.

**What departments in the hospital have taken on a student intern?**

Acorn/Birch – 1 GPU & 2 GPU; Supply Chain Management – Linens and Surgical; Sterile Processing Department; Volunteer Services; Kitchen; Patient Transportation; Endoscopy; Henry's; Environmental Services/Housekeeping; Birthing Center; Physical Therapy; Pharmacy; Live Well Shoppe; Employee Health and Patient Care Services This dynamic list is based upon the host business needs!

**What do Project SEARCH student interns wear?**

Parents are expected to purchase uniform shirts and a uniform jacket at the New Intern Orientation in May. In addition, interns are to wear non-denim black pants with a black belt, black non-slip, work shoes and black crew socks.

