

What Is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a one-year, internship program for students with disabilities who have completed their graduation requirements. It is targeted for students whose goal is competitive employment in the community, and who have had some non-paid job training experience. The program typically takes place in a health care, government, or business setting, where students are immersed in the workplace.

Students participate in up to three unpaid internships, to explore a variety of career paths. Each student works with a team that includes his or her family, a instructor, job coaches, a vocational rehab counselor and a community partner to create an employment goal and to support the student during the transition from school to work.



What Do Student Interns Work On During Their SEARCH Year?

Throughout the school year, interns participate in a functional, academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent-living skills. Project SEARCH activities are designed around seven major focus areas:

1. Working responsibly
2. Communicating effectively with or without accommodations
3. Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills
4. Planning and managing a career
5. Applying technology
6. Developing self-advocacy skills
7. Demonstrating independent community travel skills

The curriculum is flexible and allows the instructor to design lessons around the core topics and adjust the curriculum based on specific intern and employer needs.