

# Project SEARCH McHenry County

## Coming Fall 2020

Project SEARCH in McHenry County is a dedicated out-of-school program focused on providing education and training to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Project SEARCH has grown from one program site at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 to over 600 host business sites across the United States and 10 countries. Each program year, 8-12 selected interns participate in three different internship opportunities. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, various clerical duties, hospitality, supply distribution, and equipment maintenance – skills that are transferable within many industries. The primary goal of Project SEARCH is to prepare each intern for competitive employment upon completion of this nine-month skill-building experience.

### Requirements to be a Project SEARCH Student

- Must be within the eligible age range of 18-24
- Must have accepted a high school diploma
- Need to have an open case with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and support from a counselor
- Provide proof of disability
- Demonstrate a desire for competitive employment at the conclusion of the program
- Benefit from participation in a variety of skill-building internships
- Function independently with self-care and medication management (if applicable)
- Have the ability to self-monitor on a 1:4 ratio of support
- Have access to independent transportation to and from the host business

### Sample Intern Schedule

Interns participate in three 10-week internships to explore a variety of career paths during this important transition from school to a professional work environment.

7:45-8:45am	Project SEARCH Staff and Intern Session: Employability Skills
8:45-9:00am	Interns Walk to Internship
9am-2pm	Department Internship (Includes Lunch)
2pm	Return to Project SEARCH Space

### Project SEARCH Program Benefits

- Dedicated on-site learning space to accommodate the interns and the on-site Project SEARCH staff – a curriculum instructor and two employability skills trainers
- Project SEARCH interns will receive a certificate of completion from McHenry County College after each internship
- Project SEARCH graduates receive effective follow-along services to gain and retain employment after they complete the last transition year
- Graduates are prepared to achieve competitive employment within the community

### Additional Resources

- Project SEARCH Website - <https://projectsearch.us/>
- Project SEARCH Cincinnati Children's Hospital Video - <http://bit.ly/projectsearchcincinnati>
- Project SEARCH at Northwestern Medicine Video - <http://bit.ly/nmprojectsearch>

**For more information about Project SEARCH at Northwestern Medicine Woodstock Hospital, contact Sarah Santoria at [sarah.santoria@nm.org](mailto:sarah.santoria@nm.org)**

Project SEARCH is driven by a collaboration with the following community partners and a shared focus on providing employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities:

