

## What is Project SEARCH?

**Project SEARCH** is a dedicated program focused on providing education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is accomplished through an innovative workforce and career development model that benefits the individual, workplace, and community.

**Our primary goal is to prepare each intern for competitive employment upon completion of this nine-month skill-building experience.**

Project SEARCH has grown from one original program site at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1996, to over 500 host business sites across the United States and four countries.

Each program year, 10-12 selected interns participate in three different internship opportunities throughout the hospital. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, various clerical duties, hospitality, supply distribution, and equipment maintenance skills that are transferable within many industries.

## Project SEARCH at Delnor Hospital

Project SEARCH at Delnor Hospital is an **out-of-school** program geared towards young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

### **What are the requirements to be a Project SEARCH student?**

- Must be within eligible age range of 18-24
- Must have accepted their high school diploma
- Applicants need to have an open case with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and support from their counselor
- Must have proof of disability
- Must have a desire to work competitively at the end of the program
- Would benefit from participation in a variety of skill-building internships
- Who are independent with self-care and medication management (if applicable)
- Who can self-monitor on a 1:4 ratio of support
- Who have access to independent transportation to/from Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital

## How to Apply!

### **Application for the 2023-2024:**

Application opens January 2nd, 2023

Completed applicants are due on or before: **April 2023**

Applicant interviews: **June 2023**

Applicants notified of selection: **July 2023**

If selected, candidates must be able to pass a criminal background check, medical evaluation and drug screen.

**Information available at:** <http://www.parents-alliance.org/page/delnor-hospital>

Complete the PDF application form – with required documentation:

- Proof of disability
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Resume
- **IMPORTANT:** Email completed applications and required documents to [ProjectSEARCH@parents-alliance.org](mailto:ProjectSEARCH@parents-alliance.org)

To further enhance an intern’s total immersion in the workplace, there is an onsite learning center at Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital that accommodates the selected 10-12 interns, an employability instructor and skills trainers (provided by our supported employment agency – Parents Alliance Employment Project) during the academic school year.

**Example Monday through Friday Schedule**

- 7:45 am Student & Staff meeting: Employability Skills
- 9:00 am-2:00 pm Worksite Internship (includes lunch)
- 2:00 pm Return to the classroom, review day and tomorrow’s plan
- 2:15 pm Depart

***Benefits to the Interns:***

- ❖ Acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- ❖ Gain increased independence, confidence, and self esteem
- ❖ Obtain work based individualized coaching, instruction and feedback
- ❖ Develop linkages to Vocational Rehabilitation and other adult service agencies

***Benefits to the Business:***

- ❖ Access to a new, diverse, talent stream with skills that match labor needs
- ❖ Gain intern/ employee with disabilities who serve as a role model for patients
- ❖ Access to a demographic of the economy with intense buying power: people with disabilities represent one of the fastest growing market segments in the United States
- ❖ Experience increased regional and national recognition through marketing of this unique program
- ❖ Increased performance and retention in high-turnover, entry-level positions

**Project SEARCH** is driven by a collaboration with the following community partners all focused on providing employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities:

- Project SEARCH interns will receive certification of completion from Waubensee Community College after each internship.
- Project SEARCH receives funding for the program from the Kane County Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Project SEARCH graduates receive effective follow-along services to gain and retain employment after they complete this last transition year.
- Our goal is for 100% of our interns to achieve employment within our community.



Kane County Office of  
Community Reinvestment  
Workforce Development Division



For more information on Project SEARCH  
Please visit at <http://www.projectsearch.us/>

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