



History

Project SEARCH is a licensed program that began at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center in 1996.

It is a secondary transition training program for students with significant cognitive disabilities who have completed their academic requirements but would benefit from a workforce development program that includes employability skills and internships in local businesses.

Students rotate through three to four non-paid internships at the host business. The Durham program started in 2011 as a community partnership at Duke Regional Hospital, and continues today.



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For information about other programs, visit
www.projectsearch.us



Project | SEARCH

Before Project SEARCH, people told me I have a disability and I cannot do what other people can do. At Project SEARCH, I learned through working with other people and my job coach that I have skills and can get a paying job like other men.

—Leroy Farrington

Project SEARCH

The Durham Project SEARCH program is a partnership between business, education, vocational rehabilitation and service providers.

The goal is to provide onsite internship experiences for young adults with developmental disabilities that lead to competitive employment.

How it Works

Student internships are planned to meet the needs of the business and students. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for students to develop marketable and transferrable skills.

In addition to work skills, students learn life skills- such as resume building, daily living and social skills.



- employable skills.
- Concentrates on developing a student's strengths.
- Works towards independence in areas such as employability, transportation and daily living skills.

Typical School Day

- 8 to 9 am**
 - Employability skills class
- 9 to 11:30 am**
 - Report to internship, rotating between three a year
- 11:30 am to Noon**
 - Lunch with coworkers
- Noon to 2 pm**
 - Resume internship
- 2 to 2:30 pm**
 - Class debriefing and dismissal

Eligibility

Students must be between the ages of 18 and 22 and in their senior year of high school. This program accepts students who attend Durham Public Schools only.

Partnership

Durham Project SEARCH is the result of planning, grants and support from:

Alliance Behavioral Health

Ensures a vocational service provider is available to provide long-term follow-along job services as needed and within available funding, for students obtaining employment after graduating from Project SEARCH

Duke Regional Hospital

Provides internship sites to teach core skills of the business and a liaison to coordinate the program

Durham Public Schools

Provides an instructor, class curriculum and recruitment of appropriate student participants

North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation

Provides individualized career counseling and guidance for eligible participants. Vocational planning and support may include job coaching and placement

OE Enterprises, Inc.

Provides job coaching, competitive placement in the community and support for eligible individuals who score a job.

Project SEARCH National

Provides guidance to ensure the local program meets fidelity



Student Benefits

- Provides post-secondary training and internship experience at no cost to students.
- Creates opportunities for students to work in organizations and learn

